

## North Park GO Bulletin<sup>1</sup>

### North Park Strategic Service (NPSS)

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North Park Community Church is passionate about “inspiring, supporting and mobilizing one another to live like Jesus as a transforming and life giving presence in our families, communities and the world”. The Global Outreach team at North Park has discerned a unique way to engage our people to accomplish this and which can maximize their strategic contribution to the world. It is our desire to equip anyone interested in Global service in this important opportunity for impact.

**North Park Strategic Service (NPSS)** trips are designed to provide significant coaching and leadership to North Park’s people in shaping strong and effective mission trips. NPSS trips seek to align with Canada Revenue Agency’s charitable administration mandate and as such when completed within the guidelines laid out are deemed charitable in nature and afford the donor the opportunity to receive a charitable receipt. In order for a trip to be considered NPSS it needs to align with North Park’s Charitable Objects, and must be consistent with the Vision and Objectives of North Park’s Global Outreach program. In order to qualify for charitable administration trips must be under the direction and control of North Park Community Church.

Our hope in creating NPSS is to equip North Park’s people with the global leadership and administration skills necessary to lead small and large groups globally with maximum positive impact and in a cost effective manner.

Examples of a potential NPSS:

1. A nurse from North Park builds a relationship with a Hospital in Vietnam and travels regularly to equip nurses.
2. A couple travels to Uganda to help an indigenous leader establish a girl’s school.
3. North Park sends a team of individuals annually to host a Leadership Conference in Asia.
4. A business owner seeks to offer her gifts to the world and travels to meet with Christian business leaders to explore ways in which her skills can be added value.
5. An indigenous leader visits North Park to share his story of mission.

The Global Outreach team at North Park welcomes preliminary conversations from North Park’s people seeking to understand whether an NPSS is possible for them. We believe that there are people at North Park who can engage in this way and make a significant positive difference on behalf of the Global Church. We consider these to be **Explore Trips**.

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<sup>1</sup> The North Park Global Outreach Team seeks to provide up to date information designed to inform and equip people who serve in London and around the world. GO Bulletins (GIB) are completed as our way of providing both guidance and policy towards this goal. Extensive research and reflection on best practice is used to create GO Bulletins. The reader is responsible to confirm the information as the Canadian Government can change policies and/or laws at any time. This GO Bulletin is reviewed and updated annually in February.

Consider the following three aspects of an NPSS trip:

### **1. Establishing Goals for an NPSS Trip**

A typical Short Term Mission (STM) experience involves showing up to an organizations agenda. A better way is for the travellers to take the time necessary to create goals for the travel experience. What is it that you are hoping to accomplish on this trip, both in the people you are visiting and in yourself? Taking the time to think this through, engaging your host in the process, has the potential to take the travel experience up to an entire new level of impact. As with any goal setting experience it often takes a few conversations and a few drafts before an inspiring and clear set of goals is created. It is worth the effort.

Learning is essential to positive global outreach. We have much to learn from our hosts and a posture of learning and engaging in mutual benefit mode is key to a positive experience for both yourself and your host. What do you hope to learn about the Church and the people from this NPSS trip?

Relationship building is essential to positive global outreach. Westerners often travel simply to accomplish a task, but our global brothers and sisters often comment that the relationship is as valuable as the task. Trust is built slowly over time and through measured engagements. We value the time spent to build trust and relationships at North Park. Who specifically do you wish to deepen relationship with and how will you do that on this NPSS trip?

Honoring local skill and effort is also essential to positive global outreach. Adding our added value skills to those already present on the ground make for the best experience. Taking the time to engage local skills builds trust and ensures that confidence and empowerment exist in a NPSS. What are you attempting to accomplish and who locally is your skilled partner?

Appendix 1 is a set of sample goals from NPSS trips that North Park has hosted.

At North Park Community Church we believe that we are stronger together and the preparation that happens with wise and appropriate goals forms the foundation for a meaningful, effective and selfless mission experience.

### **2. Establishing Charitable Administration for a NPSS Trip**

Canada Revenue Agency honors the effort of meaningful and selfless mission experience with the opportunity for the expenses related to the mission to be tax deductible. Canada Revenue Agency's requirements are not onerous and they inspire greater excellence in mission. A separate GO Bulletin entitled "NPSS Management of Finances" has been created to outline the specific requirements for charitable administration of an NPSS.

