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CHRISTIAN  
*Missions*  
IN MANY LANDS INC.

**Drug Addicts Find  
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# Thinking It Through

ROBERT SULLIVAN

## Bible Translation and Human Progress

Most people do not realize just how much the efforts of missionaries have governed human progress. Whether it is hospitals and good health, schools and better education, or sound doctrine and civil liberty—those who carry the Gospel to distant lands have left their mark on history. Missionary work has done more for the advancement of civilization than any other human endeavor!

One of the finest demonstrations of this has to do with literacy. Everyone reading this article (or for that matter, anything written in either English or German) owes a debt of gratitude to a Bible translator named Ulfilas (A.D. 311 – 383).

Historians are a little unclear on the particulars of his life; however, the best evidence suggests that he came out of Cappadocia (in modern day Turkey).<sup>1</sup> During the 4th Century, the Goths were a warlike people who regularly raided the Roman Empire. This included jaunts into Central Anatolia, where Cappadocia was located. At some point Ulfilas and his family relocated to the region north of the Danube River and the home of the Goths.<sup>2</sup>

While there, Ulfilas developed a heart for the Gothic tribe and set out to translate the Bible into their language. There was one enormous problem: they did not have a developed written form! At best, they used some Runic characters (i.e., symbols) that provided a limited written style to the language.

Ulfilas needed to create a Gothic alphabet. Borrowing letters from both Greek and Latin, he constructed an alphabet that most closely aligned with sounds from this early Germanic tongue.<sup>3</sup> For the first time in history the Gothic language was placed into a written character-based form.<sup>4</sup> It is this language that largely served as the foundation for what would eventually become modern-day German.<sup>5</sup> English is also considered a descendant tongue from that spoken by the Goths along the Danube.<sup>6</sup>

Ulfilas translated much of the New Testament and huge portions of the Old Testament into Goth.<sup>7</sup> Imagine that—the first time the parent tongue of German and English was placed

in written form, it came as a result of Bible translation work.<sup>8</sup>

Here is where the story gets even more interesting. The early Church considered Ulfilas a heretic. Historians note that he was an Arian.<sup>9</sup> He believed that the Lord Jesus Christ was a created being—not the Lord God Himself. Yet, within a short period of time, the Goths accepted the Bible as God's Word and rejected, based on what they read in the Scripture, Ulfilas' beliefs regarding Christ.<sup>10</sup> They clearly saw that the Bible presented Jesus Christ as "God manifested in the flesh" (1 Tim. 3:16). Talk about an illustration of Hebrews 4:12 in action: "The Word of God is living and powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword."

It is not just English and German that owe their written form to the work of Bible translators. This same story could be told many times over with numerous languages.<sup>11</sup>

The Cyrillic alphabet is used by the Slavic peoples, including Russians. It is named after Cyril (A.D. 827 – 869). He and his brother, Methodius (A.D. 815 – 884), were Thessalonican missionaries that went to Moravia (located in the Czech Republic today). Their hope was to reach the Southern Slavs with the Gospel. They encountered a language with limited written characteristics. In response, Cyril devised a new alphabet based heavily on Greek characters.<sup>12</sup> Once again, a huge swath of the world's population owes its literacy to missions and Bible translation efforts. The Scripture was the first book ever penned using the Cyrillic alphabet. How ironic is it that, at the height of the Soviet Union's power, the atheistic state was using an alphabet crafted to share the Gospel of Christ?

In Isaiah 55:11, God makes this declaration, "So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it." Missionaries and Bible translators have brought the Scripture to a lost and dying world; they have been used of the Lord to transform the eternal destinies of men and women, boys and girls. But in so doing, they have also been used of the Lord to drive the advancement of all human society. Our very language proves it! ■

<sup>1</sup> [NewAdvent.org/cathen/15120c.htm](http://NewAdvent.org/cathen/15120c.htm); <sup>2</sup> [EarlyChurch.org.uk/ulfilas.php](http://EarlyChurch.org.uk/ulfilas.php); <sup>3</sup> [JAARS.org/museum/alphabet/people/ulfilas.htm](http://JAARS.org/museum/alphabet/people/ulfilas.htm);

