



Between Worlds

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MK MINISTRIES

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NEW MK TRANSITION TALES

By Sandy Miller

Hello to Friends and Family, Greetings in the wonderful name of Jesus! We are doing well in Bangladesh and are experiencing new things every day! It is absolutely NEVER boring here!

You have probably heard all the stories, but I will tell you a few anyway. During our layover in Dubai, Miquel spotted an Arab couple dressed in their traditional clothing strolling through the airport, and she said, "Daddy, look there goes Mary and Joseph! Can we go watch the show?" Later she spotted the three Wise Men!

When we arrived in Bangladesh, we went through immigration with no problem and went to collect our luggage. We had some of the workers there help us and we had 6 carts piled high! As we were approaching the security scanner, a well-dressed distinguished gentleman approached us and asked Pat if he was a diplomat! We continued on to the scanners and proceeded to send our luggage through, and after maybe six pieces, pandemonium broke out as everyone was trying to send theirs through also. The luggage started piling up and the officials waved us around and out the front door! It was a miracle!!!

Upon exiting the airport, we encountered our first beggar. It was a little boy about 7 years old! I didn't know Miquel even noticed until 4:00 am the next morning she awoke and asked, "Are we in Bangladesh? Mommy, why didn't you talk to the little boy at the airport? Why was he so dirty? Why didn't he have any shoes? Why did he keep lifting his shirt?" I explained he was trying to tell us he was hungry. She said, "Mommy, can you buy all the little children some food? We could buy them a hot dog!" She is so precious!

Katie is loving it here! Sister Corbin said she is so surprised that Katie just acts like she belongs and nothing fazes her. She has been a trooper, for nothing here is easy! She is going to do great!

Visiting the market was quite an experience! You wouldn't believe how it is unless you could see it! There were cages and cages of chickens waiting to be slaughtered, live crabs in baskets, fresh fish, goats, etc. I never went through so much to buy a broom, mop, and dustpan before! I actually had to bargain for them, and different shop owners were all wanting me to buy from them! Chaos!!! I wish I could have helped them all!

Miquel spotted a goat and cried all the way home wanting one for a pet. We explained she couldn't have one in our apartment so she said she would train it to potty in a bucket. After telling her our landlord wouldn't let us have one, she said we could just spread a blanket on the ground and sleep outside. I asked her where she would take a shower out where everyone could see, and she said, "We could just put up a curtain!" ALL FOR A GOAT! She is determined that she wants one for her birthday. We told her maybe we could get one in the village and let them take care of it so all the little children could have the milk.

We were able to take part in an English Bible Study at the Corbin's home where there were 3 professional soccer players, a Muslim banker, college students from China and Japan, a financial advisor from the UK, and many others. It was very good. Then we were welcomed so warmly in our first Bangladeshi service where Pat preached and Brother Corbin interpreted. It was a great service and everyone was so kind! They had a huge banner printed with our family picture saying Welcome to the Millers! It was so touching as the children sang us a welcome song and presented each of us a bouquet of fresh flowers! It was so sweet. Then the children acted out the story of the Good Samaritan.

The traffic here is horrendous. Pat drove for the first time last night and even Miquel was praying. I told him he could learn how before I wanted to ride. Tonight coming back from service our driver almost ran over two men and they were so angry they started beating the van with their fist, yelling! It was so scary! If you hit someone here they will drag you from the car and beat you up! Please pray



for us because we definitely need God's protection.

Beggars are everywhere and it is impossible to help them all. I have been praying that God would give me divine wisdom so I would know when to give and when to say no. We ordered a bed and dining table from a vendor and will have them next week. This morning we ordered mattresses and they will be hand made and be ready for Tuesday night! We are to move into an apartment on Tuesday night and will be sleeping on the floor on our new mattresses! (Camping out in our new home.)

We were able to find an apartment after much searching. We found one and thought we were going to have to settle for it but the rent was so high. We kept looking and found one that was a lot cheaper and a brand new one! The owners are doctors and they will be living in the same building with us. There are three doctors in the family and one of them is a Pediatrician. God is so good! Katie wasn't feeling well and she wrote her a prescription for some medicine for her cold. Miquel stole their hearts right away and they declared we were going to be part of the family! Please pray that we can reach them with the gospel.

Tonight after church, we ate at Kentucky Fried Chicken! Yes, you read it right! Miquel saved some bread and on the way up to the room she

said, "Stephen (Corbin) was Jesus and he blessed my bread so we could give it to all the children." She baffles me sometimes how deeply she thinks! I pray that she will soon be filled with the Holy Ghost and do an awesome work for HIM!

We are missing John and Matthew so much. When they send me messages on Facebook it always makes me cry because they say stuff like, "Missing my mommy, and I need a hug!" I can hardly stand being separated from them but I know it is for the best for them right now. I am counting the days until graduation!

The pollution here is so bad. The air is always cloudy and we have to wipe the black soot from our faces every time we come in. There are 15 million people living in this city so try to imagine the buses, cars, trucks, motorcycles, rickshaws, taxis, & people on the streets! I will try to upload some pictures when I can.

God has called us to a beautiful people so please pray that we can be His hands, His feet, and His voice!

