

## TCK Workshop (N&B Martin)

### Description:

This seminar will focus on understanding Third Culture Kids (TCKs) and how the local church can serve TCKs and missionary families.

Main Idea: We are called to steward both the mission's call to make disciples of all nations and our call to care for and disciple our children. Caring well for both TCKs and their families in cross-cultural mission requires more than the nuclear family.

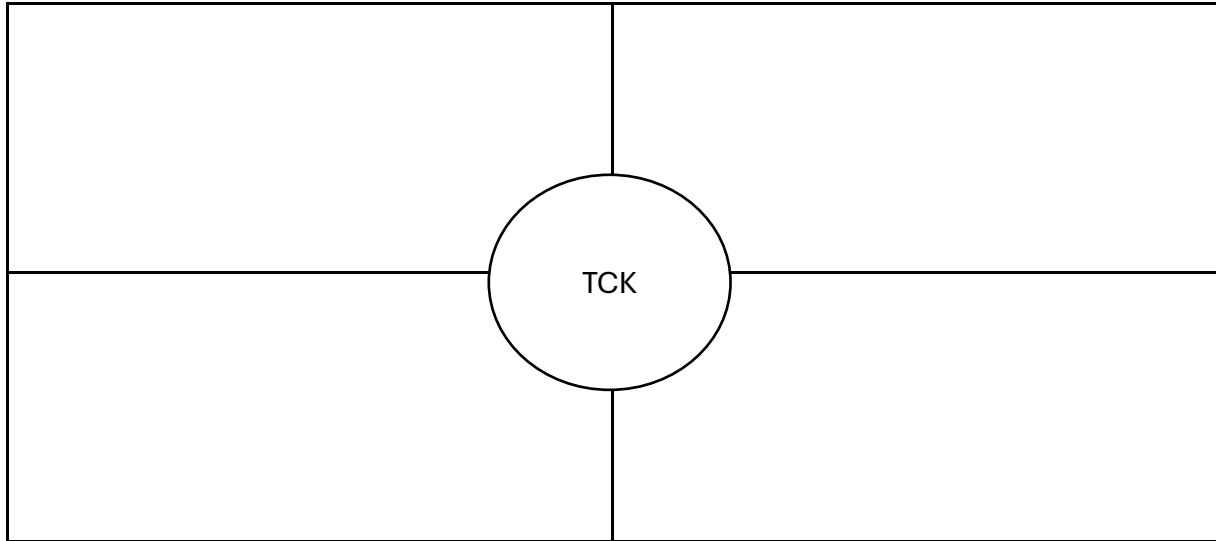
1. Trends Families in Mission / TCKs
  - a. Jesuits – go without children
  - b. Boarding school era
  - c. Era of decisions
    - i. Boarding school
    - ii. Local Schools
    - iii. International Schools (w/ & w/out boarding)
    - iv. Homeschool
2. A Family Story
  - a. Went to the field w/o kids
  - b. Unreached rural ministry location w/ small children
    - i. No established church
    - ii. Hard environment
    - iii. Not used to foreigners
    - iv. Sporadic teammates
  - c. Issues Observed
    - i. Identity as a TCK
    - ii. Connectedness
    - iii. Integration & Language
    - iv. Spiritual Realities
    - v. Transition / Home Assignment
3. Research on Families in Mission
  - a. ReMap I&II (family issues top three reason for attrition)
  - b. Phoenix Survey Adult MKs (51% of TCKs would want to raise kids as TCKs but with a lot of forethought and strategies in place to make their experience positive)
  - c. TCK Training (ACEs, Grief tower...)
  - d. Fuller Youth Institute, sticky faith (5:1 adult principle)



4. Large Group Exercise: What makes TCK's "Same, Same, but Different" – whiteboard/poster.

Ways TCKs are the Same	Ways TCKs are Different

5. Small Group Exercise, Large group discussion: How might the local church support TCKs/families in cross-cultural mission? Each group considers 4 topics, TCK in middle- 4 quadrants (Frayer Model). Share your results with the group.
- a. Education
  - b. Home Assignment
  - c. Connectedness
  - d. Faith journey
  - e. Identity
  - f. Grief/ Transition
  - g. College-age TCKs
  - h. Adult TCKs
  - i. Supporting the Missionary Parent
  - j. Other



6. Anna Hampton's Myths & Martin Myths on TCKs

- a. "We already counted the costs." A. Hampton 2016, 136.
  - i. Correction: "We know ministry will be costly, so we will continue to count the costs in each stage of life, in each situation, following Jesus with joy."
  
