**Missionary Care Conference – February 21, 2015**

Todd and Tamara Rasmuson

1. Intro: Psalm 46:1 – “presence” to bless a family – being with, close, within sight and/or hearing, being there; with us; know and feel cared for.
2. Introduce us and what we do
3. Question to Missionaries – How does your family get care? Feel cared for? Specifically, children, or missionary parents say that “I know and I see that people do care for my children.” Who are those people that are most effective?
   1. Team
   2. Agency
   3. Church
   4. Nationals
   5. Financial/prayer supporters
   6. Family
4. Missionary family care from Bethlehem Baptist Church:
   1. Barnabas Support Teams
   2. Pastor
   3. Global Outreach Team
   4. Elders
   5. Congregation
5. Visit from us: central goal is not to visit children, but an important part. Our goals are:
   1. Enter into life for a day: how do they live, meet special people
   2. How are you doing? Really listen.
   3. Time to talk and pray with parents: faith, marriage/single, children, relationships, friends, language/culture, team, ministry, agency, church connection, health, finances, housing, church/fellowship on the field, etc.
   4. Ambassador – we want to be better equipped as their ambassadors
   5. Encourage, Listen, point to Jesus, advise, Scripture
   6. Share news: church, personal, USA
   7. Connect with kids; presence, how are kids doing - emotional, spiritual, health, education, safety
6. What do caring people do so that missionary parents and missionary children know that they are cared for and feel cared for?
   1. Bring some gifts – for each child – stuffed animals, legos, books, treats. Carry gifts from others – contact Barnabas team, family, missionary that you can bring some things.
   2. Stay in their home, when appropriate
   3. Be sensitive to the family’s schedule – bedtime, mealtime
   4. Listen – the power of debriefing (for all)
   5. Enjoy the children
   6. Spend time with the children
   7. Push yourself to love – even when not easy
   8. Read books – check out new ones on Kindle
   9. Play games – you can learn a lot from competition. Bring a deck of cards –memory, war, go fish, knuckles, Uno, Pass the Pigs
   10. Introduce new games, songs, ideas
   11. Take them to the park – monster game (freeze tag)
   12. Enjoy their foods – choose to eat where they would be happy
   13. Have special treat – ice cream, pizza
   14. See their room and toys
   15. Share in their interests – ex. animals
   16. Tell stories
   17. Pray for them – with them
   18. Help with schoolwork
   19. Help with unique needs as able– graduation pictures
   20. Go places as a family that they would enjoy
   21. Say goodbye well
7. Bad visits – when things go wrong and care is not effective.
   1. Guests don’t understand the worldview and values of a missionary.
      1. Suffering is a part of missionary life. Not all suffering can be fixed; safety not highest goal: example of friend who visited and concluded that the missionary needed to come home for counseling.
      2. Example of judging mom with boarding school kids.
   2. Guest can come with expectations, goals and agendas that drain missionary families and not help them. Prepare heart: Attitude: others, margin to give, pour out energy: Example of five people coming, food, lodging, activities.
   3. Guests can expect “vacation.” special meals and special places,
   4. Guests can expect to do projects, so they can feel good about their visit.
   5. Guests expect to have expenses paid for by the missionary family.
8. Follow up from visit
   1. Remember the visit by taking notes and organizing pictures (sharing pictures).
   2. Communicate/Ambassador back to many groups, as the Lord leads.
      1. Global Outreach team
      2. The missionary family’s Barnabas team
      3. Congregation/Groups (classes, women’s group)
      4. Staff of church
      5. Family and Friends
   3. Network for continued support/partnership as needed