

## **Debriefing Guidelines: Questions for Returning Missionaries**

*Used by Permission of Ken Royer, Link Care ([www.linkcare.org](http://www.linkcare.org))*

*Source: Ron McLain in "To Our Colleagues in Personnel" by Ken Royer – 9/1/2006*

Evaluate the pre-field preparation and training that you were given.

- In what areas do you feel you were adequately prepared?
- In what areas do you feel you were insufficiently prepared?

Assess your accomplishment of the purposes for going that you established for yourself.

- What objectives were you able to accomplish?
- What objectives were you unable to accomplish?
- What were the reasons for not accomplishing those objectives?

What were the highlights of your ministry?

What do you feel you have accomplished overall – the significance of your time overseas?

Identify the area or areas in which you struggle the most.

What was the greatest hardship that you encountered?

Identify any points where you felt defeated.

Identify major points of victory or highlights.

What was the greatest fulfillment for you during your time overseas?

If you were to have the whole experience over again, what would you do differently?

What have you learned from this time overseas that has helped you understand God's future plan for your life?

Do you have any dreams or visions of God's leading in your life that you did not have when you left?

As you look to the future, do you feel the need for further education? Ministry experience?  
Other?

To whom were you accountable and how do you evaluate his or her role with you?

Language. If you learned another language how proficient do you feel you have been?

Acculturation. How well do you feel you identified with the people and their needs?

Spiritual gifts. Do you feel you have a greater understanding of your giftedness and how God chooses to use you?

What are those gifts, as you see them?

Finances. Did you have adequate financial resources to accomplish your task?

Health. Did you feel that you faced a limitation physically while overseas? Do you have any health concerns?

Children / Spouse. Can you presently assess how you, your spouse and/or children adjusted to the experience? Is there something that you would want us to know about their time overseas or present needs?

Relation to home church and supporters. Did you feel you were adequately encouraged through your home church or supporting body? Do you feel you adequately communicated to them?

Need for rest. Do you have a need for rest at this time?

If given the opportunity, do you desire to go back?

What are your short-range plans as you now face the next step?

**The following may be considered if a formal meeting is scheduled with the Missions Committee and the Missionary:**

In preparation for the debriefing, it is helpful to have before you: physical exam reports, field evaluations, quarterly reports, past prayer letters and copies of pertinent correspondence. This information should be circulated among all members of the committee for the benefit of debriefing with this input before the actual debriefing encounter.

After the debriefing, the committee should remain for a brief period of time to formulate any conclusions, recommendations or actions for further referral.