<sup>4</sup> [Britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/613200/Ulfilas](http://Britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/613200/Ulfilas); <sup>5</sup> [Anglik.net/englishlanguagehistory.htm](http://Anglik.net/englishlanguagehistory.htm); <sup>6</sup> *Ibid*; <sup>7</sup> [NewAdvent.org/cathen/15120c.htm](http://NewAdvent.org/cathen/15120c.htm);

<sup>8</sup> [Britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/613200/Ulfilas](http://Britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/613200/Ulfilas); <sup>9</sup> [NewAdvent.org/cathen/15120c.htm](http://NewAdvent.org/cathen/15120c.htm); <sup>10</sup> [CCEL.org/ccel/schaff/hcc4.ii.xvi.html](http://CCEL.org/ccel/schaff/hcc4.ii.xvi.html);

<sup>11</sup> Kennedy, D. James *What if Jesus Had Never Been Born*; Thomas Nelson Publishers, Nashville, TN, 1994 (page 41);

<sup>12</sup> [Britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/1345803/Saints-Cyril-and-Methodius](http://Britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/1345803/Saints-Cyril-and-Methodius)

# DRUG ABUSE

# IN URUGUAY

## Addicts Find Hope and New Life through Christ

by Rob and Cecilia Russell



***"I'm phoning because I need your help," said the person on the other end. "I have a son that's consuming drugs—my friend says you have a center."***

Sometimes there's sobbing, desperation, even pleading, in their voices. "The psychiatrist recommended I speak with you," some say, or other times the recommendation comes from the parents of a similar case that has already received help and is set free like never before.

Often people chat after church meetings saying, "This is a miracle! I've visited my son at the center again and he's so changed, so different. He even thanked me for all I put up with and asked me to forgive him!"

Up to 20 mothers, fathers, wives and girlfriends of addicts, and ex-addicts, have attended a Sunday morning meeting at the same time. The assembly is ready and fearless to offer the Gospel as the answer for any modern social evil. The Christians even invite newcomers to prayer meetings and accompany them in their first attempts to pray. The church must be ready to show love and acceptance—not criticism—and surround Satan's victims with much more than just a Sunday-morning service.

## JOE

Joe was brought to the breaking of bread service by a Christian taxi-man who found him in bad shape. Repeatedly Joe expressed "I'm looking for peace." I assured him that he was in the right place. The son of an influential surgeon, Joe is a 34-year-old tennis trainer and player and a public figure. But after 12 years on cocaine, two and a half years in a non-Christian rehab, and many visits to the psychiatric ward for overdosing, he wept as he viewed the Lord's Supper. We talked and prayed and began meeting every-other-day. Often this meant all but breaking down his front door, or going into his bedroom to wake him and being made to feel like a nuisance, but our times together were powerful as the Word took grip of his heart.

An addict is very unstable, so our insistence and persistence are necessary. Joe was now a Christian addict! He was to struggle day-by-day against sin, just like you and me, in the strength of the Holy Spirit. We soon discover that the accepted Christian vices such as murmuring, over-spending, and so on—just as substance abuse—all need to be uprooted as proof and a result of new life in Christ.

## OUR WORK IN THE MINISTRY

God has long prepared us emotionally to understand the subculture of substance abuse. Rob's youthful strong temperament problem was uprooted at age 14 by the Holy Spirit to become a testimony of God's power over anything! "It is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes." (Romans 1:16) Cecilia is gifted with mercy and passion for the needy and this is accompanied with an "overdose" of practical generosity, words of wisdom and good judgment.

We saw God build His church from a disheartening handful of people about 30 years ago to more than 100 of mostly first generation, un-churched people of all types and from various situations (add to this more than a hundred children and 50 young people). Our hearts were tempered by many incidents of violence, suicide, theft, poverty and 16 years of jail work. We have even faced personal threats. The assembly has grown with upfront acknowledgement of sin and a need for prayer and monitored discipline and restoration.

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**An addict thinks he's a "weekender" and in control, but soon he is so desperate for another fix that debt and thieving tear every speck of decency and family loyalty from his soul.**

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An addict thinks he's a "weekender" and in control, but soon he is so desperate for another fix that debt and thieving tear every speck of decency and family loyalty from his soul. A culture of darkness, peer pressure, hopelessness, violence, and an insatiable demand for "more," produces an unknown entity within the family—a manipulator who sooner or later will have to get his way, often uncovering a hidden side of hell from within. The families that come to our home for an interview are usually "destroyed" emotionally and financially.

