

Focus
MK Retreat 2010
By
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Have you ever taken a picture only to realize that you were focused on the wrong image? Perhaps you have taken a picture and then noticed that you were too close or too far away and were not able to properly see the image you were trying to capture? The technology of cameras, especially digital cameras, has given us the ability to quickly and effectively remember our lives. However, when looking back through photographs, we can so often laugh or cry because we somehow distorted something that we wanted to remember. MK Ministries understands that perception and focus really do determine our future. How someone sees themselves, their lives, their circumstances, their situation will determine how they deal with life and what they become in the future.

With this concept in mind, Missionary Kid Ministries, hosted our bi-annual 2010 MK Retreat with the theme of "Focus". Our goal was to help our missionary kids understand that we have to be focused on the right things and see things from the proper perspective to set ourselves up for a positive future. So on August 15-17, we gathered over 80 missionary kids from around the world at Lake Williamson in Carlinville, Illinois. They came from every region, flying in from all over the world, sponsored by family, friends, districts and personal sacrifice. From the very opening service that Friday night until the closing breakfast on Monday morning, the Spirit of the Lord was moving, healing and touching lives.

The beauty of MK Retreat is that we utilize the experience of older MKs to reach and teach the newer MKs. Developing our lessons series from our theme of "Focus", we heard Meghan Willoughby speak on "Focusing on your prayer life and spiritual warfare", Dr. Daniel Blash and Kevin Payne, our counselors, taught on focusing on relationships and emotional stability and Laura Payne taught on "Over focused – focusing only on one part of your life and missing the big picture". Amy Howell taught on "Focusing on the Word – how to make the Bible your primary focus" and Carla Burton taught on "Re-focus – sometimes you have to quit looking through the little lens of the camera, pull back and re-focus your life". There were services filled with worship and praise with all music provided by the MKs under the direction of Sis. Laura (Demos) Payne. There were times of fun with games by Matt Woodwood and specialized fun times around the campus. We hosted our fireside service with speaker Philip Vannoy and special music provided by Kaylin Shirley. And our inspirational sessions with Bro. Bruce Howell and Bro. Mark Hattabaugh. It was a time of fellowship, refreshing and connection for every MK.

Missionary kids are known as "third-culture" kids. This means that they take their birth culture and the culture of the country their family is called to as missionaries and combine the two creating a "third-culture". Most everything that MKs become in life, is a direct result of this "third-culture" mentality. We feel that our overall responsibility as MK Ministries is to help MKs make sure they are staying focused on the right things. We want to make sure that they are not focusing on only negative aspects of their families calling such as leaving home for a foreign

culture, leaving family, leaving friends, feeling disconnected and returning without a support system. But we want to make sure they are focused on the positives such as realizing that there are other MKs who have faced these issues and can help them, that God never left them and created a plan and purpose for them, that even though they left some things behind, there are new relationships to be developed and making sure that they can step back and re-focus on the right things to determine their success. Because of MK Ministries focus on meeting the needs of the MK, we are actually creating an environment for the missionary to focus more successfully on the country of their calling. MK Ministries is a dynamic, growing and much-needed ministry supported by your PIMS and the burden of older MKs for newer MKs.

MK Retreat 2010 was a fantastic success and we saw over 80 missionary kids focus and re-focus their lives. There were testimonials such as one young man who wrote, *"I can say without a doubt that is was the most powerful and amazing experience I have ever had."* And another older MK says, *"WHOOOOO MK Retreat was awesome; crazy presence of God was present and a whole bunch of fun!!!"* A quote from one of our teachers, *"I'm excited about the revival taking place in this young generation all over the world!!!"* Or the testimonial from a missionary mother on the field, *"THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR MK RETREAT! I am so excited because my son came back so CHANGED!!!"* Or the other missionary mother who wrote, *"THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! May the Lord richly bless you for investing in my children."* When you see this you know that MK Ministries is focused on the right goals and will continue to help MKs all over the world focus for their future success.

To know more about MK Ministries, support them through PIMS or view the MK Retreat video please go to our website – www.upwithmks.com.