

MK Ministries

Nov/Dec 2004

www.wysite.org/sites/mk_ministries

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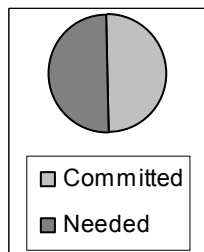
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Finance Update

Would your church or your friends be interested in being a partner in an MK Ministry? Let us know.



**49.6% Committed
Half Way!!!**

Check it out! That's the address to our new webpage we have been working on last month. We hope it will both keep our partners informed as well as develop into a resource and support site for MKs and their families. Here are some highlights of what you can find there:

- Sign up to receive newsletters or prayer requests via email (*which saves us postage!*)
- An updated prayer request page
- The ability to make regular or one-time contributions online

- Details about our vision and plan
- An explanation of the needs of MKs
- Family pictures
- Newsletters
- ...and more

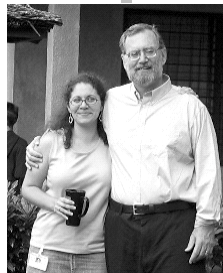
If you send us an email, I will send you back the link or you can just go to:



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MK Spotlight: April Garbat

I'd have to say, for me, being an MK is a mixed blessing. One drawback is not really ever understanding what is supposed to be my "home" country. I remember horrible tauntings from classmates in the States because I didn't know slang words or how to respond to a fire drill. Another drawback is moving back and forth—from passport/home country to service country, from boarding school to home and back again was hard—that's why many MKs are shy or tremendously reserved in building significant relationships. Each departure brings great emotional pain.



April and her Dad

However, there are wonderful, rich, and useful aspects to being an MK. One is an ability to understand cultures and adapt... at least well enough to be diplomatic. Another is that most MKs are fluent in at least two languages. Yet for me, it is the vivid memories of adventures—swimming in clear, warm rivers with baboons on the

bank; climbing incredible geological formations, eating...who knows what...but it sure tasted good! I had a chance to grow up filled with joyful exploration of God's creation and life. I was unhindered by television, cultural stereotypes about body image, or the ever-increasing drive for possessions and entertainment so predominate in American culture. I'm rarely bored. I think learning to play with rocks, leaves and whatever was around as a child is one cause.

We really are *missionary* kids: not merely the offspring of our parents, we interact with local communities for good or ill, exhibiting Christian family life. We reach our classmates at international schools for Christ. Many MKs, like myself, return to foreign fields or to career ministry in their home countries. Some MKs are not yet believers themselves, and their souls are as precious to God as those to whom their parents minister. In part, I

Looking for creative ways to be involved in missions as an individual, family, or small group? Here are some fun ideas used by people we know.

- **No Pizza Party-** Instead of having a regular "Pizza night," they devote the night to focus on Missions. They eat P.B. & J. or grilled cheese instead, and give the money saved to a missionary or organization. During the meal, they talk and pray about what God is doing throughout the world.
- **Starbucks to Big Bucks-** Several people we know give up one Starbucks drink they would normally order during the week and brew their own. By the end of the month, they have saved \$12 to \$15.
- **Team Tithing-** One family who supports us financially literally makes it a team effort. Every family member has committed a certain amount. The kids contribute through their allowance, doing chores, or baby-sitting.

Prayers and Praises

Praises

- Mindy's pregnancy continues to go well
- So many new prayer and financial partners!!!
- Bret has been able to find various temporary jobs to help pay the bills

Prayers

- We will find good renters for our house
- A positive experience as we live with Bret's parents to reduce expenses
- A positive ministry presentation on Nov. 20th
- To be fully supported soon!!!

October Pictures



You Know You're an MK When...

- You get confused because dollar bills aren't color coded
- You feel odd being in the ethnic majority
- You argue with your parents over how you dress, and you protest that all the other kids your age wear loincloths, too.

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

- **Working for Jesus-** A woman we know makes handicrafts and soaps to sell at the flea market and gives the proceeds to her missionaries. Another family will fix pastor and missionary computers for free.
- **Brown Bag Missionary-** People take their lunch to school or work on some or all days and then designate the money saved toward Missions.
- **"Change" Jar-** A woman puts her quarters into a change jar at the end of the day. She then looks for God to show her how to use that change to change someone's life!
- **Give Jesus a Raise-** A man we knew would give some of his raise each year to missions.

If you are supporting missions in a creative or fun way, please let us know so we can add it to our website. We want to excite people about being involved in missions.

Thank You!!!

Thank you to everyone who has joined with us in this vision to ministering to MKs. This last month many of you committed to pray and/or contribute financially to the ministry. Even though we still have a long road before reaching our financial goal, we have made incredible progress.

We really hope that you feel like valued partners. We want you to understand that you are an integral and as equally valuable part of this team as we are. Really! Take football for example. A strong team is not merely comprised of the players on the field. A successful team needs coaches, managers, trainers, and even water boys. So even though we may be the ones on the (mission) field, we literally could not do it without each one of you doing your important part, no matter how small it may seem to you.

Maybe Christ said it best (He usually does) when he described the church as being one body made up of many parts. You may not be "missionaries" but you are "mission enablers!"

MK Spotlight (cont.)

have become a missionary to love and serve other MKs; and their parents can continue their own work because of this.

Bret and Mindy exhibit a heart for God's missionary kids. They seek advice and insight. This teachable spirit is appealing to MKs—"at last, an adult who recognizes my experiences are as valuable as my parents' and wants to **hear me.**" While MKs are now more often prepared on the field for returning "home," having a contact once they arrive in the home country will be invaluable to many, and the Taylors' service as youth pastors to MKs will serve to fill that need. I strongly encourage you to partner with them, at least in prayer. To paraphrase our Savior, "what does it profit a man, if he gains the whole world, but loses his [child's] soul?"

Pray for the kids!

By April Garbat