## MIKE

Mike had recently taken over the family taxi business from his retiring and sickly father, but his addictions soon took them deep into debt. Together with his mother and father, Mike listened as I described man without God as depicted in Ephesians 2: dead in sin, being carried by the polluted floodwaters of this world, commanded by the "just-do-it" philosophy, and obeying the impatient, sinful nature. But what a glorious truth there is of new life through Christ, who took the responsibility for our most shameful deeds! He gives us a new nature, new desires, and life instead of death—spiritually and literally. The Bible study and prayer took close to two hours, as most do, but was well accepted with tears and hugs that expressed "Let's do it together."

## A PROGRAM FOCUSED ON SPIRITUAL CHANGE

Tests for HIV and TB are routine for all prior to entry, and, while waiting for admittance to the 14-month program, they are introduced to one or many of our assembly meetings. Usually the wait is only three to five days because the decision to enroll comes voluntarily from a very unstable and desperate person who has reached bottom and can change very suddenly. The treatment consists of prayer, daily Bible reading, attendance to meetings, minimal medication, no smoking, farm work and a mentor that bears the blow of the addict's first withdrawal symptoms. This Christian rehabilitation center is 300 kilometers away (a five-hour trip), and they count us as co-workers in this very difficult task. Eighteen from our city, Mercedes, between 15 and 34-years-old are there at present, in different stages of new life. Members of the Mercedes assembly visit from time-to-time and family is allowed only on Sundays.

## MIKE AND JOE TODAY

Two years after the first conversation in our home, Mike has finished the program, restored the taxi business, fervently attends meetings in a neighboring town where he lives, and aims at a new center for his area. Mike is a new man since knowing the Lord.

Joe arrived back from rehab in time to lead his dying father to the Lord in the hospital ICU. He worked very hard as a traveling salesman and now has a job in town, where he can participate more in the midweek meetings. A plus to all this is his marriage to a lovely Christian school teacher from one of the Montevideo assemblies. Joe's family had once shunned him but now lovingly accepts him and his new bride. He has a whole new life in Christ.

## TINA

Tina was a renowned figure skater and trainer with many sinful addictions and attachments—even to the occult. After she attempted suicide, she called for a visit from us and gave God permission to take over and save the broken pieces of her life. In our city of 45,000 people, where you're known for better or for worse, no one believed she could change in any way. But after 14 months of rehab and countless struggles during and after, she's truly unbelievably changed by the grace of God!

## A DIFFICULT BUT BRIGHT FUTURE

This is an ongoing work that demands those involved to not lose the day-to-day contact with even the successful because temptation is also near. Two people have fallen away in the past year, but, with

actions by members of the assembly, they are again living a second chance at the center. Beyond the institutional benefits, the true victory is in the new relationship with God through Christ Jesus. The residents read the Bible daily and meet with believers every other day, or as often as possible. A hard-working fellow said that if it wasn't for God and rehab, he'd either be dead or in jail!

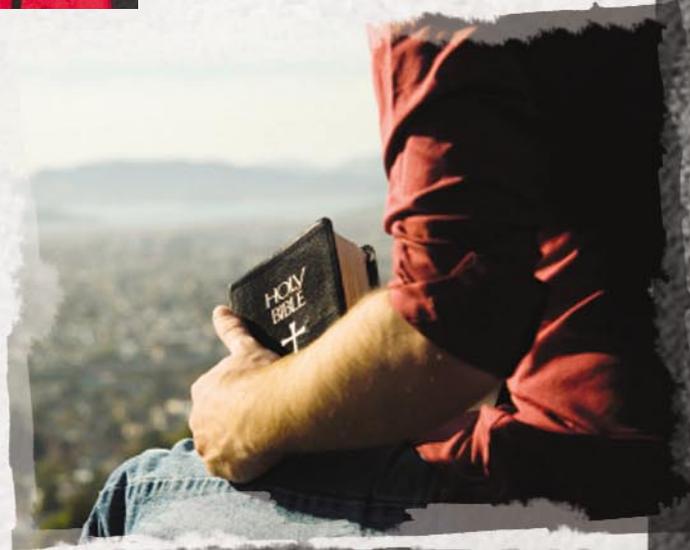
Not everyone is cut out for this job. You need to be reserved with information, have Christ-centered conversations and not seek heroism. These new Christians have a lot to learn, to rebuild, and to prove, to themselves and to assembly leaders. Therefore, wise counsel is necessary to guide them to study the Word and to gain stability and patience.

