



Touching the World
by Sending Workers
into God's Harvest

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RETURNING MISSIONARIES

"When the apostles returned, they reported to Jesus what they had done. Then he took them with him and they withdrew by themselves to a town called Bethsaida." Luke 9:10

As Rochelle and I work in a department that is focused on caring for missionaries, we get to meet many of them when they are coming or going. Recently we were asked to assist in a De-



Senior missionaries with Steve

brief conference for our staff who have newly returned from an overseas assignment. The staff members had time to reflect on all God had done during their time overseas: what He had taught them, how He had used them to impact people with the Gospel, and

how their children grew and changed too.

The returning staff heard messages about re-entry culture stress, grief, the transition process, and how to help and understand their children who have become "Third-culture Kids."

An important part of the conference was devoted to giving them a chance to share their stories in small groups. Rochelle and I were privileged to sympathetically listen to the stories of several of these missionaries. Steve met with returning leaders from Slovenia, Zimbabwe, East Asia and Germany. Rochelle met with ladies returning from East Asia and Spain. These special



Missionary wives with Rochelle at Debrief

folks were involved in ministries developing national staff on campuses, outreach to athletes, and music ministries. Each of these missionary staff members are transitioning back to roles in other parts of Campus Crusade's ministries.

Transition is often a time of grieving. Missionaries feel the loss of a very meaningful work that they have been engaged in for years, and the loss of closeness in friendships they have made with people in their adopted country. We were blessed to serve them in this point in their work for the Lord. We could really relate to these staff as we are still feeling the changes from our many years serving in Japan!

VISITING OUR PARTNERS

Steve spent 11 days visiting with our prayer and financial supporters in Pennsylvania and New Jersey area. He was really blessed to get caught up with many friends there and seek to meet new ones. We are looking to add more families to our team at this time. He will be seeing partners in Dallas this month. Please call him for a visit.

Thank you so much for enabling us to serve these staff as they return! We know you face many challenges too—please share your prayer requests with us, as we love to pray for you.

*With love and thanks,
Steve, Rochelle, Andy, Ben,
Melissa and Josh*