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Welcome

to



PATH

Culture

You are about to enter a new culture!

This new culture is called *PATH*.

(Preparing All-Nations for Transcultural Horizons)

As you explore and adjust to this new culture, called PATH, you will be stimulated and challenged spiritually, emotionally, socially, and physically. **In any new culture there are new “rules,” both spoken and unspoken.**

Your assignment will be to discover and function within the framework of this new culture. It will take special effort and dedication. There will be highs and lows. Some things will seem strange, maybe even unfair. Other experiences will be fondly remembered for a lifetime. As you reflect on your experience, you will feel enriched and empowered to face new and greater challenges.



PATH is far more than a two-month training event. **PATH is an experience.** This booklet will explain some things about PATH. You will be better prepared for the experience as you **carefully read this booklet and other PATH literature.** PATH is a microcosm of living and ministering among people of different cultures. Culture shock will be eased as you study the culture before being immersed in it. It is our hope and confidence that you will view your involvement in the PATH experience as your opportunity to . . .

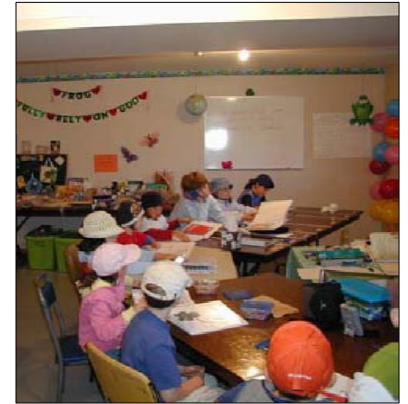
*Step out of the picture
and become part of God's story!*

Because of its very nature, PATH will be a time of stress and tension. It presents **opportunities to live with whatever comes, to develop flexibility and a sense of community, and encourages all to work towards making adjustments** that will make things easier for everyone living within this unique culture. PATH gives tools for the lifelong process of **“blooming where you are planted.”**

Come to PATH with your children – your MKs!

MKs (Missionary Kids) are special...to God, to you, and to us! They, too, are missionaries – they are not just baggage you take to the field. **God has a purpose for each MK.**

MK-PATH has been specifically designed to help prepare MKs of all ages for the changes and challenges they have gone, are going, or will go through. MK classes are provided during each scheduled adult class session.



Come to PATH with your required reading and reviews done!

Please refer to the accompanying book list and order/purchase the books today. **The assigned reading and writing must be completed before the start of PATH and handed in at registration.**



Your PATH Experience

1. You will be exposed to skills for learning the culture of the people you serve.
2. You will have opportunities to develop basic skills for a cross-cultural ministry.
3. You will study with instructors who have a working knowledge of methods and resources for ministry.
4. You will know more about what it means to leave your home culture (if you haven't already), and to enter a new community with its own unique culture.
5. You will explore indigenous principles of evangelism, discipleship and church development.
6. You will encounter realistic expectations of ministry and roles.
7. You will have limited first-hand experiences of cross-cultural communication through Native instructors.
8. Single missionaries will develop relationships with other individuals as well as how to relate & integrate into the life of fellow missionary families.
9. You will have opportunities to develop personally in spiritual growth and in family relationships.
10. Your children will learn how they fit in as a vital part of your missionary ministry.

Practical Tools

PATH cannot give you all of the answers, nor will it bring solutions to all of the problems you will encounter on the field. **Your understanding of this principle is critical to your success and fulfillment as a PATH trainee.** What PATH will give you are the **tools** for finding answers to the problems through the application of the principles and resources which have been taught by the instructors and mentors.

Come to PATH prepared to learn as much as possible!

- We expect you to **apply yourself** to all of the work - both in and out of the classroom.*
- We expect you to **attend all classes and Sunday services.**
- We expect you to come with all your **reading and writing assignments complete.**
- We expect you to come with a **teachable heart, flexible spirit, and prayerful attitude.**

**While at PATH there will be chores to do on campus. You, as a new community will work together on deciding how, when, and by whom the various job assignments in the kitchen, gym, classroom building, chapel, and living quarters will get done.*

Come to PATH prepared to adapt to a new culture!



- **Learn** the rules of the culture.
- **Learn** to adjust to and live in the new culture. In doing so, you will be better prepared to know how to adapt to the situation in which you find yourself on the field.

Come to PATH prepared to deal with the unexpected!

Possible **changes** in scheduling,
Changes in the way you normally do things,
Family **struggles**,
Interpersonal **conflict**,
Unexpected sickness, and, well,
Literally . . .
The **unexpected**.

What will it be like?

