

“You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.”

Psalm 16:11

PRAYERPOINTS

MISSIONARY KIDS

Many missionary kids (MKs) and their parents go into the world to be a light and a witness to the truth of the gospel. As we pray for missionaries, let's also pray for their kids.

AT HOME IN CHRIST: NAVIGATING IDENTITY AS A THIRD CULTURE KID

By Jasmine Greenbay, 17

For much of my life, I have lived in East Asia, an array of countries that have irrevocably shaped my identity as a missionary kid (MK), or third culture kid (TCK). Growing up, I felt stable in these flavorful cultures and decided that I would forever strive to stay on that side of the globe. My master plan was to spend my high school years in East Asia, move to the States for college, and then hop back overseas. God, however, had a radically different direction for me.

In my sophomore year of high school, my family and I made a difficult transition from my East Asian home of 15 years to a foreign country in Central Asia. I went from easily engaging with locals in their heart language to barely being able to order food at McDonald's. I felt the most culture shock while trying to adjust to how conservative and reserved the local people were. Coming from a place where I felt free and safe to be myself, I now felt displaced. I had to reshape my identity and my role in society—again—all while missing my East Asian roots.



High schoolers discuss what the most important thing in life is — Jesus. IMB Photo.

MKs like me face many transitions and are influenced by many cultures. Balancing these aspects can complicate our sense of identity. Am I more American, or more East Asian? Where do I belong? Which culture do I adhere to? Ultimately, God has taught me that the fullness of my joy is complete in Him. When I stop trying to change myself to fit each culture, and instead, realize my identity is in Christ, then I truly experience the peace of knowing who I am. I never could have predicted the blessings of being in my new country. God has brought me peace and meaningful community, and I pray that other MKs will also find their identity in Christ.

ANSWER TO YOUR PRAYER

In last year's PrayerPoints focused on Missionary Kids, we prayed for a summer mission trip for MKs whose families serve with IMB in Europe. God blessed this group of teens with an amazing mission trip in the Netherlands. They worked with an IMB team there to talk about the gospel with 250 people in one week! Thank you for praying. Read more in this issue of Prayer Points.

1 SOUTH ASIAN PEOPLES. "Please pray for my friends to accept Christ." Missionary Kid, 7.

2 MISSIONARY KIDS. Most teenagers on the field are familiar with goodbyes and are sometimes nervous to make new friends. Please pray that they will be courageous and form deep and healthy friendships on the field as they trust the unchanging God.

3 ASIAN PACIFIC RIM PEOPLES. Esther's parents thank God for helping her settle after five years of many transitions. This 15-year-old MK is trying to decide about her own faith and not simply follow the faith of her parents. Please ask the Holy Spirit to help her and draw her to follow Christ.

4 MISSIONARY KIDS. Many MKs who grow up outside their passport country have a great perspective of the world and can relate to all kinds of people. But sometimes they don't feel they belong in their current culture or in the American culture they visit from time to time. Pray for them.

5 AMERICAN PEOPLES. "Our family will move to a new country soon. Please pray that we will be able to continue our favorite activities in our new city." Percy, 11.

6 ASIAN PACIFIC RIM PEOPLES. "Our son Isaac is 11. Praise God for providing a way to enroll him in an international school this year. Pray that Isaac will stay motivated and keep getting help to catch up to his grade level in Math and English. Pray that we can enroll him in school again next year."

7 MISSIONARY KIDS. "It looks weird!" An MK said, looking at a local dish of unfamiliar food. It can be hard to try new things. Pray for MKs to learn to love the local food, and that the Lord will use this to open doors to gospel conversations with those who prepare and eat these foods.

8 DEAF. "Please pray as I have many decisions coming up. What will I do after high school graduation? What school will I attend? What career should I choose? Where will I live?" Abigail, 17.

9 MOLDOVA. Please pray for MKs to have meaningful relationships with like-minded friends. Pray for them to be salt and light, but also to have community with like-minded young people. Pray especially for MKs in areas with small teams or where there are few Christian families.

10 ASIAN PACIFIC RIM PEOPLES. Shawn, 6, was being bullied at school. His parents advised him to stop playing with those children. Shawn replied, "But Jesus said we should tell even mean people about Him. That's why I want to be friends." Pray for Shawn's soft heart.

11 ENGLAND. "God has brought me to a new small group of Christian students who are from the villages around my city. Please pray that I will make good connections and have good community with them. Also, pray that I will honor God daily in my thoughts." Peter, 16.

12 MISSIONARY KIDS. Pray that God will capture the hearts of MKs at an early age. Pray for tender hearts to understand their own sin as well as God's great mercy and love for them. Ask that they will trust God with their whole hearts, souls, and minds. Pray they will love God's Word.

13 DEAF. "Pray for our country. There has been political strife and unrest. Pray for safety and peace." Amelia, 17.

14 MISSIONARY KIDS. Children's education needs often impact where their families can live and work. Please pray that the Father will provide schools, teachers, and resources that are necessary to give MKs the education they need while they and their families seek to reach the lost.

15 MISSIONARY KIDS. Hudson, 10, had a discussion with his teacher that revealed his teacher's atheistic beliefs. Eventually MKs realize that almost everyone they care about overseas is in eternal danger. This can be overwhelming. Pray for Hudson and others to handle this in a God-honoring way.

16 AMERICAN PEOPLES. "Please pray for our family when we go back to our home country. All of my older siblings will stay in the United States, and I will be the only kid at home." Esther, 13.



