

The CMI Returning Missionary Project

Every year missionaries leave the field for reasons beyond their control. Ten years ago my family and I were such missionaries. We had returned to the USA after more than 8 years of church planting and development work among unreached people groups in South Asia. A vibrant, growing movement was left behind as well as other leaders doing similar work throughout the region. Our plans were to return, but a change of government closed the doors.

For us, the issue was political turmoil. For some, it's health; for others, their children's schooling; and more and more, it's simply age and retirement. In such cases a wealth of language, cultural and ministry experience leaves the field with them. What if, instead of simply trying to fit back into a job or retirement, there was a way that at least some of that wealth could be invested back into those they left behind?

On the Field, At Home

CMI is developing a program to make that reinvestment possible. In cooperation with the Relational Coaching Network we are on track to launch a mission coach training process in May 2009. It aims to equip experienced missionaries, especially those who cannot return to the field, with the skills to provide effective coaching support to those they have left behind.

The program will cover 24 months. The first 6-months the participants engage in an intensive, distance learning process developed by Tony Stoltzfus, a master trainer and pioneer of the Christian coaching movement, and implemented by skilled coach trainers. In order to make this training available and affordable to a broad range of missionaries, the first phase training fee has been reduced to about one-third that of similar programs.

There's more! Because CMI measures success based on the actual quality of coaching provided to frontline missionaries and leaders, the first phase is followed by an 18-month second phase of actual coaching experience. Each trainee will put into practice what they have learned by finding and coaching several active missionaries in the field. While doing so they will continue to receive regular supervision, support and mentoring from experienced coach trainers. By the end of the program they will have over 125+ hours of training and potentially 250 hours of supervised coaching experience. More importantly, even with a group of only 10 coach trainees as many as 240 frontline



Coaching Mission International

IMPACTING NATIONS BY UPHOLDING LEADERS

missionaries could receive coaching support during those 18 months that would not have received it otherwise.

Imagine the impact! Consider the wealth of mission experience that would not be lost but continue to serve the nations. If you'd like to know more about how it works, becoming a trainee, or how you can help impact nations by upholding leaders through coaching, visit the Services & Programs page at CMI's website: www.CoachingMission.com . Then, contact us!

By Paul Hillhouse, CMI Coach