The identity of the church is rooted in the nature of God. The identity of the church gives birth to its mission in the world. The purpose of God’s people has always been clear in the words of our Lord (Matthew 28:18-20). God has called each one of us to be a disciple and make disciples of Jesus Christ. What is a disciple? A disciple is a follower, a learner, a student, an apprentice of the Master. It is enough for us to be like Jesus (Matthew 10:24-25). The whole process of being and making disciples is focused on the transformation of broken people into the image of Christ. The Gospel of John provides us with at least three marks of a disciple which are characterized by three relationships. A follower of Jesus “continues (abides, lives, dwells) in the word of Jesus” (John 8:31). We might use the word Community to describe the relationship we have with our Father through his Word being lived out in our lives. One who is intent on learning from Jesus also lives out his faith in his relationship with the family of God. We are to love one another as Christ has loved us. “By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another” (John 13:35). Kingdom lives are shared in Community relationships. Jesus also tells us that if we remain in him and he remains in us we will bear much fruit, showing ourselves to be his disciples (John 15:5-8). This fruit is the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23) shining in a dark world and results in God drawing all men to Him as we exalt Jesus in our word and in our walk. Jesus gives us our Commission: to be salt and light in the world so that people see our good deeds and glorify our Father in heaven (Matthew 5:13-16). He sends his church into the world to bear fruit, fruit that will last (John 15:16). We are the body of Christ and we continue Christ’s work by showing his love and declaring his grace. Our identity as the people of God clearly gives us our purpose: to live out our faith as disciples of Christ in these three relationships.

Missions Resource Network is blessed to work with several churches that are having significant conversations among their elders, ministers, missions ministry and church family. They are...
Why Missions Resource Network?

It was no huge surprise to anyone who knew me that I decided to leave preaching ministry for another type of ministry. I’ve talked of doing that for years. What was surprising is that I did it now instead of a decade from now and, even more surprising, where I landed. Since I didn’t see it coming, I can’t really expect anyone else to have seen it coming either. The question I got most often was “Why MRN?” I understand the question. I am an unlikely candidate. While I can’t explain why the board chose to offer me the job, I can tell you why I took it.

First, I fell in love with the mission of MRN. MRN exists to help churches in their mission to make disciples around the world. After twenty-two years of preaching, principally in three local churches, I learned at least a few things. First, most Christians want to see the world come to Jesus. Second, few churches know how to go about joining God in his global mission. We have missionaries on every continent who are giving their lives to make Jesus known and form communities of disciples, and yet the churches who finance them struggle with not knowing how to really support them. How do you really care for missionaries, hold them accountable in loving and trusting ways, or help them exit their mission sites in strategic ways that leave healthy, stable, reproducing churches? How do you navigate the various agencies and information out there to find the information you most need? MRN can help churches do all these things and fill gaps where local churches cannot provide the support missionaries need.

Second, I felt a kinship with the board and staff and their vision for MRN. We see the same things as we look at the needs of the kingdom and the state of the church and world. We see that we are at an important juncture of change across the globe when the stance of the local church in America needs to adjust in order to be more relevant to the world. Rather than continue to send American teams across the planet forever, it is time for the American church to partner with indigenous Christians who are the products of earlier mission work to reach the nations through nationals themselves. We need to move into a support and servant role and get out of a controlling role. We need to trust Christians in other countries to tell us how we can help them, instead of acting like an imperial power of old. The time is right for the global launch site. I wanted to be a part of such an exciting development in the history of taking Jesus to the nations.

Third, I could not imagine anything that would better fit my sense of calling and my sense of what the kingdom needs today than to partner with international church equippers. As important as local church ministry is, I felt a call to be God’s instrument to shape the kingdom on a global scale. I felt a call to collaboratively partner with the many ministries that train teams and plant churches. I felt a call to help provide what the equipping churches need. I felt a call to provide missionaries with the support they need. I felt a call and a joy to join God in his exciting mission of reclaiming this rebellious world for himself and seeing people of every nation, race, tribe, and tongue confess that Jesus is Lord to the glory of God the Father.

