

Cambodian Action

A Beck Family Publication

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Third Culture Kids by Jodi Beck



because they hear nothing out of the ordinary!

Cambodia is our home. It is where our children are living their childhood even though their families and many friends are in the States. It is what they know. For many of us, public parks, libraries, family gatherings, and fast food restaurants are a normal part of life. So, it may seem strange when we meet someone that doesn't really understand those things. Such is the life of a TCK (Third Culture Kid).

Mikaela, Kamryn, CJ, and Drew, along with many of their friends are TCK's. Third Culture Kids are those kids that grow up in a culture other than their parent's home culture. They have a culture all of their own. It is not

As I sit here writing this, my mind is drifting down the street where the monks are chanting in unison some dreadful song as they attempt to pay their respects to the dead. It has been going on for days and into the late evening. And not only is it coming from one end of the street, it is coming from the other as well. So, I guess you could say we have chanting in surround sound! It gets old and tiring and wearing on ones nerves. But, if you ask my kids what that noise was, they would wonder which one you were referring to



completely (in the case of our children) the culture of America. Nor is it the culture of Cambodia.

It is something of a combination.



They attend an international school with children from all over the world which opens new aspects of other cultures and influences to them almost daily.

Even though we are raising them in our home and spend much time with them, they are impacted by things around them that will be part of what shapes the people they will become. Imagine my surprise when I found a jar of applesauce at



the international market! (They didn't remember having it during our furlough). I proudly gave everyone a bowl expecting



such thanks as I had never heard because, of course, everyone loves applesauce! Mikaela liked it. Kamryn smelled it and said "No thank you". CJ said "yuck"! And Drew took one bite and left the rest.



Personal space is an issue with us Americans. But here in Asia, it is elbow to elbow and shoulder to shoulder. My kids don't know any other way. They can go through the markets and work their way around people with no problem. Another part of the TCK's life is the fact that people come and go. It is hard for some to adjust and easier for others. Some of my kids latch on to visitors and are heartbroken when they leave. Some fear getting too close to people and so don't because of the dreaded "good bye".

I could go on and on about the positives and negatives that our children face day by day and the effects on them. My purpose here is to give you, our faithful supporters encouragement, and a glimpse of how to pray for our children. We so desire that their desires are to know God first and foremost no matter where they grow up or what they face. We pray that they would love the Lord their God with all their heart and love those around them! We so covet your prayers for them! Thank you in advance for lifting them and us up before the throne of grace!

Praises and Prayer

Thank you all for praying for my mom as she underwent surgery at the end of February. She found out she had colon cancer last October and went through three rounds of chemotherapy before surgery. The surgeons removed the right half of her liver, the spleen, and the gall bladder. She had a few complications but continues to recover.

I had the special privilege of being with my family during this time. I was so encouraged by my parents' faith in our sovereign God who makes NO mistakes. My mom has such a peace that comes only from the Lord. It was a time that was refreshing and encouraging.

My mom wishes to thank everyone who remembered her in prayer. Please continue to keep her in your prayers as they have found a "spot" in her lungs and will continue to monitor it closely and also as she faces more chemotherapy in the coming months.

We so much appreciate your faithfulness to us in the ministry here in Cambodia. We are in this together!

With much love,
Jodi



Join our Cambodian Action Team!

Would you prayerfully consider joining our team by committing to faithfully pray and/or support the work here in Cambodia? For more information visit our web site at www.actioncambodia.org or contact one of our offices at:

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