



## Chapter 2

# Preparation to Go as a Missionary

*by Dr Brenda Bosch*

Once missionaries are convinced that God has called them to go to the mission field as a missionary, they are often in a great hurry to get there. However, the process of getting to the mission field takes much detailed preparation, especially if the missionary is leaving his or her job, family, home country and going to a host country or to the field. Some of you are already a part of a mission agency and in ministry. To those of you I would suggest that you nevertheless read this chapter. Please check which preparations you have missed along the way and what can be done next to help you adjust to being in missions. This will also give insight regarding what cross-cultural missionaries experience before arriving on the field.

This is my advice to missionary candidates as they prepare to go:

- **Be sure of your call:** You cannot go to the field because it is a respected career or because it is something that your pastor or parents want you to do. If there is any crucial factor that will keep you on the field when the going gets tough, it will be the absolute knowledge that the Lord has called you to the mission field. The process may start with curiosity and an interest in missions,



If there is any crucial factor that will keep you on the field when the going gets tough, it will be the absolute knowledge that the Lord has called you to the mission field.

but this is not enough. It will certainly take time to clearly hear the voice of the Lord and to understand what it is that the Lord wants you to do and where He wants you to go. Understanding will lead to assurance, growing stronger until it becomes a conviction. Conviction leads to commitment, culminating in

action. These steps involve not only the mind, but also the heart and the will – the whole person.<sup>1</sup>

- **No hurry:** Do not be in an undue hurry to go to the field too soon. Yes, you have certainly heard the call of God, but much needs to be put in place before you will be ready to go. The bullets below will help you to understand this statement.
- **Talk to the right people first:**<sup>2</sup> When you are certain that God has called you and your family into missions, talk to the right people first, before you tell everyone. You and your spouse need to be 100% in agreement that you are both called and moving in the right direction and within the right timing. Talk to your parents and extended family about it, to your pastor and to your inner circle of friends.

Do not let anyone in these closest relationships hear it from someone else if they were one of those who should have known first. Getting the blessing and even confirmation of those who love you the most, is paramount. They are the only ones who will dare to be honest enough to caution you if they happen to feel that you are not ready or not on the right track. This could save you from many unnecessary tears and stress. Allow people to speak into your life at this point in time.

- **Talk to career missionaries:** Before going to the field, we often have a romantic, idealistic view of missionary life. Talking to various career missionaries will help you to better understand their work, what a normal day looks like on the field, what their most difficult stressors and disappointments look like, etc. Reading the autobiographies of career missionaries will also enhance your understanding about real life in missions. In this regard, please also read the chapter below in this manual entitled, *Stressors of the Missionary*. Books, websites or material on the topic of Member/Missionary Care will also help.
- **Attend mission events:** Attend mission events like mission conferences, visit mission booths, mission prayer meetings, open days at mission agencies, etc. where you can be exposed to various mission agencies as well as to missionaries and to their work. Talk to mission leaders and missionaries about your call to missions, what you feel God is saying, where to work, with whom, etc. and read mission pamphlets.
- **Prayerfully choose the mission agency, field, people group and role:** This process may be lengthy, but it is not something that can be rushed. If you are married, involve your spouse during every step of the way. Make sure that you are led by the Holy Spirit in making these choices, confirmed by your spouse (or parents), pastor and those that love you. Not everyone is led by the Lord in the same manner – the elements of mission, field, people group and role will not necessarily happen in this sequence. One veteran missionary says, "*Sometimes it is the mission rather than the field that becomes the first point of clarity.*" For others, the first point of clarity is the country<sup>3</sup>, the people group or even the functional contribution one can make or the role to fulfil, e.g. being the mission's pilot or medical doctor.

