

**HOW A SHORT-TERM TEAM CAN HELP BUILD CAPACITY IN A CHE COMMUNITY**

Date: 3/11

(1 HOUR)

- OBJECTIVES:**
1. Churches will learn they can use their short-term CHE teams; in addition to being trainers of trainers, they can help build capacity in the target communities where CHE is already being done.
  2. Churches know some ways they can use their short-term teams for CHE in addition to being master trainers.

**OVERVIEW FOR TRAINERS:**

METHOD	TIME	KNOWLEDGE
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**Role Play:** Two people talking

- 1<sup>st</sup>** Well, we learned that our short-term team can be involved in long-term development through CHE.
- 2<sup>nd</sup>** Right, but I have a problem. I am not a good teacher, so I'm not sure I fit.
- 1<sup>st</sup>** They say anyone can teach and we can be taught how to use the CHE participatory lesson plans
- 2<sup>nd</sup>** That may be OK, but I don't feel comfortable teaching. Isn't there another thing to do?
- 1<sup>st</sup>** Who knows? I sure hope there is something I can do, because I am really interested in seeing individuals and communities transformed.

**----SHOWD questions----**S = What do you See?H = What is Happening?O = Does this happen in Our place?

- I. Give out *Case Study from La Verde Guatemala* handout to read and as they bring out the points.
  - A. Review key factors in the case study. Bring out key activities that happened. Do in large group

I. La Verde Case Study

- A. Key factors that took place in the case study
  1. Started CHE with *Fuente de Vida* Church.
  2. The community leader, Raul, was against CHE.
  3. Biggest problem: water borne diseases which CHEs taught on.
  4. People found good water source and bought land.
  5. CHE leader in Guatemala hooked community to church in USA for assistance.

This lesson is part of an extensive series created by LifeWind International for use in Community Health Evangelism (CHE). In CHE, facilitators skilled in participatory learning methods enable communities to escape cycles of poverty and live as followers of Jesus. For information about CHE and how you can be trained as a facilitator, go to [communityhealththevangelism.org](http://communityhealththevangelism.org), or contact [LifeWind International](#).

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METHOD	TIME	KNOWLEDGE
		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. Technical advisor on water came to visit the area from Short term team and told them what needed to be done.</li> <li>7. They suggested they protect the spring and run pipeline from spring with branches to each house.</li> <li>8. Community put together a plan and budget.</li> <li>9. Local people agreed to dig trenches and provided the pipe and electrical wiring.</li> <li>10. Short term team agreed to provide pumps, pressure tanks, and control panels.</li> <li>11. Community government provided backhoe.</li> <li>12. Short-term team worked alongside local people in building the water system.</li> <li>13. Pipeline was laid to all 150 homes in community.</li> <li>14. Each home paid a monthly fee for maintenance and electricity.</li> <li>15. CHEs continued work and people came to Christ.</li> <li>16. Church meeting started.</li> <li>17. Community had no school and they wanted one.</li> <li>18. Warehouse found, renovated, and became a school.</li> <li>19. People began building and using cook stoves so there was less smoke in the home and less children being burned by cooking fire.</li> <li>20. Annual festival started to celebrate their unity.</li> <li>21. People committed money to build and run a church.</li> </ol>
B. How can the Short term team helped build the capacity of La Verde community?		<p>B. How a short term team can help build the capacity in a community:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Multiple partners involved</li> <li>2. Community identified their problem and made plans to solve it.</li> <li>3. Short term team provided technical guidance.</li> <li>4. Local people, local community, and short term team each provided labor for the solution.</li> <li>5. Local people, local community, and Short term team each provided money to do the</li> </ol>

