I. Fear of man—a common snare for those inside the fish bowl

When I experience fear of man, I do not have a right view of God.

Evidences of Knowing God (From Knowing God by J. I. Packer)
1. Those who know God have great energy for God.
   • “While their God is being defied or disregarded, they cannot rest; they feel they must do something; the dishonor done to God’s name goads them into action.” (28)
   • “People who know their God are before anything else people who pray.” (28)

★ Read and pray the psalms

Examples from Psalm 119

5 Oh that my ways may be steadfast
   in keeping your statutes!
6 Then I shall not be put to shame,
   having my eyes fixed on all your commandments.

25 My soul clings to the dust;
   give me life according to your word!

28 My soul melts away for sorrow;
   strengthen me according to your word!

36 Incline my heart to your testimonies,
   and not to selfish gain!
37 Turn my eyes from looking at worthless things;
   and give me life in your ways.
2. Those who know God have great thoughts of God.
   - Creation
   - Revelation 5:11-14—

   “11 Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, 12 saying with a loud voice,

   “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!”

   13 And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying,

   “To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!”

   14 And the four living creatures said, “Amen!” and the elders fell down and worshiped.”

   - Salvation

3. Those who know God show great boldness for God.

4. Those who know God have great contentment in God.

   ★ Meditate on what we possess in Christ from Romans 8

**Fear of Man vs. Titus 2:3-5**

3 Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good, 4 and so train the young women to love their husbands and children, 5 to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled.

II. **Helping missionaries build relationships at church**

1. Consider their situation—
   - Traveling is exhausting!
   - Staying in a stranger’s home is exhausting!
   - Kids wiggle!
2. Be ready with encouraging words

3. Offer help—
   • At church, assign someone the task of taking children to classes and explaining the children’s program to children and parents.
   • Before church, allow children to play in the nursery or other play area.
   • After church, ask a volunteer to watch the children in the nursery/gym/playground.

III. Building relationships in your home

Hospitality is less about food and your house and more about making guests feel at home.

1. Prepare your home
   • Be wise in who you ask to host missionary families.
   • Beforehand, ask about food/pet allergies.
   • Child-proof your home. Remove objects of great value, as accidents DO happen!
   • Consider the age of the children (food, restaurant, etc.)—ask a young mom for advice 😊
   • Offer a place for children to play
   • Provide toys (borrow from someone with young children)
   • Provide a place for children to take naps. Consider a pack ‘n play for children under 3.

2. Spend time thinking about/planning the conversation
   • Ask open-ended questions to inquire, not necessarily teach
     ★ What do you most look forward to?
     ★ What fears do you have?
     ★ What does your family think?
     ★ How do you plan to help your family adjust?
     ★ What challenges and joys do you encounter on deputation?
   • Avoid an inquisition. Rather, use the questions to show you care.
   • Read to understand some of the struggles a missionary wife will face.
   • Be ready with scripture encouragement, more than just “if God called you He will...”
3. Give a gift book
   - *When It’s Time to Go: Preparing for the Mission Field as a Wife and Mother* by Brandi Biesiadecki
   - *Loving the Little Years: Motherhood in the Trenches* by Rachel Jankovic
   - *Gospel Meditations for Women* by Chris Anderson and Joe Tyrpak
   - *Gospel Meditations for Missions* edited by Chris Anderson

4. Other things to give
   - Travel size toiletries
   - Gift cards
   - Snacks for the road/juice boxes
   - Kids activity books
   - Stickers
   - Fun pens/pencils/crayons/markers

IV. Book recommendations

