



A RUNDOWN OF THE MISSIONARY PROCESS

Our department shifts with the seasons of the missionary process. Throughout the year people make inquiries and we send applications. The process for those applying to become career missionaries involves gaining approval from their district office before we send an application. The application itself addresses the call and commitment to missions, marriage and family, professional training and experience, missions expectations and understanding, health, and a biographical history. We conduct a background check on personal finances and character. This is the first part.

Three times per year some who apply for candidacy as an appointed missionary are invited to the two-day Applicant Consultation, during which they have a two- to three-hour personal interview, complete personality inventories, and

have a health review. This is the second part of the process.

During March and October we welcome applicants who are soon to be candidates to a nine-day orientation. These people come from all over the U.S. and even from various parts of the world. They are a mix of pastors and laymen, some with vast overseas cross-cultural experience and others with little to none. Orientation includes training sessions and a personal meeting with the Executive Committee. From this process we move to step four.

June and July bring five weeks of training under the names of Pre-Field Orientation (for missionary associates), Candidate School, and School of Missions. Candidates are instructed on belief systems, culture, organizational matters, regional applications, relationships, missiology, and theology.

Their children go through and graduate from a “boot camp” to be missionary kids, commonly referred to as MKs. The culmination of these weeks, months, and in many cases, years is the Commissioning Service of our candidate missionaries. This has been noted as the most sacred service we have in the Assemblies of God.

Our Personnel and Family Life staff shifts location from our headquarters building to take up residence at Evangel University for this time period. We are in constant anticipation and preparation for each phase of our operations.

Suffice to say that our churches are praying and the Lord of the Harvest is sending forth laborers. Praise be unto the Lord on high!

Your friend and brother,
Rick Johnson

MK OFFICE UPDATE

INTERACTION INTERNATIONAL SEMINARS

I recently received some information from Interaction International (<http://www.interactionintl.org/>).

Interaction has some great resources for missionary families. As an office, we work with them often and appreciate the ministry they provide to missionary families of many organizations. Interaction provides transition seminars for MKs returning to the United States. Generally, they have two seminars per year. Many of our MKs attend the Colorado Springs seminar in August.

Interaction International also provides help for parents who are homeschooling or placing MKs in national schools. This year Interaction has a seminar for parents using one of those two educational methods. They have extended an invitation to us. I have sent an e-mail to every missionary signed up for the parental update with all the necessary information. Should you like the information, please let me know.

PARENTAL UPDATES

Parental update e-mails are a great way for me to communicate relevant information directly to

missionaries. If you would like to receive those periodic e-mails, please register at <http://www.ismk.org/parents/parents.htm>.

MISSIONS TRIP TO HONDURAS

I have also sent out an e-mail to all the MKs with *ISMK* e-mail addresses concerning an upcoming **missions trip** for MKs. Book of Hope is partnering with us for this event! I will be going with about 20 MKs to Honduras to hand out the Book of Hope.

Only MKs are invited to participate in this trip. The trip is limited in number and limited to high school MKs only. My goal is that MKs have the opportunity to go on missions trips to fields other than where they live or have lived. I believe God will use these trips to call MKs back into missions! The cost is nominal—\$500 above airfare to Honduras. The dates are July 25–31, 2007 (which is between SOM and General Council). Information and registration is available online at <http://www.ismk.org/mks/ismkmissionstrips.htm>.



Chad and Dargan Phillips

AFRICA RETREAT

Recently, the Africa region held a retreat for Central, Southern, and East Africa areas. An MK Task Force went to minister to the MKs. It was such an amazing time! I was so impressed by the family nature of the retreat! Parents and kids spent the evenings playing games and talking about Africa. One of my greatest joys was seeing the missionaries out on a field playing flag football. They were so frustrated at having to pull the flag, it quickly became full contact! The MKs watched as their parents played this and other games. I know this left an impression on those MKs' lives (and probably some painful impressions on the bodies of those missionaries!). Thanks for allowing us to be a part of the retreat! Here are some pictures of that retreat. Check out the Web site for the video and more pictures.

Blessings to each of you,
Bwana Chad and
Bwanita Dargan Phillips



SPOTLIGHT on Lauren Frehafer



Lauren Frehafer is a missionary associate to Romania. She works with Reagan Glugosh training nationals with basic infant and child development programs and activities. Here is an excerpt from a recent newsletter.

I understand now why all the literature for missionary associates emphasizes being flexible! I have been in Bucharest for three months now, and it has been anything but what I expected. I guess I thought I would just tell these young moms what to do and they would immediately take my advice, change the way they do

things, and life would be dandy. It hasn't happened that way!

I'm starting to realize that this isn't a "quick fix" situation. It's more like taking baby steps over the long haul. The moms are dealing with issues like broken families, anger, lack of education, low self-esteem, etc. These are hard to overcome, but they have made so much progress already! I rejoice over the baby steps they're making in the right direction.

An example: it is culturally wrong here to put babies on the floor (because it is cold, and they will get sick), so mothers tend to put

them on the couch or bed.

When the moms walk away to do something, the babies sometimes fall off. We have told them several times not to do this, but they did not seem to be listening.

One day I purposely put a baby on the bed to see what the reaction would be, and the mom rushed over and rebuked me and told me the baby might fall! Praise God! They're learning!



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