

# **Caring for the Missionary Soul in the Trenches**

## **Field Visits**



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# Being a prayerful, practical, pastoral partner

*“Again Jesus said, “Simon son of John, do you truly love me?” He answered, “Yes Lord, you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Take care of my sheep.””* John 21:16

*“Be sure you know the condition of your flocks, give careful attention to your herds.”* Proverbs 27:23

# Being prayerful



- ✦ Know your Global Partner
- ✦ Pray generally and specifically
- ✦ Daily prayer before your visit
- ✦ Pray over them while you visit
- ✦ Daily prayer after your visit

# Being a partner

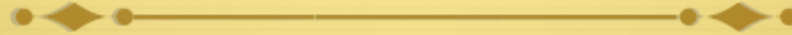


- ✦ Humility
- ✦ Equality
- ✦ Servant
- ✦ Care

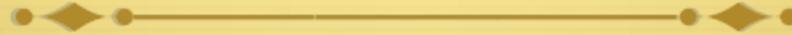
# Being practical



- ✦ Purpose
- ✦ Schedule
- ✦ Standards of Care
- ✦ Respect
- ✦ Listen
- ✦ Children
- ✦ Providing

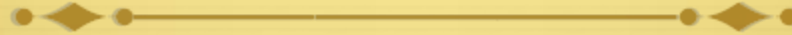


- ✦ Purpose of the visit – Why are you going?
  - ✦ Be clear with expectations and plan
  - ✦ Be a learner
  - ✦ Know what they need
  - ✦ Be an evangelist for whole and holy ministry on both sides



## ✦ Standards

- ✦ Confidentiality and openness
- ✦ Finances of visit
- ✦ Where are you staying?
- ✦ Times of prayer and worship
- ✦ Be excited about your visit, laugh and have fun
- ✦ Live life with them and be helpful
- ✦ Be an advocate
- ✦ Know your global partner – personhood, family, mission, culture



## ✦ Listen

- ✦ Hear their stories – be truly interested
- ✦ Accept their feelings, concerns, needs
- ✦ Ask good questions
- ✦ Be aware of red flags or warning signs



# Four Essential Questions



- ✦ Where are you in your walk with God?
- ✦ What are you excited about in ministry?
- ✦ What do you need right now?
- ✦ How are the two of you doing together?

*“Timothy (your name), guard what has been entrusted to your care. Turn away from godless chatter and the opposing ideas of what is falsely called knowledge.”*

1Tm 6:20



✦ Respect

- ✦ Differences
- ✦ Be culturally sensitive
- ✦ See their reality and stress of everyday living
- ✦ Don't judge how they do life – work to understand it
- ✦ Learn their routine
- ✦ Bring notes/cards from the church
- ✦ Sending agency
- ✦ Affirmation
- ✦ Be adventurous
- ✦ Be a good guest



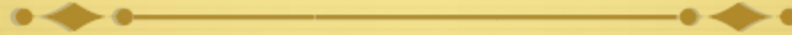
## ✦ Schedule

- ✦ Timing and length of visit
- ✦ What do they need and what do you need?
- ✦ Give them and yourself down time
- ✦ Fit yourself into their family schedule, be flexible
- ✦ Don't expect to be a tourist
- ✦ Help out



## ✦ Providing


- ✦ Ask if you can be the courier for anything
- ✦ Give them updates on the church
- ✦ Bring treats!!!
- ✦ Pay your own way
- ✦ Take them someplace they normally can't afford to go
- ✦ Buy groceries



## ✦ Children

- ✦ Show an interest
- ✦ Spend time with them
- ✦ Help them with their chores
- ✦ Bring a small gift
- ✦ Recognize you are taking their parent's time away from them with your visit
- ✦ Don't judge or correct them

# Being pastoral



- ✦ Who is their pastor?
- ✦ Pray for them
- ✦ Bring devotionals
- ✦ Worship/communion
- ✦ Listen
- ✦ Gently care

*“Be shepherds of God’s flock that is under your care, serving as overseers – not because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock.” 1Pt 5:2-3*

# Resources



Emotionally Healthy Spirituality, Peter Scazzero

Missionary Care, Kelly O'Donnell

Honorably Wounded, Margaret F. Foyle

Serving as Senders, Neal Pirolo

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