The advantages of joining and serving with a mission agency are many: It provides family solidarity where we "belong" and can receive and give moral and spiritual support. It may help us financially if we do not need to rent expensive accommodation and buy furniture. They may even help us to raise support, or facilitate the transmission of special gifts at special occasions, e.g. birthdays. The mission provides Christian fellowship with corporate worship, intercession, outreach and other activities. They can provide counsel and guidance, as well as continuity in the work when it is time to go on furloughs or if you fall ill. There may be other fringe benefits like the schooling of your children, assistance with visas, lost passports, etc.<sup>4</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> Kane, J. Herbert. 1983 (3<sup>rd</sup> Print). *Life and Work on the Mission Field*. Grand Rapids, MI, USA: Baker Book House, 11-12.

<sup>2</sup> Barnett, Betty J. 1991. *Friend Raising. Building a Missionary Support Team that Lasts*. Seattle, WA, USA: YWAM Publishing.

<sup>3</sup> Kane, *Life and Work on the Mission Field*, 41-44

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, 38-41.

- **Check out the mission agency:** Before applying to join any mission agency, make sure that it satisfies your requirements:<sup>5</sup>
  - **Theological position:** Look at its theological position – will you feel at home among its members and be able to guide new believers according to what the agency believes? Are their basic fundamentals of their faith based on the Word of God? Some agencies will accept only graduates from their own denominational schools.
  - **Policies, practices and procedures:** The agency guidelines can be found by carefully reading every aspect of their staff manual or handbook on matters like the following: qualification required, finances and fees, housing, a probation period for new staff, marriage, involvement of wives, education of your children, language requirements, medical aid, disciplinary and appeal processes, conferences, furloughs, resignation and retirement. Can you live with these requirements and policies?
  - **Financial policies:** What do their fiscal policies entail? Are their books audited by external auditors? Does the mission agency pay a salary? Do they raise financial support on your behalf? If you need to raise all of your own support, what happens if you suddenly lose a substantial portion of your support? How are the costs for the following expenses dealt with: medical aid, retirement, accommodation, re-entry, ministry and travel?
  - **Opportunities for service:** Will your previous education and experience be taken into consideration and appropriately utilized in the Kingdom of God: E.g. a highly trained Old Testament seminary professor with a Ph.D. will want to teach in a seminary or training department on the field. Will you be given a choice as to you want to do on the field? What if you cannot find your niche? Is there a probation period for new staff? Are team leaders trained well and kept accountable?<sup>6</sup>
- **Apply to the mission agency:** Once you are certain about the next step, and you know that the chosen mission agency works on the field of your choice, among the people group whom you will work with, where is space for your ministry type, vision and gifting, then it is time to apply to become a member of this mission agency. The application may consist of several forms: The application form - duly completed; your personal testimony; the story of your call in writing; reference forms from your pastor, a friend and/or employer; medical forms; a psychological evaluation; emergency contact details of a third party at home; some agencies will also require a last will to be put on file, as well as (for certain fields) an agreement not have a ransom paid if you and your family happen to be kidnapped on the field; a form to allow a medical operation if you are single and may become incapacitated and unable to speak for yourself; permission to be buried on the field.
- **Interview with mission agency:** You will be required to go for an interview or to have one online with the mission agency of your choice. This may lead to an interview. It may also involve an evaluation of a psychologist to test your personality type, to determine your main giftings and your suitability for cross-cultural living and a career in missions. After these interviews, there will be a waiting period; waiting for their reply about whether you are accepted to work with them. Once you are accepted, you will know where and how you will be trained.
- **Obtaining training:** Depending on your job description, appropriate training needs to be obtained – both their initial and foundational training as well as advanced training for the role that you will be fulfilling, e.g. as Bible translator, missionary pilot, computer analyst, missionary mechanic, church planter or for whatever task the Lord

---

<sup>5</sup> Ibid., 43-46.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid. (Kane, *Life and Work on the Mission Field*, 43-46).

has called you to do on the field. You may also need a degree in theology from a reputable Bible seminary. Training may include issues like discipleship, language learning, cultural learning, phonetics, church planting, counselling, reaching Muslims or other groups, children and youth ministry, women's ministry, support raising, etc.

