

MK Ministries

Fall 2005

Bret & Mindy Taylor

Personal Correspondence

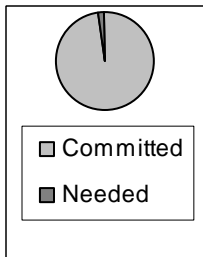
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WOW!!!

Would your church or friends be interested in helping us reach our financial quota? Let us know.



99.5% Committed

WE MOVED!!!



July 22nd... we embarked US Airways flight #8 and headed toward our new home, our new ministry, and our new life in North Carolina. As the plane lifted off the ground so many thoughts were running through my head... Do we have enough financial support? Is our house going to be ready? Will our belongings on the moving van have survived the cross country trip? Is there going to be anyone to help us unload and get unpacked? Can we really do this ministry to MKs? The anxiety made my stomach turn.

Then I decided to do something about it... trust God. He had brought us this far, perhaps I could trust him to take care of everything else.

I carefully reclined my seat as Lydia slept on my lap. I thought, "If she can find rest in her father's arms... then maybe I should too."

Three months later, I now look back and see how little my worrying did and instead how much God did.

Philippians 4:6-7



Here's a recap of our last 4 months (i.e. our attempt to explain away why we took so long getting this newsletter out).

- Unpacking boxes, and more boxes, and hiding the rest in the garage :-)
- Getting our bearings, like finding where to do shopping, etc.
- 4 weeks of required new members training (topics included cross cultural relationships, language learning techniques, world perspective, working with different personalities, and spiritual/moral purity)

- Taking the pieces of the existing ministry and trying to give it direction and purpose
- Getting to know our neighbors
- Finding a new church (and there's a plethora to choose from in the Bible Belt)
- Trying to verify our financial support levels
- Missing family and friends
- Spending time with the MKs... learning names, getting to know them, building trust



Ester Carlson– MKs Helping MKs

Ester Carlson was born in Brazil as her parents served with Wycliffe Bible Translators. Her dad worked on language projects for the Kadiweu Indians while her mom was a nurse. Ester spent the majority of her life in Brazil until the age of 12.

At that time, her mom's chronic fatigue syndrome required them to return to the States for treatment. They took an assignment at JAARS (the center I work at) while Ester was just beginning Jr. High. Fortunately there was a youth program existing for MKs like herself, and she quickly latched on. In her words, "JAARS youth group was a big part of my middle school and high school years. Youth group was usually the highlight of my week."

Like many MKs, Ester struggled with making her faith personal instead of a faith that

belonged to her parents. She related a story of how the youth program helped. "The summer after 9th grade, I asked God to reveal Himself to me in a real way, and to help me believe in Him. My parents encouraged me to go on a mission trip that summer with the JAARS youth group. That trip was where God revealed Himself to me. It was incredible. I saw that God answers prayers in amazing ways. God protected us, worked in us, used us, and let us draw closer to each other on that trip."

Ester continued to develop a dynamic relationship with God throughout high school. She was disappointed during her senior year when the youth pastor took a call to a church--- leaving the future of the MK youth program in uncertainty. She believed that God was calling her to help out in some way. As she went off to

(Cont. back page)



\$ Mysterious Ways \$

Many of you know that our only source of income comes from the generosity of our financial partners- 76 of them to be precise. It is a real test of faith as we don't have a stable "pay check" from month to month. We live and run the ministry off whatever we receive.

June through September we met or exceeded our monthly quota. Praise God! We continue to be amazed as different people have given special gifts that come at just the right time. Thank you to so many who have made it possible for us to get (and stay) here!

Honestly, we're not sure exactly where we stand financially. We have received pledges for

right at 99%, but several partners have not been able to start giving yet, and a few financial partners were only able to commit to one year. October was the first month we were short, but literally the next day a church contacted us and added us to their missions budget. It's been instances like that which I can explain as "God works in mysterious ways."

Thank you to those of you who have faithfully partnered with us financially. Our finances continue to be a faith issue, and Mindy and I are still growing in trusting God with this area.



Going International

We have a heart to develop a ministry for Missionary Kids around the world. We are excited to have an ongoing ministry with the approximately 100 MKs living at the JAARS center in North Carolina, but we also know there are needs world wide.

We were recently invited (and accepted) to travel to Kenya in January to serve MKs and their families. The two week trip so far will include leading a weekend spiritual retreat, speaking at 3 different MK schools, teaching at 1-2 youth groups, and doing 1-2 seminars for parents about raising MKs.

We are also excited about being able to return to Kenya and catch up with dear friends that Bret had served with while in Kenya previously.

Pray for safe travel, effective ministry times, jet lag, and the \$2,500 in expenses we will have to cover on our own.

Prayers and Praises

Praises

- For so many people who helped us pack and unpack the moving van
- For financial needs being met so perfectly the past 4 months
- Lydia's wonderful preschool teacher

Prayers

- Lydia as she continues to transition... and for her parents as well!
- An upcoming MK seminar we have been asked to teach in Kenya- safety and finances
- For Bret as he has so many names to learn
- Wisdom as Bret develops and implements ministry strategies
- Desperate need for Jr. High leaders so the ministry can begin
- For Bryce's health...he has often been struggling with cold-like symptoms

Would you like to be one of our valuable prayer partners? Email Mindy at

Mindy_Taylor@sil.org

"A pray dat we Lawd Jedus Christ bless all ob oona, an dat oona gwine know how God da lob oona, an dat oona jine han wid one noda jes like de Holy Spoerit mek oona able fa do."

If you take your time, say it with a heavy Creole accent, you might actually be able to place that as II Corinthians 13: 14. With practice you could probably learn to understand and memorize scripture in that language. But it would likely not touch your heart quite the same way as it does in modern English.

Recently we were privileged to attend the New Testament Celebration of the Gullah language (Yes, the one from Nickelodeon's show *Gullah Gullah Island*). As you may



Hanger seating about 1.5 thousand for the dedication

know, Wycliffe's primary goal is to see the Word of God in the "heart" language of every viable language group. To date there are still over 2,600 languages that don't have the Bible!

The celebration was heart warming as grown adults cried and sang praises for the gift of hearing God "talking me language." It was a reminder to me of how important the work is that I am supporting.

Please pray for the Bibleless people around the world. You can sign up to begin praying for one of these languages by visiting the Wycliffe website at www.wycliffe.org and under "Get Involved" select "Prayer."

Family Picture



You Know You're an MK When...

- 74. You get upset when people don't finish their food, and feel worse when they scrape it into the trash
- 91. You are accused by your friends of being a maniacal driver, and you're driving just like dad taught you to
- 95. You marvel at the cleanliness of gas station bathrooms

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

Ester (cont.)

her first semester of community college, volunteers kept the ministry afloat. She then spent a year at Word of Life Seminary in Brazil. Upon returning, the youth program was dwindling under the overextended volunteer leadership. She immediately took an active role in both the Jr. and Sr. High ministries.

Her commitment to ministering to MKs in large part kept the high school program functioning until I arrived. It was a huge blessing to walk into a program that was running instead of having to try and restart the program from scratch. I'm grateful Ester has continued to be a part of the Sr. High leadership team.

Ester is currently working part time for US Airways while a Junior at Southern Evangelical Bible College. She hopes to get involved with a sports ministry after she graduates. Pray that God will give her a clear direction.