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METHOD	TIME	KNOWLEDGE
		<p>project.</p> <p>6. Families that benefit from the project paid for maintenance.</p> <p>7. Local people had a sense of ownership.</p> <p>8. This shared ownership led to a sense of trust and unity.</p> <p>9. As other needs and opportunities came up people began to do things on their own because of their gained confidence.</p> <p>11. Short term team fit in with what the community wanted to do; they did not bring their own agenda.</p> <p>12. Short term team was an equal partner in the work, not the leader or first.</p> <p>13. Community drove the work, rather than the short term team.</p>
C. What factors should the short term team consider before committing resources to help build capacity?		<p>C. Factors a short term team should consider in helping to building capacity in a CHE community:</p> <p>1. Community organized and investing significantly in the project.</p> <p>2. Community has maximized the use of local resources.</p> <p>3. Local government and local NGOs contributing.</p> <p>4. Community is driving the effort and will look for solutions with or without the help of the short term team.</p> <p>5. Short term team is not doing for the people what they can do for themselves.</p> <p>6. Community is organized with a plan for maintenance of the project after initial install.</p> <p>7. Will lead to many other positive changes.</p> <p>8. Short term team able to work alongside a community with the community managing and organizing the effort.</p> <p>9. Whole community is benefitting and not just individuals.</p>
C. What is necessary for this partnership with a short term team to work in a local CHE program?		<p>C. What is necessary for this outside church and community partnership to work</p> <p>1. Mutual respect.</p>

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METHOD	TIME	KNOWLEDGE
<p>Discuss in Small Groups</p> <p>D. What are the results?</p>		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Common interest.</li> <li>3. Program thought up and driven by local people, not outside church.</li> <li>4. Honesty and openness.</li> <li>5. Accountable to each other.</li> <li>6. Agreement how to work together.</li> <li>7. Work as equals, each with something to provide.</li> <li>8. Outside church assistance comes after CHE program started.</li> </ol> <p>D. Results</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. God is glorified.</li> <li>2. Much more is accomplished than local community might be able to do on its own.</li> <li>3. Short term team becomes directly involved in enabling people and communities to be transformed.</li> <li>4. Community gains confidence so they can do it again, more on their own.</li> <li>5. Real respect and trust is established across cultural and national lines.</li> <li>6. CHE program is made stronger.</li> </ol>

**MATERIALS:** -Flip Chart Paper  
 -Marking Pens  
 -Masking Tape  
 -*Case Study from La Verde Guatemala* handout

## **Case Study from La Verde Guatemala: How a Short-Term Team Can Help Build Capacity**

### **La Verde**

Felipe was a peasant farmer from the mountains of Guatemala. He came to Christ as a CHE and now pastors Fuente de Vida Church in Los Marroquines with 45 members. Felipe also serves as a trainer with LifeWind. In 2002 Felipe, with his partner Cirilo, initiated work in the village of La Verde in the District of Retalhuleu. There was no evangelical church in the community and only a handful of believers.

At the beginning, Felipe and Cirilo's greatest opposition was a village leader named Raul. At a general meeting of the community where a vote was taken to form a committee and begin the development process in the community, Raul stood and washed his hands publicly of the whole plan. Raul was a devout Catholic who resented the coming of evangelicals to his community.

The community was struggling with waterborne disease, but didn't know it. Felipe and Cirilo began to teach on the importance of clean water; CHEs taught on water in the homes. Upon learning about the cause of these diseases, water became the first priority of the people of La Verde. The community found a water source and saved up to buy the land where the water was. Having purchased the land, they went to city hall to request help, but got nothing but promises. Felipe and Cirilo brought the problem to Dr. Hugo Gomez, Area Coordinator for LifeWind.

Through the ministry of Face to Face International, Hugo made contact with a short-term mission team from Lexington Baptist Church looking for a village to partner with in a long-term relationship. They had scouted out villages in Mexico and Guatemala City. When they came to La Verde and learned about CHE, they decided to join the village in their work.

The team from Lexington asked the villagers what they needed and the villagers pointed to their water project. Hugo connected Lexington with the water team from Mission Hills Church in Denver, Colorado. A technical advisor from Mission Hills visited the village and advised them concerning the type of system to use and provided training for the CHEs and the committee. This was to protect a big spring and then run a major pipeline downhill from the spring with branches off of it ending in each of 150 homes.

