

**Global Connections**  
**Member Care Conference: Growing People**  
**High Leigh Centre, February 18-20 2002**

**RUNNING A RE-ENTRY SEMINAR**  
**Tony Horsfall, EQUIP**

**What are people looking for?**

*Understand the culture here.*  
*To feel at home again in the UK.*  
*Review my time overseas.*  
*Share with others experiencing similar things.*  
*Direction for the future.*  
*Let off steam with like-minded people.*  
*Reassurance and guidance.*  
*Understand the UK Church.*  
*God's will and place for us.*  
*Adjusting to the big change in my life.*  
*Sorting out pensions etc*

**Friday evening**

A meal together  
Welcome and introductions  
Setting the scene  
Everyone share something about themselves and where they have been – suggest they bring something with them which represents their time overseas. Make a display.  
What changes have you noticed? Everyone share 3 things which have struck them.  
Prayer and devotions.

**Saturday**

**Transition and change** : take people carefully and sensitively through the Transition Model (Pollock). Highlight : the importance of closure; coming to terms with loss; reverse culture shock; the effects of transition on children; winning through (Psalm 121). Important to help people get in touch with their feelings.

**Free Time**

**Re-adjustment** : re-building our 'life space'. Affirm the past – acknowledge the present – anticipate the future. Prayer together.

**The National scene** : changes in society including fashion, technology language. Britain as post-modern, post-Christian, multi-faith, materialistic and hedonistic.

Devotions

**Sunday**

**The Church Scene** : recent trends and emphases; books and magazines etc.

**Worship and ministry of the Word**

**Finding your place again** : finding a job; settling into a local church; retirement.

**Communion** – prayer for each other – share addresses.

## **Key issues to bear in mind**

This may be the first time people have to stop and think since returning.

The importance of reflection – leave space in the programme.

Devotional times are key – folks are often spiritually hungry.

Provide an opportunity for personal conversations if requested.

Important to give time for everyone to speak (even the quiet ones) – small groups are best. It is labour intensive, but worthwhile.

Macho missionaries often don't see the need, but live to regret a missed opportunity.

There is benefit in doing something outside one's own mission environment.

Transition takes about 18 – 24 months. When is the best time to attend? Early on, so you know what to expect? Later on, when you have become aware of the issues?

Many say they would appreciate on-going help afterwards.

The best source of help is from friends in the local church.

How to handle the 'prophetic' challenge one may have for the church in UK.

**The most important benefit is simply being with others who understand, and realising that what they are going through is normal.**

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## **Book List**

Re-entry	Jordan	YWAM
Families on the Move	M. Knell	Monarch
Praying our Goodbyes	J. Rupp	Eagle
De-briefing	G. Fawcett	YWAM
Cross-cultural re-entry	Austin	ACU Press