

## *At CTL, our teams are not about "voluntourism"...*

"Voluntourism" or volunteering/tourism is a term with often exploitative connotations, primarily occurring when Westerners enter foreign contexts, volunteering for a short time while also exploring the country as a tourist destination. **Voluntourism can lead to short-term and culturally insensitive solutions with negative economic and environmental impact as a result of a lack of experience or organization.**

The focus of CTL's approach is that having local ministry leaders and staff working in their native cultural context allows us to better understand the needs of those in each community and work collaboratively towards appropriate and effective solutions. **We believe that local staff who have a heart and deep understanding for the hurts and needs of their own communities are uniquely equipped to spread the Gospel within their communities, with life-long impact and deep relationships at the heart of their ministries.**

## *... we are about building relationships*

**The intention behind missions teams at CTL is to build interactive and collaborative relationships with our ministry partners while also serving children and families.** This collaboration between team members and the local staff means that teams go to be part of the ministries, bridging culture with learning, serving rather than leading. **Long-term investment is at the heart of everything we do with teams.**

This model also provides a wonderful platform for sharing of skills and experience such as pastoral training programs that give practical education to those feeling a calling to pastoral ministry, allowing healthy and sustainable churches to grow and spread globally.

## *At CTL, our teams are not about "fixing the broken world"...*

The purpose of teams is not to have a savior mentality in other countries. Although every culture differs, those differences are not qualitative. In other words, it is not a matter of right or wrong, but simply different. It is not CTL's job nor a team member's role to determine how these ministries should operate within their cultures, but rather it is about prayerfully discovering how we all can work collaboratively to allow God to work in the lives of those who need it most. **It is about mobilizing God's global Church to identify and address the needs in whatever context His Church is serving.** Sometimes this requires us to redefine what sharing the Gospel may look like in certain contexts. We at CTL are always about sharing the Gospel, but often sharing the Gospel may include feeding someone who is starving or providing medical care to someone who is hurting.

## *... we are about impacting individuals & churches*

**Teams at CTL are about forming connections and building relationships.** When team members return from trips, it often impacts the ways they view and interact with their own communities. The process of the trip also often reveals the heart of God to people and can inspire believers to draw closer to God's call in their lives, whatever that may be.

Trips like these often provide a 'thin space,' where team members are more open and alert to the stirring of the Holy Spirit as they are often experiencing God's transformative power in new and exciting ways.

**The transformation that many team members experience not only impacts the ministry they are serving alongside, but also has ripple effects on their own families, churches and communities for generations to come. They also often result in life-long friendships that have deep and lasting impact in the lives of individuals and communities visited by the team.**