



## Statement of Christian Ministry Principles

Foundation for Peace (FFP) Christian mission trips are Christ-centered ministries shaped by the words of the Apostle Paul, “Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.” (Romans 12:10-13)

Going on a FFP Christian mission trip is very different from going on vacation to relax among people you do not expect to see again. Rather as servants of Jesus Christ, we utilize our talents and skills to relieve physical and mental suffering, to improve the surrounding environment by building schools, churches, or other community structures and to bring our faith to share for spiritual healing and growth. We go as servants of Jesus Christ, working together and building Christ-centered friendships with the people living in poor communities and with fellow team members. As servants of our Lord, we are called to bridge personal, cultural and language differences, as witnesses in the community we serve for Christ.

For more than 20 years, the leaders of Foundation for Peace have acquired skills in leading trips that focus on service in partnership with people of the local community. While the construction project is the center of activity for several days during the trip, no one in the group is required to lift a shovel or a concrete block. The first priority is developing relationships with the local people and sharing the love of Christ. The construction work is always finished by working hand in hand (*mano a mano*, *men nan men*, *mkono kwa mkono*) with our church and community partners. The buildings we have helped to construct are very important, but our friendships also have lasting impacts.

Through construction, education, medical care, worship, vacation bible school (VBS) and evangelism, we strive to be a tangible witness for Jesus Christ and to establish relationships with the people we are serving. As a result of these experiences, we have learned that these mission trips are life-changing experiences for those who participate and for the people we serve.

For example, due to these trips, U.S. participants have changed their career path to full-time ministry or other service positions, such as teaching. Some have decided to become physicians or nurses in order to be able to minister to the health needs of others. Our partners have told us on subsequent trips about how our group work has revitalized their community and churches and led many to a walk with Jesus Christ.

Thanks to the funding and inspiration from people in our groups, children who otherwise had no opportunity, are now going to school and one has now completed medical school and is planning to be a mission physician. It is truly remarkable how God uses a short-term mission trip for such long lasting and significant benefit to so many people!