



Beloved, you do faithfully whatever you do for the friends, even though they are strangers to you;...we ought to support such people so that we may become co-workers with the truth. 3 John 5, 8

Summer Report

Dedicated to Providing Services for Missionaries & Their Families

Fall 2009

We are breaking from the continuing series of Dr. Wickstrom's article on Missionary Member Care, From Cradle to Grave, in order to give an update on the workings of MRC this past summer. We will return to the series next newsletter.

The following is an excerpt from Rhonda's (Resource Coordinator) newsletter. "This has been the busiest summer at MRC yet!!! The Lord is at work among the nations and He is bringing many to Columbia for a time such as this. This summer brought 15 new families that have settled here for home service, 7 requests for the use of MRC's cars, and many more requests for doctors, dentists, furniture, and used cars.

It has been so exciting to see the Lord network the Body of Christ to provide for all the requests and needs for the missionaries. We are grateful for those who have helped furnish two homes and presently we are partnering with NE Pres to furnish another mission home.

Also, the Lord has broadened MRC's borders. This summer we are working with two cross-cultural missionary families that are non-American. The Lord has brought them here to study at CIU (Columbia International University) in order to be better equipped for ministry in their area of service. It has been truly amazing to see America through "fresh eyes" as they experience culture shock and adjusting to American culture. Culture shock is universal!!!"



MK Re-entry Retreats Report

What a privilege it has been to journey with 37 MKs (Missionary Kids) and 14 staff through two MK Re-entry Retreats this summer. The Lord has proved so faithful through the whole process of planning and running the retreats. Thank you for all your prayers and support.



We prayed together for unity, wisdom, strength and grace for the staff. The Lord answered by bringing together two unique staff teams with a passion for TCKs (Third Culture Kids). Before each retreat we spent two days together at Lake Murray getting to know each other, training, being united in purpose and praying for the MKs and the retreat. The Lord used their lives, individual gifts and personalities to connect deeply with the MKs, pour hope and truth into their lives, and to energetically keep the group engaged throughout the retreat.

"It is okay to be real with people. I was able to open up not only to people who cared, but to people who could partly understand because of their similar experience."
- an August MK

"I learned that there are a whole bunch of people out there who are struggling with the exact same emotions and issues that I am."
- a July MK

We prayed for a safe trusting environment for the MKs to share their hearts and hurts and learn from one another – the Lord answered! Thirty-seven quirky MKs, each with their own unique story and personality, arrived at the retreats shy and unsure about whether they wanted to be there. Soon, as we began sharing our life stories and doing team building activities, the exciting adventures of a cross-cultural life mixed with the pain of many transitions were overflowing. Throughout the retreat the staff shared their stories and expertise as they taught on subjects such as identity and personality, American culture, handling negative emotions and cultivating healthy relationships. In small groups we delved deeper sharing fears about the future, past hurt and grief, present questions about life, and so much more. During free time we enjoyed board games, soccer, volleyball, rock climbing, archery, swimming, and playing music with an assortment of instruments.

Finally, and perhaps most significantly, we prayed for the MKs to come with moldable hearts for the Holy Spirit to work in their lives and deepen their relationship with Christ. How beautifully the Lord answered! We had wonderful worship, devotions and personal quiet time. One of my greatest joys in working with TCKs is to share how in times of transition, when everything you know and love is torn away, the one thing that remains constant is your relationship and identity in Christ. The Lord spoke this truth into the hearts of many MKs this summer. Several MKs stated that the biggest thing they learned at the retreat was "the importance of finding my identity in Christ." Here's what others shared about finding their home and identity in Christ: "God will never forsake me." "I learned that it's okay to hurt." "I never knew that it was okay to yell at God, or tell him how I felt." "God hears me and really is a friend that will listen and be there whenever I need Him."



Praise the Lord!!
Renee Durben, MK Re-entry Retreat Coordinator

"I am truly blessed to have been part of this family" - an August MK



Upcoming Events

Women's Bible Study
(Bible study for women in transition. Contact office for more information.)
Women's Luncheon
Family Fun Night
Annual Banquet

Resumes September 2009
September 14, 2009
October 10, 2009
November 13, 2009

Note: If you would prefer to receive the newsletter by email, please let us know.

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PRAISE REPORTS:

-We were able to fill the needs of so many missionaries who contacted us
-Two successful MK Re-entry Retreats

PRAYER REQUESTS:

-Stamina for MRC staff for the fall activities
-Financial support for our ministry