As these 18 people from Mercedes return from rehab one-by-one, and the cycle continues, it's not promising to be any easier, only different. There might be times of even greater blessings in the Mercedes assembly and in their families. Of course, there will be struggles, but the Lord is showing a power in the Gospel that no one can deny. In your prayers for this ministry, please think of your own town and remember we share the same victory!

"For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh (for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but mighty before God to the casting down of strongholds)." 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 ■



*Rob and Cecilia Russell were commended to the work in Uruguay in 1981 by Pine Ridge Bible Chapel in Courtice, Ontario, Canada.*





# TeamWorkers Abroad

## Laborers Together with God

by Fred Scott

### Picture this dilemma common to many missionaries...

For some time you prayed about following the Lord's leading to serve Him. Of course there were some sacrifices and adjustments, but overall, things went smoothly at first. You joyfully desired to serve the Lord by helping to meet the physical needs of the people you've come to love. But now, as you reach out to many around, the demands on your time have grown and almost seem to crowd out your passion to share God's love with the lost and hurting. You find that there are projects that need to be completed, but money and skilled help are lacking. You fervently pray to the Lord for help—help of any kind would be such a great encouragement and blessing.

This is where TeamWorkers Abroad steps in.

### The Start of the Ministry

TeamWorkers Abroad started with just this type of "help" in mind. Their desire is to relieve missionaries and other full-time workers of their building, maintenance, and mechanical work projects, allowing them to better focus on language studies, preaching, and church planting. Additionally, when possible, TeamWorkers Abroad also works with and trains local men. The ultimate goal is to enable these men to work on these ministry projects as well as use their new skills to improve their

own homes and help friends and family.

It began in 2007 when Jon Routley met with the board of Assembly Care Ministries. Together they found that there was a united desire to establish and expand this type of supportive ministry. Today, Tim DeJong (Georgia), Scott Nordstrom (Nebraska), and Jon Routley, Fred Scott, and Steve Wilson (Iowa), serve on the board. Each member has a personal desire to serve in this ministry and is especially gifted by God. With each project bathed in prayer, and with the leading of the Holy Spirit, they have the joy of organizing teams to help on various mission fields.

### About the Trips

Each two-week trip has a team of 10 to 12 people from all over the country. Participants vary in age and skill level and can be young and enthusiastic to learn new things, or mature with a lifetime of practice in a specific skillset. Most of the work is centered around construction, but other needs arise in specific projects.

While the focus is on physical labor, there are also opportunities to get to know those in the local assemblies, meet with believers around the Lord's Table, teach from the Word and join in prayer meetings. Team members are often asked to open the Word with the help of a language translator.



Clockwise from top left: The crew; Tim DeJong and Mark DeJager with volunteers practicing with the "wordless soccer ball"; Roof trusses being put in place; Working on classroom windows.

## Peru

A group went to Peru in January of last year to help construct a new classroom building for Strong Tower Christian School. The two weeks were filled with building windows from wood purchased at the local Sodemax (the local equivalent to Home Depot), assembling doors, wiring the electrical system and putting a temporary roof in place. Additionally, one team member made major corrections to the school's internet system.

The team also ministered by sharing the Word. Fred Scott and Tim DeJong spoke at the weekly prayer meetings, and Tim also instructed the youth fellowship how to present the Gospel with the "wordless soccer ball."

## Mexico

Last September Tim traveled to Quiniatla, Mexico, to help local workers with a project started the year before. During this trip they added the walls and roof framing to a building foundation laid in 2011. By November, 320 believers from 15 surrounding villages gathered in the new building to hear the Word proclaimed and the Gospel preached. Saints were encouraged and six people trusted in Christ. These are encouraging results!



