

How to Pray For Missionary Kids

Pray for the missionary kids to avail themselves of the opportunities they are afforded as children of missionaries.

Missionary kids are unique. They often do not seem to fit anywhere. In North America, they are too foreign. Overseas they are considered too American or Canadian. Actually they are a blend of their parents' North American culture and the foreign culture in which they are reared. Consequently they have been described as third-culture kids.

The missionary kids did not choose their lot. They only accompanied their parents who were answering a call from God. As a result, they were forced into situations that most of our children never face and often face problems many of us would never consider. They are children keenly in need of prayer.

1. Pray for a strong Christian family.

Daily plead the blood of Christ over the family unit through intercessory prayer.

*Pray that the family would take quality time to spend together to nurture each member.

*Pray that the parents would encourage their children and involve them in their ministry as much as possible.

2. Pray that the missionary kids would establish their own spiritual lives.

Every child needs to recognize his need for a personal walk with God—to really know God, not to just learn about Him.

*Pray that each one would be filled with the Holy Ghost and walk with Him daily.

*Pray that they would take the opportunity to reach out to the lost while they are overseas.

*Pray that the MKs would be strong in Christ, an example to others, mature and faithful (I Timothy 4:12).

*Pray they would have a hunger for the Word of God.

*Pray that they would not be dependent upon their own flesh but seek and acknowledge God's strength and power.

*Pray that they would have a thankful heart for all of God's abundant blessings.

*Pray that the Mks would keep their priorities straight. Pray that God would place a call on their lives as well.

*Pray that they would find God's perfect will for their lives and be convicted when they displease God.

*Pray that they would be protected from the bad influences in their lives.

3. Pray for emotional stability and personal growth.

*Pray for victory over feelings of isolation from friends and family in the homeland.

*Pray for strength when the MKs must be separated from their families because of boarding school or attending college.

*Pray that they would never feel sorry that they are MKs or harbor bitterness, revenge, or retaliation.

*Pray that they would have good mentors and be able to discuss their problems, doubts, fears, and confusion.

*Pray that they would have empathy with the nationals of the country in which they live.

4. Pray for their education.

Often times the educational opportunities for missionary children are severely limited. Usually the only choices are the local international school, which is often very expensive; boarding schools, which means being miles away from parents; and home schooling, which puts additional stress on children and parents.

*Pray that God would provide opportunity for the MKs to receive a good education.

*Pray for the MK's academic, social, emotional, and physical needs along with their spiritual needs (Luke 2:52).

*Pray that God would guide them concerning their further schooling, career choices, and life partner.

5. Pray for the missionary kids to avail themselves of the opportunities they are afforded as children of missionaries.

Living in a foreign land is not always as romantic and exciting as it may seem at first glance. However, living overseas offers many unique opportunities. Learning a foreign language is easier when it is heard and used every day. History becomes more meaningful when one can visit the actual sites. Exposure to a different culture can teach tolerance, acceptance, and appreciation for another's view point.

*Pray that the missionary kids would seize the possibilities to learn and grow from their foreign experiences.

6. Pray for missionary kids as they reenter the homeland.

Missionary kids enter a critical stage of life when they graduate from high school and return to North America for college or to begin a career. They suffer culture shock. Many missionaries have said that the culture shock of returning home is worse than the culture shock of going. If it is difficult for the adults to deal with, how much more difficult is it for young adults? The MKs are often alone, without the guidance of parents or even close relatives.

*Pray that God would direct their choices and provide for financial needs.

*Pray that God would send people to support the MKs—people who would serve as extended family, friends, and mentors.

*Pray that the returning young adult would prayerfully choose his or her standards of conduct based on the Word of God and not on those around them.

*Pray that the missionary kids would use their language skills and understanding of foreign cultures to work in ethnic ministries and among the foreign college students in North America.

That so many missionary kids have grown into well-balanced, productive adults prove that the obstacles that the MK faces can be overcome. Across our fellowship adult missionary kids are rearing strong families, filling both secular and spiritual leadership roles, and being solid members of the North American society. And some MKs are even adorning Partners In Missions certificates as they receive their own missionary appointment. All of these look back on their experiences and thank God that someone prayed for them. Will you not do the same for the missionary kids still on the field?

Produced by World Network of Prayer, United Pentecostal Church International.