The CHEs and the committee, because of their training, believed the system could work, but the rest of the village doubted it would be possible to bring the water uphill. They had only seen gravity fed systems.

Lexington Church asked the committee to submit a budget proposal for their project. The committee drafted a proposal, and the Short term team agreed to supply the pumps, pressure tanks, and control panels. The locals would do the trenching and pipeline to the homes. They would also be responsible for the water pipes and electrical wiring. The villagers pooled their funds and went again to city hall. This time the mayor, seeing their initiative, sent a backhoe to help with the trenching which was already half way dug by hand.

When the team from Lexington arrived, they were impressed by the initiative of the people and joined them in digging the trenches. The men in the village worked 24 hours a day digging the cistern that was to be four meters long, five meters wide, and four meters deep. Raul helped dig. The women prepared food and brought it to the men in the middle of the night to provide energy to keep them going.

Together with the church from Lexington, the residents of La Verde succeeded in piping clean potable water into every one of the 150 homes in the village. They dedicated the whole system to the Lord, and at the dedication service four people gave their hearts to Christ.

As part of the plan, each home would contribute an equal share each month to pay for electricity and repairs of the pump. Every eighth day of the month, the community gathers for a general meeting and each family pays their share—about 13 Quetzales (\$1.75) plus the cost of any repairs.

As CHEs began sharing the Gospel during home visits, people came to Christ and a small growth group was formed. Soon a small group of believers met each Sunday for worship in one of the homes. One of the CHEs, Angel Mendez, was chosen to be the pastor. The group approached the leaders of the village and asked for land on which they could build a church building. Raul was part of the land committee and influenced a decision to give the young group of believers the worst lot in the village.

Another problem for the community was their children's education. When Felipe and Cirilo came to the village, the children were meeting in an old unventilated warehouse that had been used in previous years by wealthy landowners to store DDT and other chemicals they used in their cotton fields. Felipe and Cirilo knew that residue from these chemicals was still present, so as an initial step they encouraged the community to break holes in the walls to serve as windows for ventilation and to clean and paint the building. They were still concerned, however, that the children were being exposed to harmful chemicals. The committee approached city hall and began the process of petitioning the government for a new school building. They succeeded in their efforts, and with help from a short term mission team added a basketball court and a playground. "Now our children are being properly schooled," says Santos the chairman of the committee.

Another project of the community was building improved cook stoves for each home. After the stoves were installed a special thanksgiving service was planned. As the time approached for the ceremony to begin, Raul disappeared. Hugo was scheduled to speak and the crowd was large enough that he feared his voice would not be heard. About 20 minutes later Raul returned with a loudspeaker he borrowed from a neighboring village. Raul had anticipated the problem and taken initiative to solve it.

By now Raul had seen the good things the CHEs and committee were doing and started to attend CHE training. Hard rains came, and the lot the land committee had set aside for the church flooded. The group of believers returned to the land committee and asked for a different lot. This time Raul influenced the committee to give the church a prime corner lot—the best lot available. The new believers built a temporary shelter on the land—four poles and a tin roof—and began to meet there for worship.

Hugo Gomez was visiting in the village one day. He asked Raul bluntly why he did not attend the church. Raul replied he was born a Catholic and he would die a Catholic. "I will never attend this church," he said, "but one day my grandchildren will."

A real sense of unity and camaraderie had developed among the villagers in La Verde as they worked together to relieve each other's suffering and provide for each other's needs and wants. They offered themselves to each other without discrimination. Religious, cultural, ethnic, and political barriers came down. An annual festival was established to celebrate their unity. Communities around the village were amazed by what they saw and heard.

The small group of believers began to plan for their church building. Each family contributed at least 6,000 Quetzales, which was the equivalent of about four months pay. For subsistence farmers and low income workers this was a huge commitment. They also committed their time and labor. That, however, may not be the most significant part of the story. When the time came to build the church building, everyone pitched in—even those who were not members of the church gave time and money. It is reported that at the dedication of the church building, all 148 families were present. Raul was also present at the dedication. He later told Hugo, "Some day I will be the pastor of this church."



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