



Returning to NZ Permanently

A GUIDE FOR CHURCHES AND MISSION PARTNERS



Returning to New Zealand Permanently

When it's time to come home

When a Mission Partner returns to New Zealand after their service overseas, there is a lot to consider. All sorts of plans will need to be made and lots of arrangements need to be put in place.

But whose responsibility is it to ensure these arrangements are made? Is this something the mission partner should sort out themselves? Or should their family and friends take care of this? Or is it the responsibility of the sending church?

In reality, the answer is probably all of the above!

This booklet is designed to raise a number of questions and provide some guidelines to help a Mission Partner returning to New Zealand. Very often, church leaders will assume that the mission partner and their family will sort everything out. However experience has shown that this is not always the case. If commendation by the local church is the wholehearted commitment it ought to be, the responsibility for Mission Partners should be taken seriously. The commending church leadership should accept responsibility to ensure as many issues as possible are covered and that the Mission Partner is well supported.

We encourage the Mission Partner and their commending church to work together on the matters raised in this guide. You may also need to liaise with the mission agency your mission partner is associated with.

There is no fixed answer to “who does what?” but we know that the best outcomes occur when everyone works together and the matters we raise here are properly planned, well in advance of your mission partner’s arrival.

Please contact us if we can be of assistance.

Michael Hanson
Executive Director

michael@gc3.org.nz
+64 27 522 4001

Notifications

First up, notify us here at GC3.

This is of prime importance for a number of reasons. We can publish the relevant information in e-Connect, allowing people to make appropriate contact, arrange meetings and generally liaise with your mission partner.

It provides for more intelligent prayer interest and communication.

There are trusts in New Zealand who use our notification as a source of information, and make financial distributions to mission partners when they return home permanently.

Notify any other mission agency that your mission partner is associated with.

Close liaison with the mission agency's personnel department is critical in determining whether the agency has a policy impacting your mission partner being back, what their expectations are for refreshment leave, continuation of support, retraining, etc.

THE ESSENTIALS

When completed, please scan this page and send to Michael Hanson, michael@gc3.org.nz

MISSION PARTNER

Name: _____

CONTACT NUMBERS:

Is your mission partner able to be contacted while in transit?

Cell: _____

Email address: _____

In the event of an emergency who will your mission partner call?
(Common issues are sickness, missed connections, or insufficient funds to cover departure taxes.)

NAME OF SENDING CHURCH:

Name: _____

NZ postal address: _____

_____ Postcode _____

Landline: _____

Email address: _____

CHURCH LIAISON:

Name: _____

Position: Elder / Pastor / Missions Coordinator

Landline: _____

Cell: _____

Email address: _____

**THE FOLLOWING PAGES ARE
DESIGNED TO BE A STARTING POINT**

for the conversations that need to happen before your mission partner returns to New Zealand. We know just how many arrangements need to be made and we appreciate that communication is not always easy when geographical distance is a factor.

We encourage you to share this guide with your mission partner and consider all the points listed. We know too, that everybody is different and each situation unique, so please don't be limited by these ideas.

Our hope is that you will use this as a framework to ensure that your mission partners have all the practical and emotional support necessary. Remember, we will gladly support you in this process, so feel free to contact us here at the GC3 office.

Travel Plans

- Does your mission partner have the necessary funds to purchase airline tickets?
- Should airline tickets be purchased in New Zealand?
- Ask your mission partner if they would like to purchase tickets in NZ. (This may be more economical and tickets can be sent via email)
- Is a break for a holiday on the way home necessary or desirable?
- Is finance and accommodation available for this?
- There are houses available for little or no rent to missionary partners. For more information, email the GC3 office.
- Has travel insurance been organised?
- Will your mission partner need assistance while in-transit?
- Would your mission partner like to be met at the airport?
- Is a meal or food parcel needed on arrival?

Arrival

DATE _____

TIME _____

AIRPORT _____

FLIGHT NUMBER _____

Children

Check with your mission partner to ensure the needs of their children will be met now that they will be back in New Zealand on a permanent basis. Encourage parents to seek the views of their children and include them in the debriefing process when appropriate.

Practical

Is there a need for new clothing or shoes? This can be very important for young people

Social

Can children be linked up with youth group or Sunday school leaders before they arrive back in New Zealand?

