

## Five Phases of Cross Cultural Re-entry A Transition Experience

Cross-cultural re-entry is a transition process that missionaries pass through when they return from the field to their home culture. Many who go through re-entry find it an unsettling, even disturbing experience, marked by confusion, frustration, loneliness, anger, and grief. However, re-entry is also an opportunity for growth and personal development. The confusion, frustration, and uncomfortable feelings we have during re-entry are a normal part of transition experiences. In re-entry we start in a “comfortable” and good place – on the field. If we allow ourselves to go through the difficult phases on “leaving”, “departure and arrival”, and “entering” most of us find ourselves in a different, but comfortable and good place – home – in a reasonable period of time. The phases, experiences and feelings of re-entry are predictable.

	<b>ENGAGED</b>	<b>LEAVING</b>	<b>DEPARTURE &amp; ARRIVAL</b>	<b>ENTERING</b>	<b>RE-ENGAGED</b>
<b>TIME PLACE FOCUS</b>	The Field In Host Country  Present	The Field Leaving Host Country  Future/Temp.	In Transit And Arrival In Home Area  Future	Our Home Settling Into Home Country  Present/Temp.	Our Home Settled / Engaged In Home Country  Present/Perm.
<b>SOCIAL OUTLOOK</b>	Sweet  Comfortable  Belonging  Responsibility  High support  Valued Relationships	Bittersweet  Closure  Loosening Ties  Disengaging  Giving Up Role  Low Support  Death of Relationships	Bitter  Chaos  Little Structure To Life  Grief / Loss, Problems Loom  Large, Emotionally Unstable  No Support  Superficial Relationships	Semi-Sweet  Constructing  Outside Observer  Who Can I Trust?  Low Support  Developing Relationships	Sweet  Comfortable  Belonging  Involved  High Support  Valued Relationships
<b>SOCIAL POSITION</b>	Valuable  Stability  Purpose  Secure  Reputation  Significance  Special Knowledge	Visibly Valued  Celebration  Farewells / Parties  Flux and Change  Focused Attention  Recognition  Special Knowledge  Under Utilized	Non-Valued  Instability  Purposeless  Insecure  Unknown  Insignificance  Special Knowledge /w no use  Ambiguity	Partially Valued  Introductions  Purposeful but Hard  Risk Taking Required  Stereotyped  Semi Significance  Lack of Full Appreciation  Search for Mentor	Valuable  Known  Purpose  Secure  Reputation  Significance  Appreciated  Conforming Behavior
<b>EMOTIONAL EXPERIENCE</b>	Intimacy  Knowing and Being Known  Part of In-group	Denial  Rejection  Resentment  Sadness  Guilt	Anxiety  Isolation  Panic  Self-centeredness  Loss of Identity	Vulnerability  Uncertain  Easily Offended  Ambivalence  Fear	Intimacy  Knowing and Being Known  Concern for Others

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