Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! May 2009 be a year of blessings for you and your family as God is glorified in your ministries.

As you reminisce over the events of 2008, what do you recall? What were the high points and the victories—whether personal, family, or job related? Those are the enjoyable moments of mission service, aren’t they? We here at IWM trust that these experiences outweigh any other events of 2008. I hope you are giving God the credit and the praise! But I know that there were the low points, too. Don’t let these become the focus of your historical musings, though—except to recollect how God carried you through. I pray that all of us will learn what Paul learned on his mission field:

...for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through him who gives me strength.(Phil 4:11, 12 NIV italics supplied)

Unfortunately, some of the toughest moments of mission life occur in the area of relationships. There can be family struggles, cross-cultural misunderstandings, mission team differences—including interactions with short-term missionaries. I believe Paul’s Lord can give us His strength in these situations, as well.

I visited a non-Adventist church in Washington State on New Year’s Day many years ago. The Pastor told of a certain cultural group that lived by the philosophy that one shouldn’t hold grudges from past events. An outsider noticed one of this group treating a neighbor with respect and friendship; a neighbor that had “done her wrong” some time before. Later the outsider asked her how she could be so nice to that scoundrel that had mistreated her. Her reply? “Oh, but that was yesterday!” What a good philosophy to have at the beginning of a new year.

So I pray that your 2009 will be like Paul’s in another way:

I don’t mean to say that I have already reached perfection! But I keep working toward that day when I will finally be all that Christ Jesus saved me for and wants me to be. No, dear brothers and sisters, I am still not all I should be, but I am focusing all my energies on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I strain to reach the end of the race and receive the prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us up to heaven. (Phil 3:12-14 NLT italics supplied)

Lester Merklin

The Faculty and Staff of the Institute of World Mission sends each of you warmest wishes for a wonderful new year!

Wagner Kuhn  Lester Merklin  Vernieva Porras  Cheryl Doss  Enid Harris

Missionary relationships are varied and complex and so important. Not only do missionaries have to adjust to local people, they also must work with missionaries from multiple cultures as well as deal with various kinds of visitors and mission groups that pass through their territory. Our center article offers a few tips for working well with short-term mission teams and an excerpt from the new edition of Passport to Mission explores some of the differences volunteer and career missionaries need to better understand for good working relationships. Also check out the web resources listed on the back page. There are articles, even podcasts, on various areas of relationships that we hope you will find helpful.

Cheryl Doss
Volunteer and Career Missionary Relationships

Building a well-functioning team anywhere takes intentional effort. The diversity of missionary teams, made up of volunteer and career missionaries from many cultural backgrounds and age groups, requires even more patience and persistence to work well. Understanding the differences can be the start to building a missionary team that demonstrates God’s love by loving one another.

Volunteer vs. Career

Volunteer missionaries need well-defined jobs that are within their ability to perform. Because of the shorter time frame for their service, they cycle through the stages of transition and culture shock more rapidly. Loneliness may lead them to need more social support or seek questionable relationships. Career missionaries may or may not have their own transition and culture shock issues worked through. Usually they have the competing demands of family and work, making their lives very full and busy. Their adjustment to the local culture over many years may include some conclusions that sound negative or prejudiced or arise from culture fatigue. Volunteer and career missionaries need to recognize that their experiences are very different and resist judging each other.

My Culture vs. Your Culture

As one missionary recently said, “I don’t have any trouble with the local people; it’s the missionaries from _________ that I can’t get along with!” So often the multicultural nature of the missionary team means that missionaries must adapt to several cultures in addition to the local culture. Every missionary team becomes a unique culture of its own made up of the various cultures of its members. Recognize that if there are a number of missionaries from one culture, that cultural style will likely predominate in patterns of communication and conflict management. When new missionaries arrive, their task is to learn not only the local culture but also the team culture. Missionary teams need to constantly remember that their reason for being is to witness to the local people and adjust their team culture to best fulfill that purpose.

Younger vs. Older

Each generation, shaped by different life events, absorbs a unique package of values and beliefs. In addition, the longer one lives, the more one is formed by life’s trials and joys. Older missionaries may feel that if they suffered certain trials then younger missionaries should suffer similar trials. Younger missionaries may believe that older missionaries are inflexible and old-fashioned. Older missionaries need to remember what it was like to be young and lonely and far away from home and be willing to provide love and support and acceptance. Younger missionaries need to understand that experience does count for something and that older missionaries can teach them a lot if they are willing to be patient learners.