I will try to keep you all posted!

Love and prayers,
Sandy Miller

Missionary Mom to MKs – John, Matt, Katie and Miquel **BW**

A NEW YEAR the By Brian McClean

2011!! I am truly grateful for the blessings of God in my life. Looking back in 2010, I see miracle after miracle, blessing after blessing, and answered prayer after answered prayer. Unfortunately, human nature tends to make our problems seem bigger than we imagine! In looking back, it's easy to see that God's ways are above our ways.

Psalm 61:1-2 says "*Hear my cry, O God; Attend to my prayer. From the end of the earth I will cry to You, when my heart is overwhelmed; Lead me to the rock that is higher than I.*"

What a powerful reminder that God sees us in the midst of our situation, and hears our prayers. Regardless of the problem, we can trust in Him. When I unexpectedly lost my job in April, it would have been really easy to question God. It would have been easy to say, "Woe is me!" It would have been easy to have a pity party. The amazing thing is this, God knows where you are and He knows your needs! He always provides a way for those that trust in Him.

Psalm 31:2 says "*In You, O LORD, I put my trust; Let me never be ashamed; Deliver me in your righteousness.*"

As we continue through 2011, it is my hope that you ALWAYS remember your position in Christ. We have been bought with a price; we are a chosen generation (1 Corinthians 6:20 and 1 Peter 2:9). We must live in our position as over-comers. I cannot allow myself to be defined by the world system, by culture, or by anything else outside of the Word of God. I'm not defined by the way those around me live, I'm not defined by the situation I'm in, and I'm not defined by the problems I'm going through.

I am defined by my relationship with Jesus Christ. My goals, my dreams, my desires must line up with His will in order for me to walk in the position He has called me to. This year, I am striving to live according to the words in Deuteronomy 28:1-14. I can't afford the alternative! **BW**

AN MK POEM

Submitted by Susie (Alvear) Keith

Being a missionary kid myself, I was very happy to hear about the efforts the UPC is putting forth on behalf of MKs. As you say, we are a unique group. We are multi-cultural and often fit in better overseas than here in America, especially if we were born and raised there as I was.

I was born and raised in Brazil. I attended Brazilian schools through 4th grade, then we came to the U.S. and I attended half of 5th grade in Illinois and half in Indiana. When we returned to Brazil, I attended Pan American Christian Academy, which is a school primarily started for missionary kids in Brazil. The majority of them were Baptist but there were other denominations as well. However, I was the only Pentecostal. I attended 6th, 7th and 8th grades there and they were some of the happiest years of my life. The school was conducted pretty much like an American school but we were required by law to also study Brazilian history and Portuguese grammar with Brazilian teachers. We also had a lot of Canadians in that school, including our principal. All in all I attended 13 different schools in my 12 years of education and have moved more than 25 times in my life.

For various reasons my parents decided we would

move to the U.S. at the end of my 8th grade year when I was 14-years-old. I have to tell you I cried and cried and cried. I did not want to leave my friends in Brazil (both at church and in the school) and move to America. My parents did go back a few years later, but the four older kids had left home by then, so only my 2 youngest sisters went back to the field with them. Altogether, they were missionaries for approximately 42 years, first traveling throughout South America and then 38 years in Brazil.

I will say that as a missionary kid, it makes it difficult to know where you fit in and no matter which country you're in, you're always the "different outsider". That is the beauty of MK Ministries because no one understands the struggles of a missionary or an MK like someone who has been there.

I wanted to submit to you this poem that my mother wrote many, many years ago about missionary kids. Many years ago, my mother, Dorothy Alvear, published a book of poems that she titled, "By These Stones". I trust that you will enjoy this short poem that she wrote just about missionary kids, and that MK Ministries continues the wonderful and needed work that it is doing for kids around the world!

A PRAYER FOR THE MISSIONARY CHILDREN

by Dorothy Alvear

Dear Lord in heaven, please bless each Missionary Child.

They did not choose the sacrificial road they've trod.
It was appointed thus by God that they their parents' steps should follow

When these did leave their native soil
To take the message of salvation
To those of different tongue and nation.

While other kids have had the pleasure of a carefree life
Packed full of games and candy bars and toys,
And friends with lots of girls and boys
In a school that's interesting and fun,
The Missionary Child is struggling
With language, food and customs queer.

Dear Lord, please let them feel Your presence ever near.

They may be facing dangers in dark jungles,
Or walk bewildered through some great metropolis.
They may be born and raised on foreign soil.

Dear Savior, help them find their rightful place
Among a people of a different race.

If, in some darkened corner they should hide
So no one sees the glistening tears that freely flow,
Dear Lord above, you know those times their heart has ached

When thoughts of those they love and miss so badly
Overwhelm, and cloud the brightest day,
Making them seem that much more far away.

Dear Jesus, for each Missionary Child we pray.
Help them all to see the noble sacrifice they've made,
Realizing that you, Lord, paid a greater price to save the lost.

