

Attention: Global Nomads

I've had the opportunity to travel to scores of places, see God move in miraculous ways, and meet extraordinary people. Topping my list of incomparable memories are the times spent with my heroes, the missionary kids. You hold a special place in my heart.

Sister Howell and I have had an increased burden for our missionary kids—those on the field, deputation, or who have returned to North America to live—and want you to know that we deeply care about you. We are here for you when you need us.

With the kind help of Robert Johnson I would like to include a series of articles, called "Marked for Life," in this and future editions of "CultureShock." (By the way, Robert, thanks for the excellent work on this magazine.)

Our global village has a phrase that can be applied to missionary kids: Third Culture Kids. David C. Pollock offers this definition in *Letters Never Sent*, "A Third Culture Kid (TCK) is an individual who, having spent a significant part of the developmental years in a culture other than the parents' culture, develops a sense of relationship to all the cultures while not having full ownership in any." So, now you know it. You're a TCK and marked for life. Ever wonder why you feel so close to other missionary kids? You have created a culture all your own. Maybe you could call your tribe the "global nomads."

Ruth E. Van Reken in *Third Culture Kids* quotes an article she read while serving in Liberia, "He spent sixteen of his first eighteen years in a country where his parents were foreigners...When his parents traveled to the United States for furlough, they spoke of 'going home,' but when furlough was over they returned to where they were foreigners, he went home." This story is repeated over and over in the lives of missionary kids. When it is time to 'go home' to North America you feel like you are 'leaving home.' Sound familiar? Then, this series may be right for you.

You know you're a "global nomad" if:

- You've memorized all the safety instructions for airplanes.
- When 'home leave' doesn't mean leaving the field to go home, but leaving home to go to the states.

- When you put a question mark in the space for home or native country.
- You open your wallet and there are eight different types of currency in it.
- The question you start to dread most in the world is, "So, where are you from?" or even worse, "Where's home for you?"
- When you know the hardest word to say is not "no" but "Goodbye."
(Taken from <http://www.mkplanet.com> .)

Well missionary kids, TCKs, or global nomads, until next time, I won't say the G.B. word but, "See ya later!"