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**Parent Relationships**

One of the biggest dilemmas students face when preparing for an overseas trip is lack of family support. As a Lightbearers staff member it is our role to disciple the student through this season. Below is a list of six ideas for students to ask family members adapted from the book *Hold Fast* regarding family hesitation and fear.

1. Ask parents to pray with the student and for the student for a few months about their plans.
2. Ask them why they feel as they do. Seriously consider their reasons. Acknowledge that they have raised you, love you and desire your safety above almost all else.
3. Introduce them to a Lightbearers staff member and ask them questions.
4. Express gratitude for the things they have provided for you in the past.
5. Show appreciation for the sacrifice they will be making when you go.
6. Let your family know you haven’t just dismissed their objections.

As a staff member your role may result in you talking to a parent over the phone or face to face. If this happens reassure the parent that Lightbearers will never knowingly send their child into harms way. Talk them through the fear they have of releasing their child and offer scripture and wisdom in return. Also remind them that we are in communication with our partners, and checking government websites to monitor travel advisories and warnings. While we never guarantee to a parent that their child will return safely, that is the goal. Acknowledge that God is in control of our every breath, our day to day and that Jesus is worthy of our affection and time.

If the parent is still hesitant after talking with you, feel free to initiate a conversation between them and the Director of Missions or the partner directly.