### **3. Debriefing and Reporting on an NPSS Trip**

Effective mission requires reflection and debrief in order to search out together what God has done through the mission experience.

In order to obtain NPSS status a mission trip needs a report on the specific goals as well as a debrief conversation with a designated North Park Global Outreach leader. The report forms the basis for not only searching out what God has done, but also in looking forward to potential next steps. Appendix 2 is a sample Report on Goals.

## Appendix 1

### Sample Goals from North Park NPSS trips.

1. To deepen awareness of the impact that communism had on the worldview of the next generation in Eastern Europe.
2. To understand the impact LCC is having on helping EU students develop a Christian World view.
3. To add value to the school through lecturing in both business and theology classes.
4. To begin a conversation regarding opportunities to come alongside children as well as child care-givers as well as learn from their teaching/training methods.
5. To explore ways that North Park could engage with both the school and the country.
6. To engage with local pastors to better understand the role of Christianity in culture.

1. To encourage Toi and Lee and strengthen North Park's relationship with the Napajat Church
2. To develop an understanding of Toi's overall vision for the Shan so that we know how to effectively support her in her Church Planting, AIDS Care, and Preaching/Teaching ministry.
3. To teach English to significant adult relationships in the Napajat Church based on the Head Man's needs.
4. To provide personalized English teaching for Toi to benefit her relationships with other Christian leaders and to increase her impact among a wider audience.
5. To develop relationships with the youth of the Napajat Church, and to enrich their English language skills to help them academically and vocationally.
6. To greet key relationships in North Park's Northern Thailand initiative; SIHA, Andrew and Shona Goodman, Khem and Beth/TaWee (Sold Project)

1. To research the services for children with disabilities in Kenya, Uganda and Zambia.
2. To identify quality national leaders and organizations who are building sustainable organizations on behalf of children with disabilities
3. To build trust with Kumi Hospital; reviewing their potential as a partner with NPCC
4. To identify Best Practices in Community Based Rehabilitation in Kenya, Uganda, Zambia.
5. To listen deeply to the stories of individuals – both at the administrative level and to people using the services.
6. To identify next steps for North Park in assisting children with disabilities in developing countries like Kenya, Uganda and Zambia.

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1. To deepen awareness of the narrative of the Church in Uganda, and to learn the challenges and opportunities facing CCF and PGA in the region.
  2. To encourage Alice Achan in her spiritual life and leadership, which includes exploring future options for life/study in Canada for her as well as examining the readiness of CCF for her departure.
  3. To discern possibilities and appropriateness for Dr Rob Alder's Public Health Research.
  4. To review the CCF Loan Fund began in February of 2014 and to develop a plan/vision for the fund in partnership with the key leaders of CCF.
  5. To discern the value of the STM MPH to CCF's future through a review of Olak Denis's skills and knowledge gained in the program.
  6. To explore start-up funding and the development of a plan for a bakery for Joan, Olak Denis's wife.
  7. To strengthen Justin Otim and his Pastoral Leadership at Victory Outreach.
  8. To encourage Dr Jean Chamberlain and Thom Froese, missionaries of North Park.

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1. To support Nui, Nam, and Moi in their role as a CSA leadership with IJM Thailand and to affirm and encourage them in life and ministry. Karen is sent by North Park as a gift of friendship to the team at IJM Thailand.
  2. To learn from Michele Lee and the aftercare team of IJM Washington, exploring the gifts that North Park has and what potential applications they might have for the world.
  3. To provide a workshop on de-escalation techniques for the Aftercare staff and partners of IJM Thailand.
  4. To further Karen's personal and professional growth and development.
  5. To further our understanding of the work, the team and the partnerships of IJM Thailand and to deepen our relationship for mutual service.
  6. To experience God's strength and power in ministry through being flexible and available as the travel and service unfolds.

## Appendix 2

### North Park Strategic Service Sample Report on Goals

1. To close out 25 years of teaching in the Toledo District with the final course. To finish well; celebrating God's blessing through providing employment and transformation for the people of Belize.