From Passport to Mission, 3rd edition, pp. 156

Third Revised Passport to Mission

Newly revised and updated by the Institute of World Mission, Passport to Mission will help equip career, volunteer, and short-term missionaries for service around the globe. Written in easy-to-read English, short chapters followed by thought-provoking questions cover a wide range of mission topics. New chapters include “Missionary Relationships” and “The Missionary Family.”

Paperback book, 239 pages, missionary discount price $5.00.

Also available in Spanish and Portuguese.

Passport to Mission is available from the Institute of World Mission.

For more information
e-mail iwm@andrews.edu
or call (269) 471-2522.
Creative Mission

The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. Matthew 9:36, 37.

Missionaries today come in many shapes and sizes. There are career missionaries, students missionaries, Adventist Volunteers, taskforce workers, tentmaker missionaries, and short-term mission trippers of many kinds. Now the Northern Asia Pacific Division (NSD) has added another category of missionary: Pioneer Missionary Movement (PMM) missionaries. PMM missionaries, mostly Korean pastoral families, commit to spending five years at half salary doing church planting among unreached people groups in NSD. NSD includes China, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Macau, Mongolia, and Taiwan—approximately 1.5 billion people! With only a little over half a million Adventist members, there is a huge need for mission in NSD.

Recently I had the privilege of spending two weeks doing training with PMM families in Korea, Mongolia, and Hong Kong. Their enthusiasm and commitment were inspiring. I attended a new church plant in Ulaan Baatar where nearly all of the +40 members have joined the church since May this year. I was impressed by the diligent language learning and persistent witnessing that makes church planting possible. I praise God for one more creative way of increasing workers in the harvest fields. For a description of the trip you can watch my video report at http://kr.youtube.com/watch?v=mRPfuighGsc.

Whatever size or shape of missionary you are, thank you for answering the call to the harvest fields. May we all have diligence, persistence, and creativity as we serve the Lord of the harvest.

Cheryl Doss

Pioneer Missionary Movement Training
Korea October 2008

Can we help tell your story?

Elbert and Cleidi Kuhn did it from Mongolia. Rob and Cindy Kyle did it from Guam. Bill and Julie McGhee did it from India, and Darrel and Kristina Muehlhauser did it from Africa. What do these people have in common? They’re all missionaries who’ve blogged for AdventistMission.org. We’d love to share your story, too!
Blogs are like journal entries. A typical blog helps viewers get to know you: why you became a missionary, where you serve, what you do, and what challenges and joys you face. You can share stories about answered prayer or an experience that touched you deeply. With your words and pictures you can help people see, smell, hear, and taste your little corner of the world and to realize how important mission work is in reaching hearts for Christ. Interested? Email Laurie Falvo at Falvol@gc.adventist.org. You can view blogs at www.AdventistMission.org by clicking the “Stories & News” tab and then the drop down, “Missionary Blogs.” Blogging tips are available upon request.
Missionary Resources Online


www.missionarycare.com—Free resources include:

62 brochures on topics such as burnout, conflict, depression, internet immorality, managing money, psych testing, and many more!

8 downloadable books such as “Missionary Marriage Issues,” “Third Culture Kids and Adolescence: Cultural Creations,” “What Missionaries Ought to Know. . . : A Handbook for Life,” and more.

Search a database of 800 references, 100 topics, and 400 authors of missionary care publications.

www.familylife.com—covers topics such as healthy marriage, troubled marriage, better parenting, family & culture, single life, and spiritual growth. Each topic has resources in the form of articles & podcasts, plus a store, interactive forums, and much more.

MK Corner

You Know You’re an MK When. . .

You’ve had more vaccinations than anyone you know. . . including your dog.

From “You Know You’re an MK When” by Andy & Deborah Kerr, 1997.

Two Free Online Courses

Understanding and addressing vicarious trauma
Dr. Laurie Anne Pearlman, Senior Consulting Psychologist, Headington Institute & Lisa McKay, Director of Training and Education Services, Headington Institute.

Vicarious trauma is inherent to humanitarian work. Humanitarian workers in all roles regularly hear distressing stories, and face the realities of violence, poverty and disaster. This second-hand exposure to suffering and violence places humanitarian workers at high risk of experiencing some form of secondary traumatic stress response. The goal of this module is to explain what vicarious trauma is and explore coping strategies for dealing with it.

Supporting national staff
Drs. Debbie & David Hawker, Clinical Psychologists, United Kingdom.

Most humanitarian workers are national staff – people who work for humanitarian organizations within their own country. National staff are essential to the continuity and success of humanitarian programs worldwide, yet national staff generally receive less attention or support than expatriate humanitarian workers.

The Lord has made so many promises to us. You can find His promises in the Bible. Below are two promises. See if you can figure out what they say.