- **Serve your church and community:** If you were selfish at home, you will not suddenly change into a servant or angel on the field. Practice at home first, and you will be ready to serve on the mission field. Win people in your own community first before wanting to go elsewhere. Your passion for the lost will not automatically be increased nor your prayer life automatically inspired merely due to being on the field. While you are at home, practice your personal giftings and also skills like your preaching, teaching, home-group leading, evangelism, children's or youth club, etc. As a missionary on the field, you will often be fulfilling various roles that you never expected.
- **Testify at home:** At home, learn to testify regularly to unbelievers and to also learn how to handle their questions and responses. Learn at home to win people for the Lord and then to follow up with steps of good discipleship.
- **Raising support:** The word "support" is not merely about financial support. You also will need prayer support, moral support, administrative support, spiritual support and logistical support. The process of finding enough support on all levels could take one to two years if you are going to leave your country for the field. Once you have left for the field, it is seldom that people will afterwards commit to stand with you. It is therefore best to have your monthly financial support and regular prayer support solidly intact before you leave for the field. More about this topic in the next chapter.
- **Simplified, bottom-line living:** On the field, you will usually live a life of simplicity and sacrifice. It is best to practice this type of life at home first. How are you spending your money, prayers, time and attention? Is your life revolving only around you and your family in a self-centred manner, thinking only about your own needs, comfort and wishes? Or is it outward focused, seeing the needs of others? The Kairos Course calls it "the top line" (Abraham is promised to become a great nation and his name will be great) and "the bottom line" ("*All nations on earth will be blessed through you...*" as in Genesis 12:1-3) – the Great Commission is thus intertwined with the Abrahamic Covenant.<sup>7</sup> In other words, we are blessed in order to be a blessing to others – the blessing should never be an end in itself. Thus, simplify your living so that you focus more of your resources (energy, time, finances and prayers) on those who have not yet heard the Good News of the gospel.
- **Deal with your past:** Whatever has happened in your past, process those things very well before going to the field, e.g. trauma, emotional or spiritual wounding, bullying, abuse, etc. If necessary, find timely help for yourself, your spouse and/or each of your children, long before your departure for the field. When a glass or cup is cracked, great pressure will cause those cracks to widen and the glass or cup could disintegrate. Any cracks in body, soul or spirit will easily widen via the tremendous stress that cross-cultural ministry and spiritual warfare may bring about for you, your spouse and your children.
- **Solid relationships:** Build solid relationships at home, especially with those that are the closest. First, build your marriage and family life, because these relationships easily crack when great pressure is experienced while adjusting to a cross-cultural or other mission setting. For at least one year before you leave for the field, regularly network with as many as possible friends and extended family members, because these people will be your safety net when you are on the field. Work hard at this, because you cannot afford to go to the mission field alone. You will most certainly need wide and solid support in prayer, morale, spiritual help, logistics and finances.

---

<sup>7</sup> *Kairos – God, the Church and the World*. 2015, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Reader, Simply Mobilizing International, 2-5, 2-15.

- **Learn about your host country:** While you are still at home, research and read about your host country (the field to which you are called) and its culture, values, world view, language(s), history, religions, politics, economy, weather and many other aspects. Whatever information you obtain about your host country, share it with your spouse and children – do not leave them behind in your progress. Language learning is often available online or in pocketbooks. Receive personal tutoring from people in your country who can speak the host language.
- **Learn to feed yourself:** George Müller trusted God for provision as he cared for 10,024 orphans and established 117 schools to offer Christian education to over 120,000 children, mostly orphans. As a missionary, he also travelled more than 200,000 miles in pre-aviation times – what a feat! Müller said,<sup>8</sup>

*"The primary business I must attend to every day is to fellowship with the Lord. The first concern is not how much I might serve the Lord, but how my inner man might be nourished. ...The secret of all true effectual service is joy in God, having experimental acquaintance and fellowship with God Himself. ...As the outward man is not fit for work for any length of time unless he eats, so is with the inner man. What is the food for the inner man? Not prayer, but the Word of God - not the simple reading of the Word of God, so that it only passes through our minds, just as water runs through a pipe. No, we must consider what we read, ponder over it, and apply it to our hearts."*<sup>9</sup>

Build your relationship with the Lord in a disciplined manner. Learn to feed yourself spiritually, without being overly dependent on the Internet, on people or church meetings. Learn to read, study and meditate on the Word of God. This enables you to feed yourself when you are on the mission field where you may have no access to avenues of spiritual feeding that are usually readily available back home. On the mission field, you cannot afford to endure a spiritual famine as you will need to feed everyone else with fresh bread on a daily basis.