*I was able to work with Manual in Jacintoville, with 13 students in the course. Manual took the basic wiring course and advanced theory course over the last two years. Manual really has the vision of helping his people and he just wrote his wireman's exam and I now a licensed electrician. I went with Manual to get his certificate. Manual is a key leader in his Church (although I can see the Church is having some struggles). I can see Manual teaching the advanced theory course (or both) somewhere in the future. Manuel will assist me this summer.*

2. To inspire Martin, Juan and Ben and their circle with a vision for how the course can impact people in their region. To share the stories of transformed lives over 25 years.

*They have caught the vision, and they inspired their friend a Nazarene Pastor along with the Principal of the Nazarene High School. We visited the school and described the process and the course. They are excited to host it and Ben and Martin will recruit and have vision for the course. I believe that there is strong potential for Ben and Martin to be the successors with the course.*

3. To develop a plan to walk with the brothers in their first season of teaching the course.

*Ben and Martin will take the course this year and in subsequent years will be my assistants. We will work towards them develop the ability to teach it. Manual will come up as well.*

4. To locate and inspire someone who can teach the theory aspect of the course, while locating someone in Canada to transfer the knowledge.

*Manuel has emerged and wants to teach it. I don't believe that we need someone from Canada now.*

5. To finalize details for the first course in the Belmopan region to be hosted in June of 2017.

*The High School has a room ready and will be a great location. July 3-21 are the dates.*

### Appendix 3

#### North Park Strategic Service

#### Sample Report on Goals

1. To deepen my relationship with Saulius; to encourage and challenge one another in our marriage and parenting relationships, recognizing the unique challenges of being a pastor.

*Saulius and I had many one-to-one times to connect and discuss many topics. I was able to see him interact with his wife and children on several occasions. Saulius, Sanna, and I enjoyed a dinner together and shared openly about our marriages, the unique opportunities we have as pastor families, the ways we work to build into our families, and the challenges we face.*

*On one occasion Sanna gave me a walking tour of Klaipeda (she does this on a part time basis during the tourist season for cruise ship patrons). As we interacted I was able to get a great understanding of her commitment to work alongside Saulius and ensure that the City Church was "successful." It gave me an insight into the importance of a couple's total commitment to a cause such a church planting and the sacrifices (mostly financial) that are required. I was encouraged to know that both Saulius and Sanna are in this together and for the long haul.*

2. To strengthen one another in prayer as brothers in the Global Church....spending time together in prayer for our families and personal lives....and specifically for his work in Lithuania and Eastern Europe.

*I was able to gain a deeper understanding of the unique challenges in Lithuania. I took a moderated walking tour of Klaipeda and gained more insight in the history of the city. I also toured the KGB museum in the capital, Vilnius. The impact communism and their interrogation techniques had on the country is immense and it is still fresh in the minds of Lithuanians as the last person to be released was only 30 years ago. I appreciated the many opportunities to pray with Saulius. The most memorable was standing at the top of a Catholic cathedral tower overlooking Vilnius where Saulius recently started a satellite location. It was amazing to look out over the city and pray for God's spirit to move and to bless the work of City Church in Vilnius. I also gathered with a group of church lay leaders on Friday morning for a time of sharing and prayer. In addition, I participated in a staff meeting on Thursday morning and joined them in prayer.*

3. To deepen awareness of the Church's work in Lithuania, including furthering my understanding of the historical challenges and advances.

*As stated above, the walking tour of Klaipeda as well as the tour of the KGB museum was immensely helpful. There is almost an expectation that Russia might once again invade Lithuania despite the many changes that have happened in Eastern Europe over the past 30 years. Being from North America this is hard to fathom, yet they have been under so many different rulers*

*that it is almost a forgone conclusion that something bad will happen again. The communist mentality whereby the state takes care of all of your needs has left a country with no sense of volunteerism or philanthropy. As such, there is a lot of teaching that the church needs to do in order to raise up a new generation whereby these things are more common place.*

4. To serve Saulius and City Church's ministry through preaching and a particular focus on exploring and strengthening his work of discipleship. To bring my learning on discipleship and to mutually discern what aspects are relatable to Saulius' context.

