

# SIX Reasons for Making a Field Visit

By Ron Brown, District Missions Coach



## **Give the gift of presence.**

I well remember my missionary career in Africa when ministry colleagues would come by to visit: my former pastor Mel Sylvester came to Zaire, as did Harvey Town, my DS at the time. Lloyd and Irene Draper at one point in their ministry were assigned as field pastors to our part of the world and would visit every two years, attend our field retreat and then just take time to hang with us in our homes. It was a delight to spend long hours just talking with them. We missionaries often don't talk about how lonely it is to be out there. The gift of presence is a beautiful thing to a lonely IW who is far from home.

## **Give the gift of a listening ear.**

In ministry, whether here or there, it is a gift to have a safe person, someone outside of our own ministry team, come and spend time so we can share the concerns of life. This is the work of a shepherd. Some of that work needs to be done by you with your cluster of International Workers.

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## **Make new friends.**

Discover and learn about a new people group, and people new to you. Try to understand their worldview, their hopes, their challenges. Take them home in your heart and tell their story. Adopt a personal prayer focus around this people group and watch God at work in their lives and in yours.

## **Take time for professional development.**

Sit across the table from your International Worker in her/his context and understand their calling and dreams, hear their goals for reaching this people group, understand the history, understand what strategies have failed and those that are working. Grapple with the hurdles they currently face.

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## **Discover new partnership possibilities.**

As you listen be alert to the Spirit's prodding as to what component of that team's strategy your Faith community might be able to connect with in a seamless link. Just imagine what excitement there would be if you came home with a new potential partnership with your IW that could be a focus for the next three years, a focus for prayer and financial support as well as for short term activity. Might this even lead to a church multiplication project with your International Worker?

## **Bring newly acquired knowledge back into the Sea to Sea Venture.**

One exciting result of immersing yourself in the 4-S Venture is that you may discover tools and ideas that will help us back here in the 5th S Venture. On returning from this trip you may be in an enhanced position to more intentionally connect with new immigrants in Canada and to strategize to establish a new community of faith in your area.

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