

International Ministries Data Summer 2011 Teams

LoveWorks Leader Debrief

Leader: _____

Team: _____

Date: _____

What were some highlights of the trip?

What was the most challenging part of the trip?

Were there any students that were particularly excellent?

Any students that were particularly difficult?

Any students that had a particularly difficult time? If so, how?

How did students do with clothing, food, culture and relationships?

Co-leader relationship:

Host relationship:

Was the host organized?

Was the team invited into meaningful ministry?

How were the testimonies and team sharing times?

Any safety concerns:

Review of medical situations:

Finances (who handled cash, how were costs overall):

How did the finances settle out?

Anything from the STUDENT training that you found particularly important during the trip?

Anything that should be added or more strongly emphasized?

Anything from the LEADER training that you found particularly important during the trip?

Anything that should be added or more strongly emphasized?

Summary of Ideas Generated by/from LoveWorks 2011 Leader Debrief

(General) Use historic lists to help connect and educate current leaders, where appropriate.

(Debrief) Have the leader read the trip description from the brochure and compare to what really happened on the trip.

(Debrief) Ask about resources that were found, created, that could be useful for future teams (skits, games, language resources)

(Supplies) Add yarn and glue sticks to the supplies provided.

(Training) Buy more culture books.

(Training) Books of games that do not require language.

(Training) Create a packet of go-to games to be used in emergency when no plan exists for working with children.

(Training) Make sure to give more guidelines for care when students are sick with viruses and when they should go to the hospital.

(Supplies) Include washcloths in the med kit.

(Supplies) Include vitamins (B + C) in the med kit.

(Training) When students must read training material on their own, require a written response to training and why it was valuable to learn.

(Training) Keep attendance at training and dismiss students who have excessive absences (2-3).

(Debrief) Ask about whether students gave testimony publicly in student survey.

(Training) Suggest that leaders create a buddy system for questions and a limit on the daily number of non-emergency questions.

(Supplies) The med bag was disorganized. Can we have something with bags and containers? Action packer boxes?

(Supplies) Benadryl was good.

(Training) Do more team meeting nights later in the semester so as not to lose momentum in the group dynamic pre-trip.

(Training) Remind students not to lose the experience in the country individually because of the group.

(Training) Leaders should daily claim the truths of God (faithfulness, sovereignty, goodness, salvation)

(Training) Leaders should genuinely affirm one another in front of the team. It will build a tone of encouragement for the team and shows leader unity/respect. This also could help with intergenerational or diverse campus roles in the leader dynamic.

(Director) Create a list of back up 'on call' leaders.

(Supplies) Ask around PLNU for extra PLNU t-shirts.

(Training) Anytime we had an issue, confusion, a discussion to be made, we pulled off to the periphery and discussed. The students saw and respected this.

(Training) Leadership teams need to learn collaboration and sincere humility BEFORE the trip. You won't work through insecurities and sensitivities on the trip under all of the pressure. They may well come to light, but they cannot be easily worked through. We have to do that before the trip somehow.

(Training) We can't let students miss more than 1-2 trainings. They need to make them up.

(Director) When a team member leaves for home, especially under disputed disciplinary circumstances, it is best for the leaders to meet with each student for 10 minutes to discuss before bringing it to the group as a whole?

(Training) We could have more strategies for leaders on how to work with difficult personalities in students.

(Training) More discussion of skirt etiquette is needed – how to sit in skirts, how not to lift them up, slips, etc.

(Training) Students trying to take charge of the team, the students need to be respectful of the host.

(Training) Consider the group packing issues that can happen when a team of 15 shares 1 shampoo bottle.

(Director) Consider asking hosts to plan for debriefing time and Bible study time for team.

(Director) Consider a suggested plan for a field-debrief time before travel home and ask leaders and hosts to carve time for this.

(Training) Many cultures do not have an attitude or value of volunteerism. This is something that we want to bring and share in healthy ways and try to include local participants as well as possible.

(Training) Aim for a balance of the elements in team meetings: debrief, check-in, Bible study, affirmation, life-story. Do not let one of these elements completely dominate unless there is an emergency reason for it to. Students may over-do the life-stories.

(Training) Logistics make a huge difference in the debriefing time. If the team is housed in different places, they may end up with minimal debriefing time.

(Training) Local pastors assume that we are sending our BEST and most capable students.

(Training) Let your host show you culture and tourist sites that THEY love.

(Training) It's better to look like an eccentric Christian than a typical tourist.

(Training) Tight shirts and cropped sleeves are unacceptable. Girls do not pay enough attention to dress and how it affects the dynamic. PEOPLE THERE DO NOTICE IT.

(Training) Talk about generational issues and general awareness of faith knowledge, pluralism, entitlement, etc.

(Training) Explain the reason for church visits. Both the demand for special visitors culturally and the way that it draws positive attention to the church.

(Training) Explain that relationships with elders and pastors is important. We should not ignore them as we seek out relationships with young people. We should also be sure to respect age and not treat pastors as our equals.

(Training) Leaders should be forced to sit down and discuss their leadership style, how their experience and position will play into the way they lead and to talk about the potential issues that may arise.

(Training) Perhaps use strengths quest in the leader training. Discuss strengths and weaknesses for leadership roles. Do some exercises with questions.

(Training) It can be good to bring a picture of your family to show to people that you meet.

(Training) It is important to pray in Jesus' name.

(Training) Think about how to reinforce the training material on the trip. Include in daily debrief a discussion of what training elements came to mind today and what was important to remember.

(Training) Life stories are good but don't overdo it. Don't forget to talk about theological issues, mission, culture, debrief, etc.

(Training) Need to continue reinforcing photo issues when traveling (e.g. too many team photos).

(Training) Need to better manage conflicts with retreat due to music and sports. This negatively impacted the team.

(Logistics) Make sure that documentation is clear for PLNU international students on the teams.

(Supplies) Maybe include some powdered Gatorade in addition to salts, or offer better training on salts.

(Supplies) The ice/warm pack is a good thing to continue to include.

(Supplies) Liked the med backpacks because it allows them to put their own stuff in as well.

(Training) Would like a whiteboard diagram about how the entire COTN works, HQ, Regions, Missionaries, Volunteers, Funding, Budgets, etc.

(Director) Avoid teams meeting up with other teams. This is hard when one team 'gets it' and the other team doesn't.

(Director) It's great to have ministers as leaders – especially for dealing with the pluralism that students are grappling with.

(Training) Be sure to remind students that teasing and sarcasm can get out of control and really cause issues.

(Training) Add NO TOUCHING to the airport reminders. Even if you have touchy feely relationships, it is just awkward for everyone else. NO PIGGY BACKS, etc.

(Training) No spandex for sports activities.