*I was privileged to speak at two services – Sunday morning in Klaipeda and Sunday evening in Vilnius. It was a new experience to speak with a translator – sentence by sentence.*

*With respect to conversations regarding discipleship, Saulius and I spent many hours discussing how to help people grow in their faith. This is an area that City Church needs to develop if they are going to ensure the next generation is strong in their faith. Previous church "successes" in the 1990's did not help new believers mature in their faith and as a result several thriving churches have dwindled. One church of about 1,000 people is now down to 50 people. It was also good to have conversations about this with a number of the young leaders that Saulius is building into. I shared what we are doing in our context and provided the team with some materials that are useful for us. This will be an ongoing area of conversation and learning.*

5. To learn how Pastor Saulius has planted and advanced the Church in his context in order to gain an understanding of the transferable principles for our context.

*This area of conversation was quite interesting. In many ways, Saulius has simply taken a risk and stepped out to plant a satellite location and is figuring it out as he goes. For about two years, he met monthly with a group that lived in Vilnius who were interested in making this a reality – some of them had attended City Church in Klaipeda prior to moving to Vilnius for work. The new location has been running for three months and is still learning. There were 70 people in attendance when I was there which is positive however many are still "checking it out". There are a number of great stories of people inviting their non-church friends to attend which is also encouraging. Saulius is still trying to figure out aspects such as teaching (will he continue to teach as is now, move to video from Klaipeda service, raise up another speaker).*

*The key learning is that in many ways you need to figure it out as it goes. You can plan all you want, yet each context is unique and depending on who shows up you need to make adjustments.*

*There was a unique sense of energy among the team that was giving most of the leadership. I'd like to explore how North Park may need to launch a new location simply for the growth and energy it could bring to a group of people who might be stale in their faith.*

6. To explore how Saulius and I can be of mutual benefit to one another; how has God equipped Saulius as a gift to North Park and our work.

*This is an ongoing dialogue. Saulius and I continue to Skype on a monthly basis to simply encourage and prayer for each other. I appreciate how Saulius has engaged the North American church so he understands my context more than I understand his. I would like to bring Saulius to North Park and allow him to connect more broadly with our community. He is planning a sabbatical in the spring of 2017 and I have invited him to stay with us as part of that time. This extended time will allow for ongoing relational development and learning.*

7. To deepen my understanding of global partnership through exploring with Saulius the unique characteristics of his relationships with Churches and people from the West.

*As mentioned above, Saulius has engage the North American church on many fronts. His church hosts the Willow Creek Global Leadership Summit every November. It is one of the most successful international sites and requires no funding from North America. As much as Saulius has embraced much of what is happening in the church in North America and desires to learn, he also recognizes that his context has unique aspects that aren't transferrable. I appreciate his intentional development and his willingness to learn from many fronts. He has relationships in Canada, USA, the UK, Africa and Asia. He thinks broadly as he wrestles with how to help his congregants grow in their faith.*

8. To touch base with key relationships at LCC (Jacobs, 4), exploring mutual benefit opportunities for North Park professionals.

*I had one great connection with Jekabs Bibkis, who heads up the business department at LCC. He had been my main contact on our previous trip, October 2014. There are a number of opportunities for North Parkers to engage with LCC. I had hoped to have him come to London when he was travelling in North America this past summer but he was unable to make this happen.*

*Furthering this relationship is on hold as he is determining if he will renew his contract past June 2017. We continue to interact every few months via email.*

9. To develop an awareness of the business climate in Lithuania that may lead to Canadian investment opportunities that will provide positive economic impact to the country alongside the local church.

*I enjoyed one morning interaction with a number of business owners who attend City Church. They shared about their current business experiences (raspberries, greenhouses, mice and rat sales – 1,000,000 per year to the UK, printing press). They are seeking industry knowledge in some of these areas. They also talked of land that they owned that they would like to have further investment in. They are open to having Canadian business owners come to talk about the business climate as well as investment opportunities. They all want to help the next generation*

*find work in Lithuania and not leave the country as many of them are. Jekabs from LCC also mentioned that there might be opportunities to engage the mayor of Klaipeda as well as the Lithuanian Ministry of Industry. As the country has a population of only 2.8 million, it is possible to connect with national ministry officials. I would like to explore this further and put together a plan for a follow up trip.*