



The following instructions are designed for conducting a Maintenance Debrief for a currently serving missionary--NOT a missionary who has transitioned back to the United States for the next season of their lives.

- I. Maintenance Debriefing goals
 - A. To **CONFIRM** to the missionary that:
 - 1. They are exactly where God wants them to be at this time in their lives
 - 2. He is pleased with them
 - B. To help them **CALIBRATE** the various components of their lives, for their well-being and the health of the people and ministry God has called them to
- II. Preparation for the debrief
 - A. Tell the missionary you'd like to debrief with them and define the word
 - B. Inform them of the goals of a Maintenance Debriefing
 - C. Ask them if they would like to participate
 - D. If they agree, in unison with them, schedule the debrief using the following parameters:
 - 1. For unmarried missionaries, set aside a block of 2-3 hours
 - 2. Married missionaries should be debriefed together, (if they have children, the ideal is to debrief without the children present--if that's not possible), and a block of at least 3-4 hours should be set aside
 - 3. Find a location that is comfortable, quiet, and as private as possible
 - 4. Ask them to bring their bibles and pray for God to move during your time together with them
 - 5. Encourage them about your excitement to get to know them more through hearing their story, and having your relationship with God and them deepened through your time together.

III. Questions to help them tell their story and *CONFIRM* their calling

1. Summarize the final few months prior to your departure for the field
2. What were some of the specific blessings God poured out on you to get to the field?
3. Summarize your first few months living on the field.
4. What are some of things He blessed you with your first few months and since then, to keep you on the field?
5. How does your actual experience on the field compare with the expectations you had prior to going?
6. What has been the most difficult thing you've experienced since arriving on the field, both personal and ministry-wise? And why?
7. Which aspects of God's character became more real to you as a result of the difficulties?
8. What has been the source of your greatest pleasure since you arrived? Why?
9. What excites you as you look forward to your next season of life and ministry on the mission field?
10. How has God confirmed to you that you're right where He wants you to be and doing what He wants to be doing?
11. What other sources of confirmation would be a blessing to you?

IV. Questions to help them self-analyze their life so they can *CALIBRATE* it

1. Describe what you spend your time doing each of the seven days of a typical week.
2. What are you doing to maintain the balance between personal/family life and the ministry you are doing?

3. What do you like to do just for yourself that is restful and helps you to disengage your mind from the ministry-related things that normally occupy your thinking?
4. If someone you know and love was living their life in the same way you do--with the same ministry, personal, rest, time management, and pace of life that you live by, what changes would you recommend they make?
5. If you were to take a whole 24-hour day off, describe what you would be doing each segment of the day. What ONE thing would you do in the morning, in the afternoon, in the evening? (Limiting it to ONE thing is crucial...and measurable).
6. Who are a few people that you can trust to ask you every week whether you are taking a whole day off, and if you're keeping your life in balance?

If you're convinced they are right where God wants them to be, and yet would benefit from some fine-tuning of their lives and ministry, let them know.

CONFIRM them in their calling

Using some of what they have shared with you, explain to them why you believe they are in the right place. Tell them the things you saw and heard from them that convinced you-- things like: their honesty, humility, joy, transparency, vulnerability, sense of humor, ability to laugh at themselves, self-awareness, or other things.

Exhort them to CALIBRATE their life and ministry.

Yet at the same time, challenge them to Calibrate their lives in the areas you've already discussed. Be sure they know that calibration will enable them to grow in their relationship with God, their family members, other missionaries, and the nationals. And that it will also assist them with discerning God's will for the ministry a little more clearly because they will be seeing things from a refreshed perspective, rather than an exhausted one.