The same "feeding yourself" principle can also become true physically, because our world is seemingly spinning out of control today. On the mission field, it may one day become necessary for you to feed yourself and your family via things like a vegetable garden, a fish pond or two, a chicken coop or an income generating project.

- **Disciplined life of integrity:** Integrity is to live what you say and believe, and to be the same person in the dark where no-one sees you versus when others are watching. Live a life of discipline, integrity and holiness, hating sin. On the field, locals will closely watch your life ... watching absolutely everything that you are and do, as if you are a fish in a fishbowl. It usually takes one minute for them to "read" you. Seek counselling for any problematic issues that are lingering in your life. Live in humility as well as in transparency. Be a disciple of Christ first, before you try to make disciples for Him.
- **Handling suffering:** Have a positive outlook and response in spite of hardships and suffering. This is one of the most important things one needs to practice at home, before leaving for the mission field. Succumbing to depression, pessimism, bitterness and other damaging emotions, or making sudden, conflicting decisions of withdrawal when things do not go according to your expectations, cannot be an option on the field where you could often feel you are standing on your own. Learn how to effectively handle physical hardships, loneliness, criticism, slander, malice, rejection and confrontation. There will be many challenges on the field. The intensity can easily be beyond anything one has known at home. Cross-cultural living is like a pressure cooker that can widen any existing cracks or bring about an explosion. If one does

<sup>8</sup> Good Reads. George Müller [Online]. [https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/739923.The\\_Autobiography\\_of\\_George\\_Muller](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/739923.The_Autobiography_of_George_Muller).

<sup>9</sup> Müller, George. 1899 (1996 reprint). *The Autobiography of George Müller*. New Kensington, PA, USA: Whitaker House.

badly at home, those weak areas need to be dealt with first if one is to survive the myriad of stressors on the field.

- **Knowing what they believe:** If you are heading for a country or area where another religion is prominent, you will need to be solid in knowing what the Word of God says about Himself; how to be saved and follow Jesus; faith; life after death, etc. Added to this, you will need to attend courses and study enough resources beforehand about *their* religion and how to reach its people. Without this knowledge, you are unfortunately ill-equipped to reach the people group to which God is calling you. If you know how they think and how they view their world, their deity, the after-life, their holy scriptures and even Christianity, you will be more effective in speaking to their hearts and obtaining lasting fruit in your work. 
- **Learn new skills:** Learning as many new skills as possible for your season on the field is vitally important. On the field, you may need to find solutions regarding your computer, vehicle, electricity, home-schooling and health issues. Try to attend several courses and obtain hands-on practice, e.g. servicing a car; cutting hair; bookkeeping; newsletter writing; cooking and baking; the home-schooling of your children; coaching in sports or life skills; counselling; language learning; cultural orientation; maintenance of a building; some even need to build or extend their own home on the field; support raising, etc. Attend courses (even online) on conflict resolution, Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL), anger management, culture shock, team dynamics, etc.

Learn about Missionary Care issues because you will be caring for yourself and encouraging your colleagues on the field. Once you are on the field, many needs will crop up that will need to be creatively met, but then there is usually no time, energy or opportunities available to learn new skills.

- **Sending Cell:** If you are leaving your home area or country to join the mission forces on the field, it is highly recommended that you have a committed Sending Cell to help you. It can also be called a Support Team or Partners' Team. This is by no means a team of financial supporters. A Sending Cell is a highly valuable small group of about 5 to 12 people that will each help you in one or more areas to fulfil tasks that you cannot do yourself when you are on the field. The needed roles are in the areas of moral support, logistics support, financial support, prayer/spiritual support, communication support, re-entry support<sup>10</sup> – in each of these areas, one or more persons can be involved. A trusted chair person is needed to lead the Sending Cell and convene meetings.

