



Building Vitality in Our Single Missionaries

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Missionary Care
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Single Missionary Panel

- Name,
- Organization
- Assignment
- Length of service
- The Call to Service

The Blessings of Serving Single

- More time to develop a close relationship with the Lord and to minister to others (1 Cor. 7:32-35)
- More opportunities to integrate into local culture and learn the language
- More freedom to travel, to change work assignments and locations, to pursue other interests
- Ability to live with greater spontaneity

The Challenges of Serving Single

- Learning to “Go It Alone”
- Developing Close Friendships
- Finding Validation and Affirmation
- Host Culture
- Missionary Subculture
- The Possibility of Never Marrying
- Developing Healthy Relationships with Men
- Healthy Sexuality
- Physical Touch

More Challenges to Serving Single

- Good Living Arrangements
- Aging Parents
- Security in Later Life
- Learning to Live with Unmet Needs

Member Care for Single Missionaries

- Pre-field, on-field, post-field
- Prevention Services: in selection and clarifying/validating a call
- Development Services: equip with skills needed to deal with cross-cultural life and work, conflict resolution skills
- Support Services: praying, visits, counseling, retreats
- Restoration Services: medical and counseling care

How Churches Can Provide Member Care to Single Missionaries

- Connect the Single Missionary with a few safe and caring people in the congregation who can guard confidentiality
- The member caregivers can find out the type of stressors that your single missionary is dealing with: cultural, crises, historical, occupational, organizational, physical, psychological, support, spiritual, etc.
- LISTEN!!! WITHOUT GIVING ADVICE.
- Next, encourage the single missionary to look for resources on the field to help resolve the stress and distress, and also offer to help seek resources and information to share with them

More Ways Churches can Provide Member Care for Single Missionaries

- Ask the single missionary what if anything she or he wants shared with the congregation, mission committee, pastor
- Help set up and/or provide development, support and restoration services as needed
- When your missionary comes back on home assignment, invite him or her to participate in your family activities, meals, events for families and singles
- Don't judge them, show them grace!
- Pray for them regularly

Some Good Resources

- Enhancing Missionary Vitality - Powell & Bowers
- Too Valuable to Lose - ed. by William Taylor
- Overcoming Loneliness - David Jeremiah
- Single Adult Passages: Uncharted Territories - Koons and Anthony