

SERVING MISSIONARIES

on Home Assignment ▶▶▶▶

When your missionary visits your church on home assignment, here are some tangible ways to encourage them and help them feel connected to your congregation. Mission teams or small groups can assign a different section to different members to spread the encouragement out across the church.

Connection

If your missionary is in town for longer than one Sunday, invite them to join a small group or Sunday school class to connect with friends new and old and get poured into during this time at home. Many missionaries share how it is nice to worship, learn, and serve in their heart language during home assignment.

1. How long will the missionary be in town?
2. Are they already connected to a small group or class? If not, how can we invite them to join?
3. Would they be interested in serving in a ministry while in town?
4. How can we make sure their kids feel welcome?

Transportation and Housing

Since many missionaries won't have a car or home in North America, it can be a huge stress to figure out how to get from place to place while on home assignment. From picking them up from the airport to lending your car for a period of time, offering an extra room or connecting missionaries to churches that have a missionary house, transportation and housing are two of the biggest stressors for many home assignment missionaries.

1. Does your missionary need housing or a car during this time?
2. Does anyone on your missions committee have, or know of someone who has, an extra car or space to house the missionaries?
3. Is anyone available to greet your missionaries at the airport?
4. Who could stock their house with groceries or a gift basket of favorite treats?

Time To Share

Stories from the field point to the work God is doing through an ordinary person who said "yes" to His call. Many congregants first hear the call to support overseas work or to go themselves while hearing from other missionaries. Giving missionaries time to share helps the whole congregation connect with the work your church is supporting.

1. When will the missions team or missions/pastoral staff meet with the missionary?
2. How does your missionary most like to share about their ministry? (i.e. video, interview, welcome reception)
3. How does your congregation best connect with ministries? (i.e. video, interview, welcome reception)

Fun

Whether it's a day away with a friend, a week-long getaway, or a family outing, the gift of fun can help missionaries rest and recharge before heading back to the field. This could mean anything from ball game or amusement park tickets to the use of a timeshare or summer house. Your gift, no matter how big or small, could be a huge blessing of memories made.

1. Can we provide a fun outing or getaway for the missionary/missionaries?
2. Can we provide a night of babysitting for a couple to enjoy a date night, if applicable?