



# The Missions Toolbox

## *Missions Today*

### **Furlough**

Furlough is the modern term used for the period of time that a missionary spends away from the foreign field. Mission work can be very demanding. Missionaries, just like everyone else, need a time of refreshment and rejuvenation to prolong their ministries in the place of God's calling. Jesus recognized that His disciples needed rest (Mark 6:31). Hudson Taylor, and other historical missionaries, traveled back to their homeland for months or even years to recover their health and to gain new helpers. In more recent times, missionaries worked on the field for four years and then took one year at home. Since transportation is much easier today, many missionaries will come home more frequently but for shorter amounts of time. The following list highlights the missionary's activities during furlough.

- Report to supporters about the work
- Spend time with family
- Obtain schooling for children
- Seek spiritual refreshment
- Purchase equipment for the ministry
- Obtain medical surveillance and services
- Attend to family business matters
- Gain additional training for the work
- Reacquaint themselves with their home culture
- Seek additional prayer and financial support

Furlough is good for the missionary and provides supporters with many opportunities to participate in the ministry through practical help and encouragement.

*Esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake.*

I Thessalonians 5:13

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