---

<sup>10</sup> Pirolo, Neal. 1991. *Serving as Senders: Six Ways to Support Your Missionaries*. San Diego, CA, USA: Emmaus Road, International, 28-160.

## The Sending Cell and its Tasks

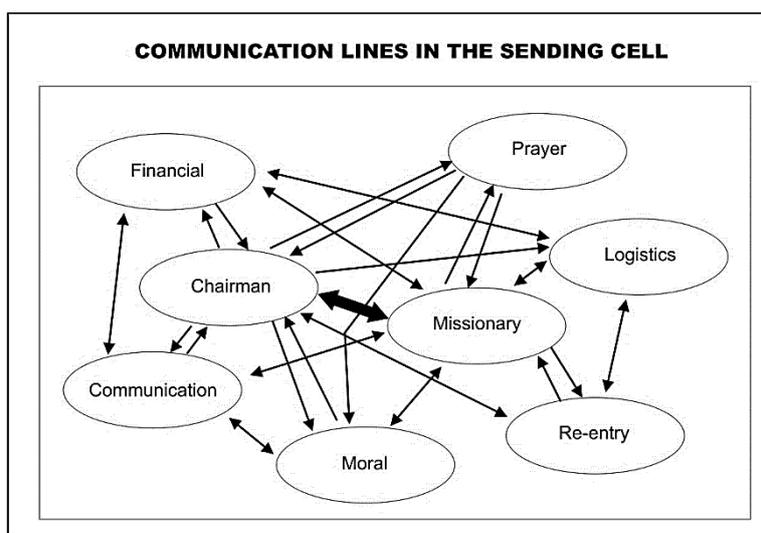
<u>Sending Cell Chairperson</u> 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Co-ordinates the whole group</li> <li>• Communicates with the missionary</li> <li>• Communicates with the Sending Cell members</li> <li>• Monitors each individual in the group (keeps each one accountable regarding tasks)</li> <li>• Takes initiative regarding seeing/asking what needs to be done next</li> <li>• Delegates tasks to members</li> <li>• Enhances the morale of the group and encourages ownership of tasks</li> <li>• Communicates with pastors, churches, mission/ministry leaders and missions' boards</li> <li>• Convenes and leads Sending Cell meetings</li> </ul>		
<u>Prayer Support</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prayer Coordinator + 2 members</li> <li>• Spiritual warfare</li> <li>• Fasting</li> <li>• Emergency prayer chain (approximately 10 persons)</li> <li>• Distribute prayer letter</li> <li>• Coordinates prayer sessions/get-togethers</li> <li>• Tells Church's Prayer Coordinator about the missionary's prayer needs</li> <li>• Lead prayer at every Sending Cell meeting</li> <li>• Regularly obtain prayer requests from missionary</li> </ul>	<u>Financial Support</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial Coordinator + 2 members</li> <li>• Advocate/spokesman on your behalf, saying 'thanks' and 'please help'</li> <li>• Thank you letters</li> <li>• Receipts for donations</li> <li>• Payments to be made</li> <li>• Emergency Fund</li> <li>• Bank issues (Power of Attorney)</li> <li>• Subscriptions (magazine/job)</li> <li>• Income and property tax</li> <li>• Printing materials</li> <li>• Liaise with tenants</li> <li>• Setting up and checking contracts</li> </ul>	<u>Logistic Support</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Logistics Coordinator + 2 members</li> <li>• Medical advice</li> <li>• Computer advice/help</li> <li>• Items at home that are unobtainable on the field</li> <li>• Research, looking for info</li> <li>• Update changed addresses and telephone numbers</li> <li>• Update licences for vehicle, drivers and employment, e.g. nursing, international driver</li> <li>• Rentals - income or expenses</li> <li>• Maintain storage</li> <li>• Keep SIM card alive</li> <li>• Last Will + Emergency Info</li> <li>• Sending parcel with visiting team</li> <li>• Visits to parents/siblings of missionary in times of crises or flowers for birthdays</li> <li>• Representing the missionary when missionary is abroad</li> </ul>
<u>Communication Support</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communication Co-ordinator + 2 members</li> <li>• Regular emails</li> <li>• Newsletters</li> <li>• Phone calls</li> <li>• Political news from home</li> <li>• Church news from home</li> <li>• Cassette tapes from church</li> <li>• Sending newsletters out</li> <li>• Saying "thanks" on my behalf to groups and individuals via correspondence, calls, social media, public speaking</li> <li>• Prepare presentation material</li> </ul>	<u>Moral Support</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moral Coordinator + 2 members</li> <li>• Special occasions like my/our/children's birthday(s), anniversary, Christmas Day, Mothers'/Fathers' Days</li> <li>• Parcels from home</li> <li>• A team visits the field</li> <li>• S/school class to write/draw</li> <li>• Providing encouragement</li> <li>• Commissioning in church before going/returning to the field</li> <li>• CD/photos from friends or from church, previous job</li> <li>• Magazines or newspapers</li> <li>• Field visits</li> </ul>	<u>Re-Entry Support</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Re-Entry Coordinator + 2 members</li> <li>• Being at the airport when the missionary leaves/arrives</li> <li>• Arrange accommodation</li> <li>• Arrange transport</li> <li>• Arrange Internet access</li> <li>• Arrange programme/itinerary</li> <li>• Arrange appointment with pastor(s), missions and ministry leaders, radio/TV broadcasts</li> <li>• Education for children: local schools or home-schooled</li> <li>• Regular and trauma debriefing</li> <li>• For singles: invite to meals on Sundays</li> <li>• Holiday opportunity</li> <li>• Collect air/voyager miles</li> <li>• Items needed for field</li> <li>• Items needed while at home</li> <li>• Arrange medical/dental care</li> </ul>

