

## *Marked for Life Series*

### **Continue!**

By

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I recently returned from the School of Missions. While there I had the privilege of attending the 60<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration of MK and Africa Regional Director, Jerry Richardson. As you know, Richardson is a household name in UPCI missions. Brother Jerry's parents, Denzil and Freida Richardson were pioneer missionaries to Madagascar (after a short stint in the Philippines). They were blessed with three children. Two of these, Jerry and Randy remain under missionary appointment today.

Jerry and Vickie Richardson have two children; a son, Chris; married to another MK, Paula are still working in Madagascar. They have two darling children—Richae and Jared. That makes four generations of Richardsons that have labored in Madagascar. Their perseverance has developed a mature, thriving national work. Just a couple of weeks ago in their General Conference 1,432 received the Holy Ghost. During the summer regional conferences 1,553 were filled with the Spirit.

Randy and Theresa Richardson (Reunion, Seychelles, and Mauritius) have three children. Their son, Joel and daughter-in-law, Lisa along with two precious MKs, Ethan and Olivia are under appointment to Gabon. They were one of three MK families commissioned at the School of Missions.

Whew! That's a whole lot of Richardsons still involved in missions. What happened? The love for reaching the lost was planted in their hearts generation after generation, and God has continued to faithfully ask them to serve Him overseas.

Reading through Acts, there is a phrase that sticks out, "They continued..." Because, the early church kept keeping on, generation after generation, the church is still alive and well today.

Missionaries continue to reach the world. Some of their kids are called into missions, and continue on.

What am I saying? Will all MKs become missionaries? I wish they would. They remain a major source of our new missionaries. But, many are called by God to serve Him in North America. For example, Brother and Sister Jerry Richardson's daughter, Jere and her family work at Tupelo Children's Mansion. Thank God for all our MKs wherever God is using them. Whether in North America or some other far-flung place the major things are:

1. Bloom where you are planted.
2. Reach people wherever you are.
3. Keep believin' in what you know is true.
4. Keep Growing.

I am looking forward to the day when we are together in heaven. And I want all our MKs to be there. It will be because we each made the decision to *continue*.