

A New Year of MK Care

MK Orientation – collaborative style

Partnering with SIM USA

The New Year was only a few days old when I boarded a plane to Charlotte, North Carolina for the first MK



orientation of 2018. Always held alongside SIMGo (the second stage of orientation for our new missionaries), this time it was also being held in partnership with and on

location with our SIM USA colleagues and their new missionaries. It isn't an entirely new model – it was the pattern of our orientation when Tim and I joined SIM in 1981. The benefits of a broader exposure to the world of SIM and of shared resources were being revisited and three of us from the SIM Canada office accompanied our Canadian contingent to Charlotte. It was the family at the front of the above photo of Canadian attendees, with their



four young children, that was the reason for me to be part of the Canadian contingent.

Our four new MKs joined six from the US

office. It was a very young group (the oldest was about to turn 8), and four different ministry locations were

represented: Cameroon, Malawi (for our Canadian family), Niger and the USA. It was a team effort. Including childcare for the very littlest ones, we were a team of seven or eight most days, and I had the privilege of focusing on the 6-8 year olds.



As always with our MK orientations, our six days

together were a mix of fun and relationship building and serious learning. Devotions were drawn from examples of those in Scripture who crossed cultures (Abraham, Joseph, Ruth, Esther, and the ultimate model, Jesus Himself, who left the privileges of heaven to enter the culture of earth with an



attitude of humility and servanthood). With object lessons and crafts and stories, we learned about the neediness of the world and the ongoing need for missionaries, about how to prepare to say goodbye well and enter a new culture well, about the stages of transition and the



emotions that may accompany them, about what it means to become a third culture kid, about the countries and cultures each family was preparing to go to, and so much more. And we had fun together!

- Pray for each of these families, and especially for Jason & Shannon, Silas (8), Toby (6), Fiona (4) & Naomi (almost 2) as they gather their support team and prepare their family for the transition to Malawi.

- Pray for stamina for me as there will be as many as four MK orientations this year in Charlotte. Praise the Lord for the joy and encouragement of teamwork.

SIMSTART

At the end of January, the cycle began again as we welcomed six new missionaries for SIMStart (the first level of orientation). They represent six new MKs to be oriented at a future SIMGo.

- Praise the Lord as He continues to bring those willing and committed to missionary service.

MANITOBA MISSIONFEST



Early in February, Tim and I had the privilege of helping to represent SIM at Manitoba's annual Missionfest. In our needy world, it is so exciting to see people interested in spreading the good news of the gospel!

- Pray for God's direction in the lives of those we met and interacted with at Missionfest.

TIM'S TRAVELS

Tim is currently in the middle of a two-week trip to Africa. The main purpose is an SIM Global Assembly of more than 400 ministry leaders from around the SIM ministry world. He will have opportunities to connect with many who are involved in theological education. On his way back to Canada, he will stop in Ethiopia for three days of face-to-face planning for this summer's TESOL team trip.

- Pray for safety in travel, for fruitful networking opportunities, and for encouragement in his Theological Ministry Point Person role.

HEALTH NEEDS

After 90 years of remarkably good health, my mother found herself in the hospital in mid-February, having suffered a heart attack. It could have been much more severe and we are thankful that she is once more back in her own apartment. However, we are aware that we have entered a new stage in her health care needs and would appreciate your prayers for her and for us as a family. We are very thankful that my brother and sister-in-law live just minutes away from her.

With our gratitude for your ongoing partnership,

Tim & Lorna Jacobson