These tasks to be fulfilled could be any or all of the above or the following: to regularly pray for you and care for you on a spiritual level; to look after your morale via encouragement and parcels; to look after your possessions in storage; to repair your clothing; to find you legitimate financial advice and/or to provide assistance in managing your finances, receipts, thank you letters and tax return; service and/or store your vehicle; liaise between you and your financial supporters; to take you to or fetch you from flights; to send out your hard copy newsletters to supporter-friends at home who do not have computers; to safe-keep notarized copies of your last will and other important documents like licences, certificates, degrees, title deeds of properties, rental contracts, valid debit orders, etc. Please see the graph on the previous page depicting tasks that can be fulfilled by Sending Cell members.

You will also need someone who can help you in times of emergencies on the field or at home. You will need someone who can help you and your family when you return home temporarily on furlough (home assignments) or when you permanently return home. While you are on the field, you may need someone to represent you at a missions table in order to show your sending church(es) what you are doing on the field. Or you may need a spokesperson during the missions week-end of a supporting church. This list is inconclusive – more tasks may be needed.

The Sending Cell needs to be founded and fully functional for at least three months before the missionary leaves the field. More is said about the Sending Cell in the very next chapter below.

**Communication Lines in the Sending Cell:** Each member of the Sending Cell talks to the missionary, but also to each other as they help the missionary in his or her task, as in the table below. Every circle below can consist of 1 to 3 or more persons.



- **Get a passport and visa:** If you are planning to work outside of your home country, it will be imperative to obtain a passport and an appropriate visa for each member of your family that will travel. However, if you are working locally in your home country, you may still need to travel abroad in order to attend international conferences or council meetings of your mission agency. Obtaining a passport may take time, thus, apply far in advance, even if you do not yet know when you will leave to go abroad. Going into any other country may necessitate a visa from that country – find out online and start the process early.

Preparing more than one notarized set of copies of the passport of each accompanying family member, carried by two family members, is vital. If you lose your passport abroad, it will create great stress when you do not have a copy of each passport and visa.