- b. "Risking is spiritual service; all this practical stuff is unnecessary." A. Hampton 2016, 142-143.
  - i. Correction: "Even in the midst of spiritual service and sacrifice of risk, Christ invites me to take practical steps to care for myself, my family, my colleagues, and to enter into his rest."
  
- c. "Kids are resilient, they'll be fine."
  - i. Correction: Children are precious gifts of God who need to be well stewarded (Matt 18:10). TCKs have varied temperaments, and they experience grief, transition cycles, loss, isolation, potential trauma, and the full range of missionary emotions. Resilience can be fostered, but it is not guaranteed.
  
- d. "Kids will easily integrate into the host culture."
  - i. Correction: Children will integrate with the host culture to varying degrees based on ministry and life choices. It is not automatic and not always safe.

7. Concluding thoughts

- a. Family Rubric
- b. Holistic systems

# TCK Resources

## Websites

<https://fulleryouthinstitute.org/stickyfaith>

<https://www.tcktraining.com>

<https://michelephoenix.com/survey-for-adult-mks>

<https://www.globaltcksummit.com>

<https://www.barnabas.org/member-care/adult-tck-ministries>

<https://omf.org/what-we-do/third-culture-kids/>

## Books

Andrews, Leslie Ed. 2004. *The Family in Mission: Understanding and Caring for Those Who Serve*

Baker, Dwight, and Robert Priest. 2014. *The Missionary Family: Witness, Concerns, Care*

Crossman, Tanya. 2016. *Misunderstood: The Impact of Growing Up Overseas in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*

Hampton, Anna. 2016. *Facing Danger: A Guide Through Risk*

Murray, Taylor. 2013. *Hidden in My Heart: A TCK'S Journey Through Cultural Transition*

Pollock, David; Ruth Van Reken, and Michael Pollock. 2017. *Third Culture Kids: Growing Up Among Worlds*

Sanford, Timothy. 2015. *"I Have to Be Perfect" (And Other Parsonage Heresies)*

Saunders, Sara. 2012. *Swirly* (Children's Book)

Taylor, William Ed. 1997. *Too Valuable to Lose: Exploring the Causes and Cures of Missionary Attrition*

Ulrike, Ernvik. 2019. *Third Culture Kids: A Gift to Care For*

Wells, Lauren. 2020. *Raising Up a Generation of Healthy Third Culture Kids: A Practical Guide to Preventive Care*

## Podcast

Pondering Purple Podcast

<https://open.spotify.com/show/0zqqxnBUbuTif04j8Z1lHu>

## Family Debriefing Options

Alongside Ministries – Alongside offers a 3-week Renewal and Growth Retreat- Incorporates Professional Counseling, Small Group, Children’s and Youth Programs covering the same material the adults are studying.

<https://www.alongsidecares.net/our-programs/renewal-growth-retreat/>

Mission Training International (MTI) Debriefing and Renewal (for families), adult and children’s programs (6 & 10-day options)

<https://www.mti.org/dar>

Adults and kids debriefing (5 days).

<https://www.traininternational.org/debriefing>

## Google Drive Content for Missionary Families

- Off We Go (children’s book) (pdf)
- Ten Questions to Routinely Ask TCKs (Wells) (pdf)
- Paradoxes-Yay and Yuck Ducks (pdf)

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1mdwjXtCX8gtB71XkPpBziB4jHwSPqXW2?usp=sharing>