

SCRIPTURE:

Deuteronomy 5:16

1 Samuel 1

John 19:26

2 Timothy 1:5

Galatians 6:10

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MINISTERING TO THE  
EXTENDED FAMILIES  
OF MISSIONARIES



One of the defining characteristics of the missionary family is that they tend to live “between worlds.” There is regular and sometimes frequent travel between their passport country and their country of service. As a result, they tend to live in a state of constant transition, with people coming into and going out of their lives. Typically the one constant in all of this transition is their family . . . we have to focus on building family relationships that are strong and vital, both for the sake of the family and for the sake of the Gospel.

Steve Maybee, M.A.

CONSIDERING THE EXTENDED FAMILY

PARENTS	
GRANDPARENTS	
SIBLINGS	
ADULT CHILDREN	
GRANDKIDS	

**PRAY**





**QUESTIONS:**

- 🍷 Do we pray for extended family members of missionaries?
- 🍷 How can we honor and support extended family members of missionaries in our congregations? Are we intentional about engaging the extended family of our missionary?
- 🍷 Do we help to build the extended family relationships of our missionary families or do we add to the tension missionaries feel to relate to their supporting churches / friends and their extended family?
- 🍷 Do we encourage missionary families to plan and take quality time with their extended families?
- 🍷 What can we do as a church / friends to promote and facilitate special times for missionary families with their extended families?

**PRINCIPLES:**

- 🍷 It's **not** easy to be related to a missionary!
- 🍷 Validate the **legitimacy of loss** and grief for a family member. (At times it can be overwhelming.)  
(What are some of the losses?)
- 🍷 **Goodbyes are hard.** Missionaries and their families experience many transitions and goodbyes.
- 🍷 **Holidays** (birthdays, anniversaries, births and deaths) are especially difficult.
- 🍷 **Honor** extended family members in appropriate ways - personally & publicly with sensitivity
- 🍷 **Inviting a Missionary's relative(s) to share in our family life**
- 🍷 Instead of asking "how can I help," **take the initiative** to pray and do.



**RESOURCE:**

Parents of Missionaries: How to Thrive and Stay Connected When Your Children & Grandchildren Serve Cross-Culturally, Diane Stortz & Cheryl Savageau, 2012.

**LESSONS LEARNED:**

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**APPLICATIONS:**

*"Don't let what you cannot do interfere with what you can do."* John Wooden

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