

Being a Family in Long-term Missions

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Ministering as a family in missions is a wonderful experience, and for our family, the best 2 years of our lives, but there are many stresses that must be recognized and dealt with.

Objectives:

1. Learn some of the benefits of cross-cultural family ministry
2. Recognize common stages of experience for missionary families
3. Discuss navigation through the various stressors of these stages

Stages of Typical Experiences for Missionary Families:

1. Pre-field preparations---“Are you taking your kids with you???”
2. Travel---How to get sleep on the plane.
3. Honeymoon period---“We’re finally here!” (‘Don’t worry, that huge spider won’t hurt you.’)
4. Settling in---How to reach out when your child runs in terror from nationals.
5. Becoming a part of the community---Spitting, nakedness and eating on the floor
6. Schooling options---School with constant interruptions
7. Preparing for furlough---“Why do we have to leave home now?”