

MCD *Just checking In* 12/20/06

Just Checking In is an exhortation from the Missionary Care Division intended to encourage you in your life and ministry transitions. Your sacrifice and perseverance are deeply appreciated by all of us in the ABWE MCD family.

Old Term: ~~Culture Shock~~

New Term: ~~Transition Stress~~

Reality: ~~Adjusting to change is neither easy, painless nor rapid. It's a process.~~

Accept the reality that adjusting to your new culture is a process measured in years, not months. By God's grace you will survive, eventually thrive and even enjoy your new culture and its precious people.

The speed of your adjustment is unpredictable. You are unique, so don't measure yourself by preconceived expectations; yours or others. No one can bypass any step in the process.

Everyone moves through it on their own and at their own pace. For most, it's a four year process.

You have been given a unique opportunity to enter into the sufferings of Christ in a new and special way. His transition was not only geographical (from heaven to Nazareth), and vocational (Lord of heaven to a carpenter), it was also personal and essential.

That He, the God of heaven, could become a man, would become a man, did become a man, and became a man forever, just for you. This is ~~Mission~~ in its most absolute form. Phil. 2:5-10

He truly ~~adjusted~~, learning obedience through the things that He suffered. Hebrews 5:8

He understands, like no one else can understand, what ~~voluntary transition~~ into a new place, to a new people, in a new role for a saving purpose is all about. Philippians 2:5-8

How very special you are to Him. Blessing upon you for taking on His yoke, His burden, His cross, His call. In your weakness you are being made strong. I am praying for you. In Him, Ron

The Wonder of Christmas

The Almighty became an infant
The Shepherd became a lamb
The Judge took our sentence
The Lord became a man
The Invisible became visible
The Eternal stepped into history
To make us His own again

Amazing beyond explanation
Too marvelous for words
That God could become man
That God would become man
That God did become man
That God became man forever
To make us His own again

We owed a debt we could not pay
He paid a debt He did not owe
We spurned His word, His law, His love
In spite of all He came to save
Jesus, Emmanuel, God with us
Taking our form, our sin, our cross
To make us His own again

We ran... He reached
We sinned... He died
We left... He came
We fell... He lifted
We rejected... He accepted
We condemned... He forgave
To make us His own again

A window of time
A door of hope
An offer of opportunity
To believe the promise
To receive the Savior
To bow the knee
To be made His own again

Wishing you a Christmas filled with recaptured wonder,

MCD Just checking In 1/03/07

Psalm 39:12 “Hear my prayer, O Lord... for I am a stranger with You...”

Old Term: %Culture Shock+ New Term: %Transition Stress+
Reality: %Adjusting to change is neither easy, painless nor rapid. It's a process.+

Brand new year ã same old me ã or not?!

This last year has been one of major life change, hasn't it? You may be thinking ã +Uh ã *last year?*
Make that *last decade!*+

Change has a way of both refining us and reminding us.

Refining our faith, motives, endurance, relationships and love.

Reminding us that we still need grace;
that maturity is a process and we haven't arrived;
that changing location doesn't automatically transform our weaknesses, our faults, or our struggles with bitterness, depression or fear.

Change has a way of bringing old hurts and weaknesses to the surface. We used to be able to hide a lot of stuff when life was more normal and predictable. But there's no hiding in the crucible of change. This is good; really good. Exposure is the surest way to initiate progress. God doesn't intend for you to go it alone. Don't let pride rob you of the help you need. Facing our failures and seeking help from God and godly friends is the pathway to progress. Godly, experienced leaders aren't shocked or surprised when their fellow laborers struggle from time to time. Take the steps to get the help you need, now.

Let me encourage you to renew or initiate the disciplines of scripture memory and personal journaling. Journaling your daily bible study and prayer time will help you think through your day and gain biblical insights in the growth process God is taking you through. And working on scripture memory three times a day for just a few minutes each time will refresh and renew your mind. Choose passages each week that really comfort, encourage or challenge your soul.

There are a lot of people praying for you. By God's grace we'll make it through the year ahead, one obedient minute at a time. %Hear my prayer, O Lord ã for I am a stranger with You ã +Psalm 39:12