

You are a missionary and are concerned about an aging parent?

If Yes, consider exploring these five categories to begin preparing for caring for your parents.

Advance Planning

What specific concerns do your parents have about their future?

Are there preparations which can be made now to alleviate apprehensions that may already exist?

Who are available caregivers and to what extent might they be able to help?

What responsibilities do you have /might you have? (For example, power of attorney, executor of the estate)

Under what circumstances would your parents and siblings / loved ones feel comfortable with you staying on the field?

Under what circumstances would you feel it necessary / be expected to return from the field—whether temporarily or permanently?

Consider reading the AGWM [Bereavement Policy](#).

End of Life Considerations

Do your parents have a will? Who is the executor?

Will you need to be involved in the settlement of the estate? If not, who will be available to assist with final expenses and the disposition of property?

Have your parents expressed their feelings regarding matters such as "Do Not Resuscitate" orders and organ donation? Have these desires been placed into writing and are they on file with medical providers and available to other caregivers?

Will you be responsible for arranging for burial / cremation and for the details of the memorial service? Are there others who likewise need to be made aware of your parents' wishes?

Availability of Care

What level of care is needed and who is able to provide it?

What is the true level of independence of your parents?

Can they live on their own?

Do they need help to maintain their place of residence (cleaning, repairs, yardwork)?

Will transportation to the grocery store and medical appointments be necessary? Who can provide it?

Can the parents manage their finances without assistance?

Can they manage medications on their own?

Are your parents believers? Is there provision for spiritual needs?

If skilled nursing or memory care is needed, what are the preferred options?

Finances

Do your parents have outstanding financial obligations?

Is their current level of income sufficient to cover their needs?

What funding is available / needed if home healthcare becomes a need—or if a move to a skilled nursing facility is required?

Communication

What are the reasons it would be valuable to communicate with those in AGWM?

Who should you communicate with? (Consider sharing with Team Leader (TL), Area Director (AD), Regional Director (RD), or Member Care)

What would be valuable for you to share with them about your parents?

When is the best time to communicate with the TL, AD, RD, or Member Care? (In general the earlier, the better so you can have care and support)

How can you share about what is going on with your parents?

After considering these questions, you will find this [resource list](#) from Global Trellis to be helpful and connect with Regional or AGWM Member Care.