**MIST Training April 2019**

**Group work**

**Application of Principles of ‘Good Help’**

*Participants are divided into groups of 3+ - preferably separating couples, and those being posted to the same place.*

*Each group is given one scenario (printed and cut), with butcher’s paper and pens, and asked to discuss the scenario presented, and write up their response strategies – keeping in mind the principle of good development or ‘help’.*

1. You are out in your placement, and one of your friends sends you this email he received from some who is interested in your work:

*“Hi Sue*

*Fiona has written to us and she wants to give a one-off donation now and then she may become a regular giver to your work.  She has asked that the gift goes to orphans or widows or food or clothing.”*

*What will be your considerations as you think about and respond to this request, in light of the principles we’ve talked about of ‘good help’? Who might you consult with as you make decisions?*

1. Some people in your sending church are your enthusiastic supporters, and are keen to help your ministry as much as possible. They have been reading your letters from the field and are aware of many of the problems facing the communities, especially the low levels of education. They have laid out a plan for a comprehensive visit in 6 months’ time during the dry season.

They have $7,000, and they are planning to come and build a school in the village. They are bringing a builder with them, and all the necessary tools and equipment. They’ve asked you organise a source of building materials locally.

*What is your response to this initiative? What approach would you take to managing this offer, to bring the best outcome for all involved?*

1. You are posted to a hospital in a clinical and technical role – to support the training of local practitioners. Your home is located next door to one of the poorer sectors of the community. You get to know your neighbours, and begin to build some deep relationships. The disadvantage of your friends is distressing, but you don’t know how best to help them?

One night one of the married couples visits you and asks for your help – could you please help the husband get a job, even a menial job, in the hospital, as the family doesn’t have sufficient income to meet their needs?

*(Or scenario might involve an extension on someone’s house, wanted someone to get their daughter a job in the local hospital, or mission HQ)*

*As you consider your response, what will be your considerations, in light of the principles of ‘good help’ we’ve been talking about? Who might you consult with as you make decisions?*

1. Your church has notified you that one of their congregation is the Director of a solar factory outlet, and would like to provide a solar light for each house in the community you are working with. The ‘package’ also includes technical support in the shape of sending a technician from Australia to train installers.

*(The scenario might equally be about or Australian-made ceramic water filters)*

*What is your initial thinking about this offer? What approach would you take to managing this offer, to bring the best outcome for all involved? What are key questions that need to be answered before you proceed?*

1. You are working with children in your field role. With kids/students mostly in education and after-school activities. You get to know some of the families and you spend time with them in their homes, building really deep relationships.

You discover after some time that a couple of these families have expectations of you in terms of providing ongoing support for either the family or for the children for further education.

*As you think about this, what are the things you need to consider, keeping the principles of ‘good help’ in mind? How will you approach the discussion with the families when that time comes?*

1. Your sending church has noted in your newsletter that most of the people in the communities you’re working with don’t have access to clean water, and they don’t have toilets at their homes. They want to help.

Your church’s Mission Committee organises a Skype call with you to tell you that they’ve decided to send $500 every 3 months so you or the mission can organise to provide water and toilets for the most deserving in the communities.

*What to do? What will be your considerations as you think about and respond to this request, in light of the principles we’ve talked about of ‘good help’? Who might you consult with locally as you make decisions? How will you respond to your well-meaning church?*

1. A group of supporters has heard about organisations that collect shoe boxes filled with gifts for people in poor communities and Christian literature sharing the Gospel story. They contact you and offer to get a shipment of 200 shoe boxes sent for Easter so you can distribute them.

*What to do?*

*What will be your considerations as you think about and respond to this request, in light of the principles we’ve talked about of ‘good help’? Who might you consult with locally as you make decisions? How will you respond to your well-meaning friends?*

1. You have been assigned to work in community health in the three small communities attached to the church you are linked to. You are a public health nurse, with experience in community health settings in Australia, including in indigenous areas.

When you go to the communities you find they already have Community Health Workers and Traditional Birth Attendants who have been trained locally. Villagers you speak with, as well as community elders and leaders, haven’t been informed of your assignment.

*What will you do?*