- **Inoculations, vaccines, medication:** At home, buy a tiny cooler bag insulated with silver foil for transport of your medication on your flight(s) or in the car. At departure, add an ice brick that is frozen on your day of departure. For safety, add the prescription to the cooler bag in a sealed plastic bag in case it is inspected at a border crossing or airport. You may need certain vaccines or chronic, prescribed medication when leaving for certain areas of our globe, e.g. typhoid, yellow fever, tetanus or other inoculations, or medication against malaria. Chronic medication also needs to be obtained and prepared, but carry it only with valid prescriptions that are notarized, or you may be prevented at a border crossing or airport to take it into the country.



Be careful to keep your health certificate(s) in a safe place and take it with you when you leave your home country. Keeping a certified copy of these certificates or booklets at home may prove to be very valuable in case you happen to lose the originals.

- **Driver's licences:** Prepare and bring along the originals of your various driver's licences, but also notarized copies of these, as well as an international driver's licence for each spouse. If you lose the actual licence, these copies will be invaluable. It will be of great value for ministry purposes if you can obtain extra licences while at home, e.g. for driving a motorcycle, truck, bus or minibus.
- **Complete your tax return:** Before going to the field, get your paperwork in order for the completion and submission of your next tax return. This is very challenging to complete on the field, because financial records, receipts and bank statements will usually be left at home. It is not usually something that can be carried along, especially when flying.
- **Prepare important documentation:** Important documentation that you need to prepare and carry in your hand luggage when you leave for your host country are things like the following: certified copies of the passports and visas of each family member accompanying you to the field; certified copies of your health certificates, medical information and/or records, x-rays, prescriptions, etc., and your last will, duly signed in the presence of at least two other witnesses to be legally valid. Your will should include guidelines of your wishes regarding the instance of your and/or your spouse's death on the field. Leave notarized copies of your last will with at least two other persons at home. You may need to carry certified copies of your prior learning, of your academic path, certificates, degrees, driver's licences, last will, etc. and a formal letter of appointment from your mission organization.

*Draw a line on your previous season in order to embrace the new. - Dr Kath Donovan*

Help your children to decide which of their favourite books, DVDs, a picture from their bedroom wall, toys and blankets can be taken to the field. In your daily family devotion time, lead your children in praying regularly for the field situation. Help your child(ren) to grieve their losses and to appropriately say goodbye to their friends and pets. Take enough photos of their present world before the departure date which they can look at on the field. Photos of their "present world" can be about your extended family, your house, their school, their sports team, the mall and other favourite places, pets and people that they will be missing.



Specialists in Missionary Kids' care say that it is not good to move a teenager abroad, since they are already putting all their energy into fitting into the adult world, to become an adult. They are trying to establish their own identity as an adult and they simply won't have enough energy on top of everything else to simultaneously form a new identity on the field too. Teenagers can be given a choice to remain behind with close family members in order to complete their schooling at home.

Early during the process, prepare your parents for the upcoming changes too. They will be grieving their loss as their children and grandchildren are going to leave them behind. If possible, arrange that your parents and parents-in-law will visit you on the field soon. Help the older generation to understand and practice how to use video call packages like Skype, Zoom or WhatsApp so that they can regularly talk to (and see) you and your children on the field.

May the Lord help you to carry out the above preparations before starting your journey to the mission field. Preparing to leave for the field is stressful – prepare yourself for this pressurized time and accept that it will not be without crises, delays and spiritual warfare.

## REFLECTION, JOURNALLING AND DISCUSSION

- If you are a *local*, national worker, and already involved in missions in your home country, which of the above points do you still need to work on? 
- What area of inner growth is still needed in your or your spouse's lives before you can leave for the field?
- Which items still need to be prepared for your departure? Paperwork, passports, visas, inoculations and vaccinations, medical advice or papers, applications, etc.?
- How have you prepared the children for the field and what is still to be done in this regard?
- Do you have a Sending Cell? Explain to someone what a Sending Cell is all about. What roles still need to be fulfilled by future members to be recruited for your Sending Cell?
- What prayer requests do you need to soon spread amongst your prayer supporters?

---oOo---oOo---