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-
-ng+ll -ck+st in U

-m w+ -rng+ll -b+mand
+ s -m+ard U
By Rick McEdward

My adult mission experience started on a short-term trip to Tegucigalpa, Honduras to do evangelism with a group from the church where I was the pastor. Every day we would go to the city market and buy local mangoes, avocados, and watermelon, along with lovely bread and tortillas. We went into neighborhoods, visiting people, praying for them, and inviting them to meetings each night. When I arrived home, I immediately contacted the General Conference to see about going as a missionary. After one year my family and I left North America for Sri Lanka to serve as fulltime IDE missionaries.

Today many Adventist organizations help coordinate short-term mission trips for teams from supporting ministries like Maranatha and ShareHim, as well as for groups from academies and colleges. These teams may do anything from evangelism to church building to disaster relief. Many missionaries have the chance to host short-term mission teams. They can be a lot of fun and also very time consuming. Here are some does and don’t for missionaries working with short-term mission teams.

Do give an orientation for the short-term missionaries. Orientation can be started by email before they depart their home country and, if time permits, a day of cultural insights may be given upon arrival. Any kind of orientation will be helpful to those coming for a short trip, but one that helps them to see the culture positively is very valuable as they arrive and try to understand and filter what they are seeing. In your orientation include personal stories, descriptions of cultural practices, and things to avoid (for example, not to eat with your left hand in many countries). Whenever possible, show the advantages of the local way of doing things. People from economically developed countries often have the misconception that everything in their home culture is more advanced or better than practices in traditional cultures or less developed countries. By allowing teams to see through eyes that are more adjusted to the local culture, a short orientation by a long-term missionary can help break down some of these stereotypes.

Do work side by side with them. If you know that the group is coming to build a church, go and work with them, whenever possible. You will build friendships but it can also help the project go more smoothly if someone knows how to get around and make things happen in ways that are acceptable in the local culture. If there is a group coming to do evangelism, find ways of helping, either through preaching or serving on the team. You can be a bridge between the foreign team and the nationals to help make decisions that will benefit the long-term growth of the church.

Do encourage the short-term missionaries to team up with locals and get to know them. The stories they share when they return home will be of the relationships made in a short time. These relationships often become enduring contacts, with people staying in touch for years to come.

Do help those who come from overseas to see the positive contribution of national church leaders and members. Often when short-term missionaries come to help they leave with the idea that they made
a big difference. That is good, but it should be kept in balance with the long and tireless efforts of local believers and long-term missionaries who have worked for years to build up the work of God in that location.

**Do give feedback to the sending organization.** Sending organizations need to know how the trip could have been better organized and more effective in making eternal disciples. Mission organizations do not always have budgets for evaluation but feedback is desperately needed to know if a program is really effective. Missionaries can provide qualitative feedback in terms that can be understood by the sending team. In turn, this information may help in making decisions about future projects and needs in the field.

**Do share the best parts of the local culture with your guests first hand.** Make sure that your guests get a chance to see local landmarks, go to the markets, and are able to buy cultural outfits and curios. You can have fun introducing them to your favorite foods and exotic fruits. It is always fun to introduce someone to the smell and taste of durian or some other local cuisine.

**Don’t make short-term missionaries into overnight heroes.** Be realistic, affirming, and grateful for the work or outreach they have brought to the field, but beware of making short-term missionaries the solution to the problems of the mission. Ultimately these have to be hammered on the anvil of prayer with dependence on God.

**Don’t overwhelm short-term missionaries with financial requests.** Some will ask what the needs are, and missionaries need to be open to share what the real needs are in the field. In some cases, short-term missionaries become long-term supporters for projects they have seen when on a trip but that needs to happen as God works on the heart to give. Occasionally I have seen missionaries and locals being too forward with the needs of the mission. If too much is said it can leave a bad taste in the mouth of potential long-term prayer partners.

**Don’t shield them from inconvenience on their trip.** One of my favorite memories from a short-term trip was learning how to take a “splash bath” with a bar of soap, basin, and a bucket near a well. I found this to be very refreshing and much more practical than a shower. Over several years I have bathed in rivers, cooked over fires, slept in large open areas with mosquito nets, walked many miles, hauled building supplies in backpacks and on the back of motor bikes, and eaten with my fingers. These are fond memories—and usually give much more color to the stories of returning short-term missionaries. Most short-term missionaries want to taste a bit of real life. The adventure is what sticks with them.

Long-term missionaries can be a valuable bridge between nationals and short-term missionaries. And like me, those who go home having had a good experience may be the ones who sign up to be full time missionaries down the road.

*Rick McEdward has lived in Asia for seven years, and is currently the Adventist Mission coordinator for the Southern Asia-Pacific Division.*