And when time comes to stand before Your throne in heaven,

Please give--You who once were young and mild--
A special crown for every Missionary Child! **BW**

EXPERIENCE IS THE BEST TEACHER

by Philip Vannoy

The game just ended, the press and reporters were waiting eagerly in the conference room. As the coach took the stand, hands quickly went up. There was question after question; the coach being intelligent and a great leader answered each question with no problem. As the press conference approached the end, one last question was asked, "Coach, how does this loss tonight affect your game tomorrow?" There was a pause, the room grew quiet, after what seemed like eternity finally the coach spoke up and answered, "You can't live in the past, you have to learn from the past." He went on to explain with each new game has to come a new mindset, a new mentality, and the best part, a new start.

Going into this New Year 2011, it's common to make goals and plans for this upcoming year. Some ridicule New Year's resolutions, simply for the fact that a large percentage of people that make them fall short of completing them. Life is fast, busy, and unpredictable, which is why we fall behind each year in achieving the greater things we long to do. Dwelling on the past and not planning for the future are two huge weaknesses humanity struggles with. More than anything, we live for the moment. If we are tired - we sleep. If we are hungry - we eat. If we like something and have the money - we buy it. Of course there is much more we can discuss when it comes to living for the moment that cripples us from being what God has created us to be.

My mother always tells me, "experience is the best teacher, or at least it should be". Going into this New Year. make your New Year's resolutions,

but try accomplishing them with a new method. As the coach expressed in the press conference, "don't live in the past but learn from the past".

The past, present, and future all play a role in your New Year's resolutions. Let your past teach you how to live in the present, meaning the situations you fell into last year don't fall into them again this year. All the things you disliked and didn't enjoy about last year make sure you don't repeat them this year. Let the past teach you!!! Let your future motivate you how to live in the present, meaning your future plans and goals should set the course how you live each day so that you can fulfill those future plans and goals. If your future goal is to lose weight, it's imperative that you exercise and eat healthy in the present. If your future goal is to win somebody to God, it's imperative that you learn how to teach a Bible study and learn the scriptures that explain Truth in the present. Let your future motivate you!!!

I'm determined this year is going to be the best year yet, but only I can make it happen. If 2011 is going to be your best year yet, only you can make it happen. I challenge you to change your destiny, change the pattern, and change the course that has been mediocre in your life for so long. 2 Corinthians 5:17, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." I love that God gives us opportunity after opportunity to start new. Start new this year and make 2011 the best year yet!!! **BW**

GOALS vs RESOLUTIONS

by Carla Burton

Goals are better to set than resolutions. Resolutions are ideas you would like to accomplish. This sounds more like wishes to me. But goals are an end that you are trying to achieve by work. This sounds like you have a plan and action to get there. We need to work at setting goals in our lives instead of resolutions. This means that we will put action to our wishes so that we can achieve our goals.

How to set goals:

- **More Than Wishes**
It is important to have dreams and wishes, but if you don't have a plan to get there then they will never be accomplished. Write down the positive effects that you will gain from actually achieving your wishes.
- **Specific and Attainable**
A goal is very specific. In each sport, there is a particular measurement and boundary that is set. It is only when you attain within those boundaries that you get the points and make the goal. The same is true with your goals. Make sure they are specific and attainable. If you want to lose weight – be reasonable about how much and in what time period.
- **Divide and Conquer**
Realize that you cannot achieve a large goal all at one time. You will need to take your goal and divide it up into smaller markers and then you can conquer the whole goal by the end. If you have debt to pay off, you may not get it done in one month, but maybe you can pay off one small bill that month. If you continue to divide and conquer you debt, then before you know it you have reached your goal.
- **Reward Yourself**
When you attain a goal, even if it's one of your smaller goals, reward yourself. Throw yourself a party and enjoy the moment! If you celebrate your victories then it will be easier to continue to set and achieve your goals. **BW**

MK Pizza Bash Update

by Cylinda Nickel

Friday Night at General Conference was met with great expectation by 225 MKs as they gathered for the annual MK Ministries Pizza Bash. There were first time introductions to spouses, new babies, new friendships formed, times of reminiscing and a whole lot of mediocre pizza.

It was so great to have many MKs attend this event for the first time. It is amazing how when the “MK family” gets together the instant connection is made as we all know “Once an MK- Always an MK”.

We found out that Jerry Richardson was the MK with the thickest wallet, Alisa Hopkins was the MK with the highest heels, and Andrea Nutt had the largest hair accessory. We were delighted to have the missionaries from Tuna Puna minister in song. They are always such a treat.

It was so amazing to finally meet Mikele J’Lee

Riddick who we had all been praying for. The MK family rejoiced to finally meet this little miracle. Our former African Regional Director shared a testimony regarding an MK in his state that the Lord had recently restored. We all had a great time of prayer together and the presence of the Lord entered into the room. Five minutes in the presence of the Lord can’t even touch what a lifetime of man’s instructing can do. He showed up, and lives were changed.

A great ending to the night was the grand drawing for the iPad. Jessica Black Bowen was this year’s winner. She and her family were missionaries to the Bahamas and Puerto Rico.

Once again, we realize the importance and need for this ministry! God is doing wonderful things in MK Ministries and we are excited that you are a part of this growing and dynamic ministry! **BW**