Psychological

Is counselling needed for anxiety or any other issues?

Education

Is educational, tertiary or vocational advice needed?

Would your mission partner like to enroll their children at a school prior to arriving in New Zealand?

Accommodation

- Does your mission partner need accommodation immediately upon their return?
- Does this need to be within a certain school zone, close to a medical facility or shopping area?
- What long term housing plan does your mission partner have?

Transport

- Does your mission partner need to loan a car temporarily?
- Are children's car or booster seats needed?
- Does your mission partner have the necessary funds to purchase a car?
- Has accident insurance been organised?

Medical

- Is there a medical condition that requires immediate attention?
- Would your mission partner like to be enrolled at a medical or dental practice prior to their arrival in New Zealand?
- Please encourage your mission partner to have comprehensive medical and dental examinations soon after arriving.

Employment

- Does your mission partner have a job arranged to come back to?
- If not, is there someone who can provide temporary employment?
- Is there a long term employment plan in place?
- Is retraining needed?

Financial Support

- What financial help will your mission partner need on arrival?
- Will your mission partner need assistance with arranging payments of NZ Superannuation or family support? GC3 may be able to provide information regarding benefits.
- Is there a need to ask for assistance from the Missionary Rehabilitation Fund? If so, contact the treasurer whose name appears in the GC3 Daily Prayer Guide.

Counselling

What we are referring to here is different to and separate from debriefing.

Counselling should be offered to your mission partner if they are struggling with anxiety or depression or have been through a traumatic experience during their term of service. Remember to include both spouse and children. For more information or help in accessing the right services, contact Michael Hanson at GC3.

Church Welcome

Arrange for your mission partner to be welcomed back to your church. Remember there may be many new people who are unfamiliar with your mission partner and their work.

Make opportunities for your mission partner to speak, tell their stories and share their experiences during services or in small groups.

Encourage your mission partner to join a life group where they will be welcomed and cared for.

Debrief

Debriefing is essential if your mission partner is returning home on a permanent basis. A debrief is to help your mission partner transition back into New Zealand life and is a chance for them to reflect on their experience. A debrief is not a performance review and does not include counselling (which should be addressed separately, if necessary).

Ideally debriefing should be split into two parts, an operational debrief and a personal debrief. We suggest that these are conducted separately and by different people. In both cases they should be carried out by skilled and experienced facilitators.

OPERATIONAL DEBRIEF

This is a review from a factual perspective and is best carried out by someone with knowledge of the organisation or project.

IT IS A TIME TO:

- Recognise achievements.
- Reflect on the term of service, the highs, the lows, the difficulties, and surprises.
- Plan for the future – and hand over any information for the next mission team.

PERSONAL DEBRIEF

Is a chance for your mission partner to reflect on how their experience has affected them personally and explore feelings and emotions. It should be facilitated by a trained and experienced person.

IT IS LIKELY TO COVER:

- Family issues, marriage and children.
- Faith and beliefs.
- Stresses, low points, losses and discouragements.
- Time to reflect on positive changes and high points.
- Transitions and future aspirations.
- Support needed to settle back into New Zealand life.

THIS GUIDE ENCOURAGES CHURCHES & MISSION PARTNERS to consider all the arrangements that need to be made when a mission partner returns permanently from their service for God overseas. Many of these arrangements need to be made well in advance of their return and the conversation starters and checklist are designed to ensure nothing gets missed.

OTHER GC3 PUBLICATIONS YOU MAY FIND USEFUL

IS GOD CALLING YOU?

OUR COMMENDATION PROCESS

This guide outlines the biblical basis of commendation and considers how commendation might work. It also contains topics and conversation starters to help explore a candidate's suitability for mission work.

HEALTH AND SAFETY FOR MISSION PARTNERS

RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THE HEALTH AND SAFETY AT WORK ACT 2015

This publication explores what the Health and Safety at Work Act means for mission partners and churches and provides practical ways for church leadership meet its obligations.

RETURNING FOR A HOME VISIT?

A GUIDE FOR CHURCHES AND MISSION PARTNERS

This guide contains suggestions for a successful home visit and ways for your mission partner to reflect on their experience and ensure they have a fresh or continuing call for a new term of service.



www.gc3.org.nz