**From left:** The building in Quiniatla, Mexico, as it neared completion in September 2012; Believers from 15 villages meeting in the new building.



**Clockwise from top left:** Bathroom addition to the camp's main facilities; New camp sidewalk; Steve Wilson and Toni Backes applying tile in the bathroom.

## Colombia

The Lord delayed a trip to Colombia to work at a camp from July until October. In that waiting period a seven-member team was assembled, the directors of the camp were united, and the proper funds were supplied for the project. More than three years earlier, an addition to the camp's restrooms had been started. During this trip team members continued the work by tiling the walls. An electric line was installed to the rooms, and the group helped to refurbish the corner of a building and lay a brick sidewalk. Minor maintenance needs were also addressed. Much help is still needed in the future as the vision for this camp work is caught and passed on.

## Will you help?

Responding to the Holy Spirit's leading, Fred and Sue Scott have packed their belongings and are currently traveling to assemblies in an attempt to make God's people aware of the opportunities available for skilled and unskilled people willing to be a part of "TeamWorkers Abroad." Above all they covet your prayer support on behalf of the teams and the projects that are under consideration.

Earlier this year a group traveled to Chiclayo, Peru, to help Tom and Carol Clark (*Missionary Prayer Handbook*, Day 25) continue work at Strong Tower Christian School. Later this year a trip is scheduled to work with David and Renee Easter (*Missionary Prayer Handbook*, Day 22) in Bogota, Colombia, to help with construction at a Christian camp. Trips for 2014

include Kenya, to build a church roof, and Zambia, to help with construction at a mission station.

Go to [TeamWorkersAbroad.org](http://TeamWorkersAbroad.org) to read about previous trips and to learn about what's planned for the future and how you can help. You can also follow this ministry on Facebook at [Facebook.com/TeamWorkersAbroad](https://www.facebook.com/TeamWorkersAbroad). If you are interested in joining or leading a team in an upcoming project, contact Fred Scott at [fred@teamworkersabroad.org](mailto:fred@teamworkersabroad.org) or sign up online. ■

*Fred and Sue Scott are commended to the ministry of TeamWorkers Abroad by High Point Bible Chapel in Davenport, Iowa.*

# The Importance of Debriefing Missionaries

## A How-to Guide for Assembly Leaders

by Jonathan Ward

**de.brief** v.

To question someone about an ongoing or completed mission or undertaking.

Although debriefing as a term is not used in Scripture, the idea is biblical, practiced by Paul and the Antioch church (Acts 14:27), Peter (Acts 11:4ff), and Jesus with his disciples (Mark 6:30).

*"And when they were come, and had gathered the church together, they rehearsed all that God had done with them, and how He had opened the door of faith unto the Gentiles." (Acts 14:27)*

*"But Peter rehearsed the matter from the beginning, and expounded it by order unto them... When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God." (Acts 11:4 & 18)*

*"And the apostles gathered themselves together unto Jesus, and told Him all things, both what they had done, and what they had taught." (Mark 6:30)*

### What is Debriefing?

As increasingly practiced today within the wider missions community, debriefing is an invitation to tell one's story, complete with experiences and feelings, from one's own point of view. It is not an interrogation, and it is more than giving a report. Whereas a report involves a factual sharing of details as objectively and accurately as possible, a debriefing is a verbal processing of events that includes both the facts and the emotional responses.

Joys and sorrows, victories and disappointments, progress and frustration—with whom can the missionary take the time to verbalize, process, and gain perspective about such things? Missionaries may experience criticism and betrayal, loneliness and doubt, fear and trauma. They will certainly experience transition, loss, and grief.

When missionaries are on furlough, away from the challenges and pressures of the field, the leaders of their commending assembly can provide them with a wonderful gift: the opportunity to tell their story and be listened to, patiently and lovingly, without judgment.

The ingredients of a good debriefing include

trust, empathy, respect, concern, and time (debriefings are best when not hurried).

### Why Debrief?

Debriefing has a number of beneficial outcomes for the missionary and for the leadership of the home assembly.