Asa and Vanessa Watson with their children. IMB Photo.

17 DEAF. "Please pray for me. I'm graduating college soon. I am still not sure what path the Lord has for me. I will need to find work and a place to live. I feel a lot of stress choosing a career and deciding what's next in my life." Caleb, 21.

18 EUROPEAN PEOPLES. "I never wanted to leave my home in Ukraine, but then Russia invaded Ukraine. My family picked me up early from school one day and said that I could go home and pick any toy I wanted, but we had to leave the country immediately. I thought that it would only be for a few weeks, but it ended up being a permanent change. God kept my family safe. Please pray for me to learn a new language and make new friends in a new country." Jackson, 11.

19 MISSIONARY KIDS. MKs who have lived their lives between cultures often have difficulty knowing where they belong. Pray for MKs who are struggling to find a sense of belonging. Pray that they will find their identity in Christ.

20 CENTRAL ASIAN PEOPLES. Believing MKs feel burdened as they leave their Central Asian friends and go to college in the States. Pray that their unsaved friends will repent, believe, and grow in their faith. Ask the Lord to make a way for these important relationships to stay intact.

21 ASIAN PACIFIC RIM PEOPLES. Joshua, 8, is growing fast – physically, emotionally, intellectually, and spiritually. Ask God to protect him from being influenced by the local culture, which does not seek to honor God. Pray that he will develop character and a worldview based on God's Word.

22 MISSIONARY KIDS. Pray that the Lord will protect children as they navigate the world of social media. Ask Him to give parents wisdom to guard their children in this arena. Pray for MKs to share their thoughts with their parents in a safe and trusted environment.

23 MISSIONARY KIDS. "Pray for children in a war-torn country who have lost their parents due to war and famine. Also, many men leave their wives to raise children on their own. Pray for programs to help these mothers and children. Pray that the gospel will spread among them." Annie, 14.

24 SOUTH ASIAN PEOPLES. Teenagers in South Asia face tremendous pressure to perform high on 10th grade exams. They often drop most extra-curricular activities, making it hard for MKs to find new friends and build gospel-focused relationships. Please pray for a breakthrough with these families.

25 EUROPEAN PEOPLES. "I have two friends, Ellen and Benny and their families, who need to be saved. Pray that I can learn their language better too." 11-year-old MK in Hungary.

26 ASIAN PACIFIC RIM PEOPLES. Corbyn, 18 months, loves running. Her favorite thing is going down the elevator and outside. Everyone laughs as they see her

charging out the elevator door yelling, "Go, go, go!" Pray that she continues charging into life at God's heals in His work.

27 SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN PEOPLES. Many missionary teams in Africa and around the world schedule group meetings during school vacation in the summer. Pray that MKs will be encouraged as they fellowship with other MKs this summer. Pray that any spiritual, educational, emotional, or physical needs will be addressed.

28 MISSIONARY KIDS. Pray for MKs who are graduating high school this year. Some may feel anxious about returning to the United States to begin the next chapter of their lives. Pray that God will lead them to where they can find godly community. May they continue to grow in the Lord.

29 ASIAN PACIFIC RIM PEOPLES. Caleb is a 19-year-old sophomore at a university in California. Since he left the Asia-Pacific Rim, he has been searching yet unable to find a home church. Please pray that God will help him find a home church and guide him to meet the right family of faith.

Tyler and Rachel English, along with their daughters, Asher (5), Graycen (3), and Wrenley (1), will serve as missionaries in Guatemala. IMB Photo.



MISSIONARY KIDS GO THE EXTRA MILE TO SHARE CHRIST IN THE NETHERLANDS

The long line of teenagers on rental bikes meandered through the Netherlands countryside, stopping at traditional Dutch windmills, parks, and towns — all to share the gospel. In one week, they spoke with 250 people about Jesus and invited them to a local church for an Alpha course on the basics of Christianity. Some people laughed in their faces, while others stopped to chat with the energetic, smiling teens. Most showed no interest in anything spiritual. In the Netherlands, only 1% claim Jesus as their Savior. The teens on this mission trip recognized the indifference. As children of IMB missionaries serving in Europe, they've grown up amid spiritual lostness — but it doesn't mean they accept it.

"My heart breaks just to know I'm walking past so many people who don't know Jesus," said Arin Hesskew, whose family serves in Poland.



Jackson Gainor and Trent Livingston, IMB missionary, lead the volunteer team made up of teenagers of IMB missionaries to their next point of ministry. IMB Photo.



The team rode bikes between ministry points and interacted with people along the way. IMB Photo

IMB missionaries, Trent and Courtney Livingston, helped organize this mission trip. They wanted to build confidence in the youth to live intentionally on mission. They also wanted to give these missionary kids (MKs) a "youth group" experience — a chance to hang out with other teens, laugh, and be silly. As many missionaries do not attend traditional churches, these teens don't often experience the youth activities common in U.S. churches. More important than the experience of the trip, however, was the opportunity to grow in their faith and impact Europe by planting gospel seeds.

Please pray for MKs to grow in evangelism and have joy in sharing the gospel.

WATCH A VIDEO CLIP OF THE TRIP IN THIS [IMB.ORG](https://www.imb.org) ARTICLE!



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Some names may have been changed for security reasons. BI 14.5M 12/23 P7701-2

**REACHING
THE NATIONS,
TOGETHER.**