

Terms of Service and Furloughs;

Missionary appointment is regarded as for life; yet the missionary has a very vital relationship to the Home Church as well as to the Mission field. Indeed, in the Book of Acts we find that the Apostles returned again and again to the Home Church and reported what God had accomplished through their instrumentality and that God blessed their ministry to the Home Church. Also every Mission has found that furloughs are necessary for physical recuperation, mental stimulus, and when conditions in the Home Church are what they should be, spiritual re-invigoration.

The length of the period of service on the field depends much on climate, altitude, hardships encountered, social advancement of the peoples served and other special field conditions. For such reasons uniform terms of service are not practicable, and indeed, they might rightly vary even for the same field at different periods. However, the limited number of missionaries in practically every field, the interference with the work which furloughs often involve, the additional burden they frequently lay upon colleagues remaining upon the field and the heavy expense they entail make it desirable that furloughs be limited to reasonable requirements in every case. Vigorous health and the needs of the work may indicate that one could well stay longer. Poor health and other conditions, even if one has not reached the point where a health furlough is demanded, may require a shortening of the period of service.

Ordinarily the first term of service should be shorter than for subsequent terms. Terms for single people should be shorter than for married people. Where marriages take place on the field it is allowable to take furlough when the average of the two terms of service equal the normal period, but there are cases when a longer period would seem to be proper. Again where husband and wife are necessarily separated for long periods the term of service might well be shortened somewhat.

With these considerations in mind terms of service and furlough periods for our various fields have been set, for the present, as follows:

Arabia; First term, five years; furlough one year plus time of travel;
Subsequent terms;
Single people, five years; " " " " " "
Married people, six years; " " " " " "