



From Cradle to Grave

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

Dedicated to Providing Services for Missionaries & Their Families

Fall 2010

We have been discussing what Missionary Member Care involves and why it is needed in our past couple of newsletters. In this edition we take a look at the fifth of six stages of a missionary's career.

Stage Five: Subsequent terms of service

- There is still a time of adjustment when they return to their place of service.
- For families, children go through the various stages of development and the accompanying needs for education, developing friendships, navigating the challenges of puberty and adolescence, getting launched into college life—all this while living in a foreign country in which communication with the "home" culture and obtaining necessary resources can be difficult.
- Changes in the country-economically, politically-can cause complications or adjustments.
- Loss as co-workers are leaving

These tragedies and stresses, however, often result in triumphs of people coming to Christ, new believers being strengthened in the faith, children successfully being launched, all of which also brings changes, losses and sadness. The life of a missionary is certainly filled with the choices, challenges, successes and failures, adjustments and routines people at home face. Except on the mission field, there is the accompanying realities, joys and challenges of living in another culture far from the passport country.

-Dr. Dave Wickstrom on Missionary Member Care: From Cradle to Grave—part 2, stage 5
The full version of this article can be viewed on our website.

Another summer has come and gone, and with it another set of MK retreats here at MRC. This year saw a decrease of numbers, but that did not stop God from working in the lives of the TCKs who came. Together the July and August retreat served twenty three TCKs from over twenty five different countries. As we look back on the last few weeks, some highlights stand out:



—Praise the Lord that despite fewer numbers, sickness, and all kinds of setbacks, we were not forced to cancel either retreat. Over and over we saw the hand of the Lord blessing these retreats and keeping the enemy from preventing the work that was to be done this summer.

—Praise the Lord for a dedicated team of staff members. A shortage in staff meant that the staff we had needed to work even harder! However, it was worth the hard work, simply for the opportunity to hear such incredible stories and help as much as possible to ease the transition for these amazing kids.



—Praise the Lord for the students! Every year we are overwhelmed by the needs we encounter in these TCKs, and this year was no exception. Thankfully every year we also have the privilege of seeing God's work in these lives, through all the pain and transition. Thank you for your part in this ministry, for the prayers and gifts that allow us to continue this amazing adventure, year after year.



Update from our last newsletter regarding the 8 housing and 2 vehicle requests, plus additional requests that came in. The Lord faithfully provided for each need. Thank you to those of you who responded by opening your homes and loaning/donating a vehicle for use by the families. These families are so grateful! In response to our newsletter request, a couple in Columbia who were away for an extended period of time this summer offered the use of their home for one of the missionary families. Following is a note of gratitude from that missionary family.

"Thanks so much again for working out all the details for us to stay here at this home . . . it has been a great blessing!"

Upcoming Events

Ladies Missionary Bible Study
Ladies Fall Luncheon
Annual Banquet

Ongoing Monday Mornings
September 20, 2010
November 12, 2010

Note: If you are not currently on our email list and would prefer to receive the newsletter by email, please let us know. Please also let us know if you no longer wish to receive our newsletter.

PLEASE NOTE THE NEW MAILING ADDRESS AND MAKE THIS CHANGE WITH US.

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