

Family Readiness: CRAFT & My 360 [SIM PC&D]

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SIM USA | People Care & Development | CRAFT & My 360

Celebration

Begin with the good!

Reconciliation

One of the big causes of bitterness is “unfinished business”. It’s so easy to get on a plane and leave without ever asking for forgiveness or giving forgiveness. We need to make sure that we’ve straightened out any broken relationships that may exist, before leaving.

Before you leave for the field or return home, is there anyone you owe an apology to? Do you need to make things right with anyone? What do you wish had been different, better, more? By addressing this before you leave, you avoid taking extra baggage or grudges with you on your journey.

Affirmation

It’s so important to thank, encourage, affirm and commend those who have had a significant part of our lives. It not only is affirming to the one who receives the note or word of thanks, but it helps to cement some of the good memories that we experienced overseas.

Who do you need to thank? Who has invested in you? Who do you want to honor as you leave? This could include parents, teachers, or co-workers. We also need to receive others' affirmation and honor the impact we’ve had on them.

Farewells

As obvious as it may seem, we often neglect the importance and health of saying good-bye to bring closure. We need to make sure that we say our proper good-byes, not just to people, but to places, pets and possessions.

What do you need in order to have good closure? Before a major transition, people need to say goodbye to the people, pets, places, and things that are meaningful to them.

Transition

So often we go into new situations, like returning to the States, either for furlough or permanently and never once stop to think through what we expect life, future assignment, friends, etc. to be like. We need to talk about what kind of expectations we have. So often the first response is “I don’t have any”, but if we’re willing to think and continue discussing leaving, eventually things will come to mind. At that point we need to process our expectations...if possible with the help of others. Questions to ask: Are they realistic? Are they too high? Are they too low?

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The RAFT Model is outlined in the book **Third Culture Kids** by David Pollock and Ruth Van Reken.

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