

Sources of Stress in Stages of Missionary Service

Glenn Taylor (1991)

<p>I. PREFIELD PREPARATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowing God's call • Family separations • Financial support • Coping with attention (pedestal effect) • Anticipatory apprehension (the unknown assignment; children's schooling, etc.) • Loss of professional status (resignation, upset routine) • Paperwork, new relationships with mission • Question adequacy of training <p>II. INITIAL FIELD ADJUSTMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Culture shock • Language learning • Culture acquisition • Lack of clarity re assignment/change • Field acceptance • Change in criteria for measuring success • Time to live/ministry balance • Finding a support system • Building new relationships <p>III. END OF TERM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluation - "What have I accomplished?" • Severing of relationships with missionaries/nationals • Guilt - "Will the work continue in my absence?" • Packing, storing, disposing of possessions • Questions of return/assignment change • Home accommodation concerns • Communication w/supporters (success/failure) <p>IV. MEDICAL CRISES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faith issues - "I thought God would protect" • Physical exhaustion • Depression <p>III. MAJOR FIELD CHANGE/CRISIS/LOSS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Role change • Skill deficiency • Over extension • Loneliness • Indigenization of role • Death of a loved one • Political upheaval/danger 	<p>V. STAGE OF LIFE STRESSORS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marital adjustments • Birth of children • Mid-life adjustments • Threatened or loss of health • Depression • Loss of drive/goals/vision • Re-evaluation of life purpose • Psychological changes (e.g. hormonal) • Adjustment of changes re: new missionaries • Career changes/loss of status <p>VI. PARENT-CHILD/FAMILY STRESSORS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Birth of children • Educational options/questions • Overseas schooling for college • Marriage of children <p>VII. RE-ENTERING THE COUNTRY OF ORIGIN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deputation • Reporting on Ministry • Living accommodation • Children's education • Learning to live with relatives • Cultural and lifestyle changes • Should we go back? <p>VIII. FAMILY OF ORIGIN STRESSORS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facing the aging of parents • Facing impending loss of parents • Sickness of parents • Demands of parent/siblings • Younger siblings displaced leadership role <p>IX. FACING RETIREMENT FROM THE FIELD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of field involvement • Loss of field friends/fellow missionaries • Re-entry to home culture • Financial pressures of re-settlement • Geographical location • Can I have a ministry at home? • Adequacy of retirement funds • Making friends again • Re-entrance into family of origin • Loss of extended family (move, death, etc.)
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