

## Ten Things Missionaries Want You to Know

Thank God for missionaries! In a sense, every Christian is in a mission field, but this article will deal especially with those who have left their homes and families to take the Gospel to other parts of the world. In order that we might pray for and encourage them more, here is a list of things they wish we knew.

**#10 – Family issues are magnified in a foreign culture** – Whatever “small” issues exist in a marriage or a parent / child relationship, those issues are greatly magnified when moving to a foreign country. Pray for the families of missionaries!

**#9 – Learning the local language is time-consuming, but extremely important** – The most practical and immediately obvious way to demonstrate love for the people of a foreign country is to invest in learning the local language. It takes time, but it is worth the effort (cf. 1 Cor. 14:8, 19).

**#8 – The best test of a work is what happens when the missionaries leave** – While news of baptisms and new congregations is certainly exciting, each missionary’s work will be, “Tested by fire” (1 Cor. 3:10-15). Pray that missionaries might build as, “Wise master builders,” who make Jesus the Foundation of all they do.

**#7 – Missionaries are overwhelmed with needs** – Missionaries face the constant frustration of too many legitimate spiritual needs and not enough manpower and resources. God promises His grace is sufficient for every Christian to do the work He most wants done (cf. 2 Cor. 12:7-10), but it is often tough for missionaries to know how to make best use of their time and opportunities.

**#6 – No, a handful of missionaries is not enough for one nation / continent** – American brethren sometimes need a sense of perspective. Over one third of the world’s population lives in India and China. Australia is roughly the size of the lower 48 states put together. Pray for more laborers in the Lord’s harvest fields (cf. Luke 10:1-2).

**#5 – Valuable things are being accomplished in difficult fields as well** – Not every mission area will produce multiple baptisms every year. Brethren need to appreciate the value of steadfastness and perseverance, even in difficult fields.

**#4 – Missionaries typically hear from very few brethren in the U.S.** – Mutual concern was a hallmark of first century missionaries and the churches that sent them (cf. Phil. 4:11-19). “Out of sight, out of mind,” is from the devil himself (2 Cor. 2:11).

**#3 – Primitive living conditions are NOT the biggest challenges most foreign missionaries face** – Yes, some hardships exist in nearly all foreign countries, but the greatest burdens most missionaries face are spiritual in nature (cf. 2 Cor. 11:28). Family crises, persecution, false teachers and immaturity among fellow workers are constant issues that must be addressed in foreign mission fields.

**#2 – Missionaries need constant, specific prayers** – Most missionaries send frequent reports about their work. Conscientious American brethren need to READ those reports, and then PRAY about the issues facing their brethren (James 5:16).

**#1 – Most missionaries long for brethren to visit them periodically and see their work** – We need to train more “Barnabases” who are willing to visit foreign works. We need to send brethren who can see the grace of God, be glad, and encourage the work to continue (Acts 11:23). May God bless those who labor in His fields, no matter where those fields may be.

**--JB**