Barry Nelson – Barnabas International

<u>Pro-active Care</u> – Assisting missionaries to be better equipped to handle the needs, problems and possible outcomes of future activities, projects and events within the country where they serve.

What steps can we take with missionaries on the field to rejuvenate, challenge and encourage them to stay healthy and stay on the field? This workshop is designed to help you process through ways you might better serve your missionaries by nurturing them with a variety of beneficial ideas and activities. After living in Asia and serving missionaries there with my family for 29 years I have some suggestions on how you can pro-actively care for your missionaries.

## NRG - pronounced "energy"

You will be introduced to the acronym NRG. When missionaries are running low on NRG they not only lose motivation they also lose perspective, direction, and ultimately, hope! I will use the acronym NRG as a tool to help you remember essential principles that construct the spiritual foundation of one's life. Please come and learn how you can instill NRG back into your missionaries!

## **Collaborating Member Care Ideas**

We will be discussing different scenarios during this workshop like the one listed below. You will want to bring your own brilliant member care ideas to the table! Be ready to collaborate your ideas with others, and work together to brainstorm new ideas in order to create a resource you will want to return to and use in the future.

## Example Scenario:

You will be traveling to country XYZ, and you have been given the responsibility to lead two, three or four talks and possibly a workshop or two with a small group of missionaries on the field during their annual retreat. There are families, couples and single missionaries that make up this special team of individuals. What will you say/do to encourage and challenge them in their own walk with the Lord and in their ministries? What Scriptures will you use? What activities can you do? And what life lessons will you share? What do you have to offer them that will rejuvenate, challenge and encourage these missionaries after you leave?

## My Life Message

Have you ever thought about your life message? Everyone one of us gravitates to certain themes or principles taught in Scripture. Through prayer, Bible education, life experiences and personal relationships we all have developed core ideas that power our thoughts and teaching. I have identified five themes that resonate within my own life. Years ago I took time to write these down and saved it in a document called, "*My Life Message*." I have returned to this document to review it (*or update it*) over and over through the years. No matter where I live, what I do for work, what transition or traumatic situation I am in the middle of this document calls my attention back into focus. I believe the Lord has placed these themes on my heart to challenge, encourage, motivate, and direct my life and ministry. In this workshop we will discuss this idea and I will provide a worksheet that hopefully will be a catalyst in helping you develop your own "Life Message" document. My hope is that this activity blesses your life and ministry as it has mine, and that you can use this same tool to challenge and encourage the missionaries you serve!