#### For the Missionary:

- Promotes processing of events, and their feelings about those events.
- Helps mitigate the impact of negative events and allows one to gain perspective.
- Helps release accumulated frustrations and disappointments, giving them over to God.
- Provides an opportunity to receive helpful encouragement, feedback, and affirmation.
- Counteracts the sense of isolation that missionaries sometimes feel.
- Enhances trust and connectedness to the leadership of one's home assembly.
- Encourages accountability.
- Provides the opportunity for growth through reporting and being heard.



- Stimulates renewed commitment.
- Brings rejoicing and glory to God through shared victories.
- Communicates a powerful message of love, respect, and value.

### For the Assembly Leadership:

- Helps them grasp what is happening “below the waterline” of the missionary’s visible ministry.
- Gives them the opportunity to understand the missionary’s needs in specific areas, such as rest, mentoring, marriage enrichment, or further training.
- Helps them assess whether the missionary is burning out emotionally or physically and needs to see a doctor or counselor.
- Helps them identify the specific areas where the missionary needs support, encouragement and prayer.



### Not Forgetting the Children

Children in their teen and pre-teen years may benefit from debriefing. This can be tricky and should not be forced, as the purpose is not to make them uncomfortable, but to make them feel valued. Being able to express what it’s like to grow up overseas—the benefits and the challenges—as well as being able to explore issues surrounding culture, identity, roots and belonging, can be very validating. It helps them understand that it’s alright to feel like they don’t fully fit into any one culture, including their own, while also, paradoxically, feeling at home in many different cultures.

### Approaching the Matter

The following are helpful guidelines for the leaders of the missionary’s home assembly.

- Take the initiative and be intentional. Few missionaries will ask for debriefing, so offer it as a way of showing that you care. Schedule it sooner rather than later during the missionary’s furlough.
- Be available. Debriefing cannot be done during the Sunday morning coffee break. It needs to be scheduled and given sufficient time. Although variable, a debriefing will typically take at least two hours.

- Be aware of the meaning of debriefing. It is not listening in order to advise, challenge, correct, or evaluate. Its purpose is to allow the missionary to hear themselves process what has happened in the presence of caring people, in a safe place, for no other reason than that the missionary is worth listening to and caring for.
- One person should conduct the debriefing, while one or two others are present to listen, respond, and provide encouragement. If there are more than three of you, the missionary may feel like he or she is facing a panel or a committee, which is less conducive to openly sharing how one feels. If you are debriefing a married couple, a family, or a single woman, it is important that you invite a woman to join you, such as the wife of an elder or another skilled listener.
- Parents should be debriefed first, without the children, allowing them to freely express the challenges they may face as missionaries, as well as any concerns they may have regarding their own children. The children can be debriefed after the parents or on a separate occasion. Some children may want their parents to be present. However, many teens and pre-teens may have more freedom to express how they really feel without their parents in the room.

### Necessary Skills

Debriefing requires several key components and skills.

- Choose a comfortable setting, relaxed and free from interruption or distraction.
- Build trust by being committed to a confidential, nonjudgmental approach. What is shared in a debriefing session is not to be shared with anyone else, nor at the next prayer meeting, unless the missionary specifically agrees to it.
- Ask appropriate questions and be an excellent listener.
- Be comfortable with the expression of negative feelings, pain, tears, frustration and silence.
- Be alert to verbal and nonverbal cues, and

interpret them accurately.

- Help the missionary identify any losses he or she may have experienced (loss of a friendship, project, colleague, or dream), and give him or her the freedom to express any grief. Place a box of tissues in the room!
- Appropriately bring the Lord into the situation. This may be done through prayer as well as asking what the missionary thinks the Lord is doing in and through the situation.

## How to Conduct a Debriefing

The following outline has four broad categories; try to deal with each one. The listed questions are only suggestions. How many questions you ask in each category will depend on the missionary's situation. Don't feel you have to ask all of them, or go in the order that they are listed. You may want to ask more questions in one area if you feel there are particular concerns in that area.

Begin with a short prayer time, and then explain to the missionary that you will work through a set of questions to help them share what they have experienced. You may want to provide them with a copy of these questions either at the beginning or before.

Notice that these are open-ended questions, requiring more than a "yes/no" answer and thus inviting the person to share at a deeper level. When debriefing a couple or a family, leave time for each one to respond. Questions should not be rushed.

