

Hello again MKs!

Wow! We are already into the next semester. Pretty soon, you will all be on summer (or winter) vacation. I was just talking with a missionary at lunch today about how the international school his kids attended really helped them get a great job when they graduated from college! I know that many of you are working very hard to finish school – I just want to encourage you that your work (blood, sweat, tears) is NOT in vain!

I have had several comments about the changes to SOM. Some of you love it, but some of you are very upset about it. I have heard (through the grapevine) that some of you are really concerned about it. You have not written to me! If you have serious concerns, I want to hear about it. When the time comes for me to evaluate this summer, I would like to have the thoughts of MKs to use as a reference point. I won't be offended, or upset, if you disagree with the changes. As a matter of fact, I think it would be healthy for you to write your thoughts out (either way)!

I am planning a few college visits for this spring! The MK office has the joy of going to the various AG colleges throughout the school year. I spend a couple days with the MKs, take them out for a coffee (or two) and have a dinner for all the MKs in the area. Next week I am headed to Florida. I will spend a couple days with the MKs in the area of Southeastern. In February I will be in Pennsylvania, at Valley Forge. I can't make it to every school every year, so I end up going to the schools with the most MKs more often! When you are planning your college future, be sure to keep us informed – we want to come visit!

I had the joy of speaking at Evangel University on Tuesday evening. The leadership of one department heard about some of the special things we do at our annual Thanksgiving Retreat for the MKs, and asked me if we could "recreate" that service at Evangel, during their "Spiritual Emphasis". It was definitely a great experience. I think we had about 6 or 8 MKs in the service that evening. The theme for the week was "Forgiveness." I was able to still include mission – by using illustrations of the various struggles around the world, many of which would be avoided if someone understood the concept of forgiveness. My main text was Matt 5. If you bring a gift to the altar and remember that someone is holding something against you, the Bible says to leave the gift and go make it right! God is concerned about our relationships with people around us. Our relationship with God is worked out in our relationships with others. We cannot have a powerful relationship with God, and have horrible personal relationships with our family and friends. The two go hand in hand!

What about you? How are your relationships? Are you able to have meaningful relationships where you are? What is the hardest thing in a relationship? These are all great things for us to think about and to work on. Let me know how things are going, and if there is any way that I can pray for you!