(continued from page 1)
GLOBAL REUNION FOR THIRD CULTURE KIDS

by Dr. Dottie Schulz, Director for Missionary Care

Tears of thanksgiving streamed down my face as I listened to the conversations of TCKs (Third Culture Kids) who attended Global Reunion, a ministry of InterMission at Oklahoma Christian University in July. Contrary to groups of TCKs in the past, this group knew they were TCKs and what that means. For those reading this who don't know, TCKs have spent a significant period of time in one or more cultures other than their own during their developmental years and have integrated elements of those other cultures and their own birth culture into a third culture. Third Culture Kids discover what it means to be a TCK when they return to their home culture and tend to have more in common with one another, regardless of nationality, than they do with non-TCKs from their own country. This makes camaraderie at the camp extraordinary. In naming themselves, they define a place where they belong—where they are at the center rather than on the periphery. They still recognize that they are other, but their otherness is claimed rather than assigned, positive rather than negative. TCKs are more world-minded, more involved in humanitarian service, less materialistic and are generally more educated, completing college and obtaining graduate degrees at a higher rate than their non-TCK peers. Most are hidden immigrants: they look and sound like everyone else, but think differently.

When my husband, Tom, completed his dissertation on Third Culture Kids and reported their need for a reentry program, he noted that the primary concerns of Missionary Kids upon reentry to the United States are related to personal identity formation, cultural and social adjustment, and interpersonal relationships with peers. InterMission addressed these issues and the need to grieve their losses, but they also taught the TCKs some very practical things, such as the names of American professional athletic teams, the cities they represent and their mascots, the difference between a Sharpie and a Crayola pen, between a binder and a folder, how to order fast food and how to feel comfortable in a Starbucks. These little pieces of insider knowledge make them feel more comfortable in various social settings with their peers.

Global Reunion is a fulfillment of Tom's and my dream. Future TCKs will not experience the aloofness of cultural adjustment because there are now those who understand and provide what these hidden immigrants need.

---

1 The camp is conducted by InterMission, a ministry begun by Kent & Nancy Harman, Clay & Cherry Hie, and John & Beth Reese—all former missionaries in Australia and South Africa (www.intermission.org). 
4 InterMission (www.intermission.org)
5 Pellock and Van Reken. 
6 Schuritz, Thomas Neil: A Study to Determine the Basic Needs of MCKs upon Re-Entry to the United States and to Define and Describe a Re-Entry Program Designed to Meet the Needs. Unpublished Manuscript, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Nebraska: 1985. (http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/humanitas/AAB06097/1) 
7 Schuritz, (http://web.zoom.us/blew/religion/CKC/Contact_US.html)
Visit the New

MISSIONS WEBSITE for CHURCHES of CHRIST
Your Global Missions Link!

www.MRNet.org

Missions Resource Network staff:
Dr. Dan Bouchelle, Executive Director
Alan Phillips, Associate Director
Dr. Darrell Schutz, Director of Missional Care
Dr. Dale Hawley, Associate Director for Missional Care
Phil Jackson, Facilitator for European Church Planting
Sam Sheeemaker, Facilitator for African Church Planting
Dr. Mark Hooper, Facilitator for Asian Church Planting
Jay Janbrown, Director for Church Equipping
Dr. Bob Weldner, Director for Research & Global Planning
Larry Tucker, Director of Communications
Mark Van Roy, Office Manager
Kelley Cook, Administrative Assistant

Board of Trustees:
Truitt Adair
Estellene Allen
Mark Brewer
Seth Cowan
Brad Crisp
Dean Fair
Joyce Hardin
Belinda Harmon
Ron Holland
Evert Huffman
Van Kimbro
Pat Lawson
Rhonda Lowry
Barry Packer
Joel Reed
Don Rodriguez
Ken Shumard