### Ministry

1. What recent accomplishments do you feel positive about?
2. To what extent are you able to serve using your talents and spiritual gifts?
3. What do you wish could be different?
4. What are some lingering disappointments?
5. What do you wish you could have done differently?
6. What changes and challenges will you face when you return to the field?
7. To what extent do you feel you have sufficient Bible, theology, or practical training to serve effectively?
8. What are your hopes and aspirations for the future?

9. What obstacles do you think you'll face?
10. What further training, if any, would help you serve more effectively?

### Family and Children

1. What special challenges have you faced as a family?
2. How would you describe your home atmosphere on the field? Which of these words might apply to your situation, and why: hectic, relaxed, stressful, regulated, pressured?
3. What unexpected events or changes have you had to handle, and how do you feel you have coped?
4. To what extent do you think your children enjoy living overseas?
5. What particular stressors have your children faced in their overseas experience?
6. What do you do as a family for relaxation? What options do you have for getting away, and how often?
7. What educational challenges do your children face? How are they doing academically?
8. What social challenges face your children (friendships, integration, etc.)?
9. What spiritual trials are your children going through?

### Relationships

Relationship with the Lord:

1. How would you describe your relationship with the Lord before you left for the field?
2. In what ways have you found your time on the field strengthening or challenging to your walk with the Lord?
3. To what extent do you feel that you need to be built up spiritually on this furlough, and in what ways would you like to do this?

Relationship with spouse:

1. To what extent has your time on the field been stressful to your marriage?
2. What events or pressures have been sources of stress or strength in your marriage?

Relationship with children:

1. What are some positive effects that being on the field has had on your children?
2. What are some of the challenges and stresses your children have faced?



Relationships with parents and siblings in one's home country:

1. What relational difficulties, if any, have you had with family members here at home because of you being overseas?
2. What responsibilities do you feel you have to family members here at home that need your care and attention?

Relationships with housemates or other workers on the field:

1. In what ways have you found your relationships with your fellow workers (or housemates) to be positive?
2. In what ways have your fellow workers been especially helpful and encouraging?
3. Which situations have been sources of difficult, or strained, relationships?
4. What do you feel needs to be done to restore strained relationships?

Relationships with national churches and workers:

1. Describe your relationship with the national leaders.
2. Describe your relationship with the nationals who work with your ministry.
3. Which situations have been sources of difficult relationships?

Relationship with commending assembly:

1. How would you like to see your relationship with the assembly change or grow?
2. What improvements, if any, would you like to see in your relationship with us?

## Furlough

1. What are your personal priorities as an individual, or family, during this furlough?
2. How can we, as an assembly, help you during this time?

## Questions for Missionary Teens and Pre-teens

1. What do you enjoy most about living in [country name]?
2. What is it like for you to be in North America?
3. What do you enjoy most when you are on furlough?
4. What do you find difficult, strange, or funny about being in North America?
5. What do you not enjoy about living in [country name]?
6. What would you say is the greatest thing about being a missionary kid?
7. What was the hardest thing for you during the past year (e.g. school, friends, moving, etc.)?
8. If you could change one thing about your life as a missionary kid, what would it be?

## Bringing Things to a Close

End the debriefing with prayer, mentioning some of the specific issues that were shared, both positive and negative. If you feel you ran out of time and a further session would be beneficial, don't hesitate to suggest it.

When a missionary is not debriefed, or is inadequately debriefed, they may feel uncared for or that their ministry is unimportant. ■



*Jonathan Ward serves at Entrepierres, France, where he directs a missionary care center serving French-speaking Christian workers, offering rest, counseling, and debriefing ([www.PierresVivantes.org](http://www.PierresVivantes.org)). Jonathan and Rachel were commended in 1999 by Hilltop Chapel in Toronto, Ontario, Canada.*

### Essential further reading for and about missionaries:

- Knell, Marion. *Burn Up or Splash Down: Surviving the Culture Shock of Re-Entry*. Westmont, Illinois: IVP, 2012.
- Pollock, David C., and Ruth E. Van Reken. *Third Culture Kids: Growing Up Among Worlds, Revised Edition*. London: Nicholas Brealey Publishing, 2009.

### Editor's Note:

This center section may be pulled out and saved for future reference.