

# Ministering to MKs

Summer 2004

**Bret & Mindy  
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### ***Did you know?***

- Over 30% of MKs go into full-time ministry as adults
- Many missionaries have left the field due to their children's needs not being met
- Most MKs struggle to answer the question, "Where are you from?"

## Past to Present: Who We Are



Bret grew up in Morgan Hill, California and received a BA in Associate Ministry from Hope International University. He has felt called to missions since childhood. Bret participated in missions trips to Mexico, Uganda and England, and later served 1 ½ years in Kenya ministering to rural churches and a missionary kid school. He has over 10 years of ministry experience.

Mindy was raised primarily in Huntsville, Alabama and earned a BS in Leisure Services from the University of South Alabama. While on a missions trip to Kazakhstan, she became interested in a career in missions and spent a year in Australia ministering to university students.

Bret and Mindy have been married almost 4 years. They have spent their last years working at a Christian Middle School, ministering to the youth at their church, and raising their daughter, Lydia, who is 1 ½ years old. They are expecting their 2nd child in January 2005!

## A Passion for Missionary Kids (MKs)

While living in Kenya and Australia, we had the opportunity to spend time with missionary kids (MKs) who touched our hearts. Listening to them share their unique joys and struggles made it obvious that they were different than the typical American youth. While God is mightily at work in and through the lives of MKs, we saw many whose needs were unmet. As a result, we want to reach out to these youth, and in turn, minister to the entire missions community.

We see an effective ministry to MKs as being two pronged. ***The ministry will both increase missionary longevity and also prepare the next generation of ministers.***

First, we hope to increase missionary longevity. Many career missionaries have terminated their ministry as a result of difficulties with their children living the MK life. Our hope is to provide proactive pro-

gramming coupled with intervention to develop MKs who are spiritually and emotionally healthy. Thus a healthy MK in the family is less likely to contribute to their parents ending career ministry.

Second, we want to enhance the next generation of ministers. Since over 30% of MKs enter career ministries, we will be working in a hot bed of future pastors and missionaries. Through various activities and opportunities, we hope to not only better prepare tomorrow's harvesters, but also bolster their numbers. Statistically that means eight years from now we will have been blessed to work with over 40 MKs who will be the future pastors and missionaries.

So many people and churches support missionaries, but maybe they should consider protecting their investment in missionaries by investing in the MKs.



I grew up in Papua New Guinea. When I was in high school, we had a high rate of turnover among the staff that worked with us - both teachers and youth leaders. Although we were in a large missionary community where there were many adults that cared for us, we were missing consistent and genuine spiritual input and encouragement in our walks with God.

During my 10th grade year, we finally had someone to come as a youth pastor. It was a tremendous blessing and a huge answer to prayer! He cared for us and really tried to understand us. He had fun with us, but also challenged us in our faith. *It was great to have someone whose job was just to be there for the youth - we were his priority.*



**Rachel Karcher**

MKs need adults in their lives that they can really talk to. They need people they can trust, to whom they can ask tough questions without having the fear of being judged. Many feel like they are living in a fish bowl - always being watched! A common misconception in a missionary community is that all of the kids believe in God and love Him. This can make it difficult for those who are struggling with their faith.

MKs are unique and complex. They need people who can be there for them, have fun with them, talk with them, and share their struggles. Bret and Mindy would be an amazing blessing to MKs. The Taylors are desperately needed.

*By Rachel Karcher*

## Wycliffe and Vision 2025



[www.wycliffe.org](http://www.wycliffe.org)

Wycliffe Bible Translators is a missions organization that seeks to assist the Church in making disciples of all nations through Bible translation. It wishes to see Scripture translation in progress in every language that needs it by 2025. Bret and Mindy are excited about the vision of Wycliffe and feel that God is calling them to assist families who are involved in this important task.

JAARS (formerly Jungle Aviation and Radio Service), a technical arm of Wycliffe, is involved in transportation services, media productions, and other logistical services. JAARS provides these support services to the missionaries to enable them to focus on their primary objectives.

Bret and Mindy look forward to serving the missionary families stationed at the JAARS center in Waxhaw North Carolina.

### *You Know You're an MK When...*

- You watch National Geographic specials and recognize someone.
- You can cut grass with a machete, but can't start a lawn mower

*Quotes from "You Know You're an MK When..." by Andy and Deborah Kerr*

## Join Our Team

People have told us that they could never be a missionary. We simply smile because in our mind so many of them already are.

Although we may be the ones who actually go, it would be impossible for us to leave without a myriad of people like you sending us. For us to succeed, we need partners who will help cover us in prayer, contribute financially, and encourage us. Through the giving of time and resources you are just as much of a missionary as we are. Like different parts of the body, we need each other to accomplish the ultimate task.

As we mentioned before, one of the ways you can partner with us in this ministry is by committing to faithfully pray for us. We need people who will devote themselves to lifting the ministry as well as our personal needs up to the Lord on a regular basis. Prayer Partners are powerful and a priority to us.

However, we also need people who will commit to partner with us through financial giving. We are relying on God to meet our needs through monthly gifts sent from churches and individuals. By partnering with us, your investment multiplies, impacting not only us, but the people we serve.

Consider if God is leading you to join our team. As partners we commit to keep you regularly informed and pray for you. Indicate your desire to be a missionary with us to MKs by returning the response card or contacting us.