The PATH Experience

PATH is neither entirely an academic process nor a “boot camp.” It will be a new cultural experience with a blend of class instruction, community and cross-cultural living, ministry opportunities, work, play, and sharing. In addition, the evaluation of gifts, skills, and interpersonal aptitudes serve to equip the missionary with supplementary cross-cultural leadership skills. From books, experienced missionary instructors, mentors, and from each other, you will learn about yourself and the ministry to which you aspire.



Transcultural Exposure and Experience

A limited transcultural experience will be part of your PATH training. Several of the instructors are Native men and women, and there is a sizable Native population in the area. Opportunity for ministry is somewhat limited. A

cross-cultural observation assignment will be given and explained during the first week of PATH. There will also be an assignment to make a cross-cultural personal contact. All trainees will share their experience later with the other trainees at a given time. Individual initiative to befriend and minister to people is always encouraged.

Workshops

A schedule, subject to revision, will be provided for you soon. Regular class sessions will be held weekday mornings. Some sessions will also be scheduled in the afternoons and Saturdays. While you are attending class, the experienced, capable MK (Missionary Kid) Ministry Team will be meeting the needs of your children so that both parents may attend classes and give their full attention to the course of study. **Everyone is expected to attend all regularly scheduled classes.** Your teenage children are strongly encouraged to attend the PATH adult classes as much as their schoolwork will allow.

Personal Initiative & Assessment

PATH is a full program. You and your mission agency have set aside these two months for you to learn. **The schedule does not show everything that will be happening.** It includes free time for you to read, arrange study groups with peers, or spend time with your mentors and instructors.

The PATH Council expects the PATH staff to assess your gifts, strengths and skills. Areas covered include attitudes, adaptability, habits, cooperation, health, character, sociability, family, and cross-cultural ministry skills. The entire PATH staff will review this assessment and your mentors will discuss it with you near the end of the program.

Missionaries are naturally spiritual, right?

Spiritual Development

Spiritual development will be nurtured through classes, chapels, services, times of fellowship, prayer, and sharing together. **Daily dependence on the Lord is a must, as on the mission field.** It is assumed that you have a biblical and theological foundation. PATH instructors build ministry applications on this base rather than spending class time restating theological basics. **Your spiritual maturity is also assumed. However, since none of us has “arrived” yet, we will be able to grow together.**



All missionaries are the same, right?

A Broad Exposure



PATH will provide opportunities to interact through workshops, books, papers, and practical outreach. **Subjects include discussions of anthropological topics such as world view, world view change, cross cultural awareness, and basic cross-cultural communications principles.** These are planned to better equip the missionary and missionary family in making the message understandable to those of another culture through evangelism, disciple making, leadership training and other means of outreach. There will be a strong emphasis on the establishment and development of a healthy and reproductive indigenous church through evangelism, discipling, and complementing ministries.

The PATH staff consists of veteran missionary mentors assigned by the PATH Council, the MK Ministry Team, and the visiting instructors. They come from various backgrounds of training, missionary service, and missions.



When you have finished PATH you will have been exposed to a variety of philosophies, methods, materials, and strategies of missions. Some of these may or may not agree with what your mission has established as its own. On the field you will be under the authority of your mission agency where you will need to work within

the framework of your own mission agency's philosophy.

Academic Reading and Writing Assignments

All PATH trainees (including both spouses) are expected to read five from the required books list. Written reports (one page or longer) will be required for all assigned reading. The written review may include any questions you had concerning the content, agreements, disagreements, and reflection as appropriate. **The assigned reading and writing must be completed before the start of PATH and handed in at registration.**

You are also strongly encouraged to use this opportunity before and during PATH to do further reading on different missiological issues. During your training at PATH, there will be a library of books and videos for your use.

Connections



The PATH scheduling has set aside special times each week for ladies to meet together and for men to meet with other men. This time is designed to provide a safe environment to discuss gender specific issues that relate to missionaries in cross-cultural ministries. It also provides a time of fellowship and interaction in a smaller group context. Schedules will be discussed at orientation.





Worship and Prayer

Sunday Services: Our Sunday services are led by trainees. You will have opportunity to minister using a style that is more relevant in Native churches. These services will be for our sharing and fellowship as well as for instruction and learning in the following ways:

- Men will take turns presenting the sermon in the format directed.
- Men and women will have opportunities to prepare Bible and/or life stories.*
- There will also be opportunity on Sundays to share a 5-10 minute version of your personal testimony.

Daily Focus: *Daily Focus* will take place the half hour of each weekday morning. Men will have an opportunity to lead this activity. All trainees will have the opportunity to share from the Word and tell a story.*

*The sermon and story telling techniques will be explained and demonstrated before you are asked to present. You will be given help and evaluation towards improvement.

Prayer: You are encouraged to form prayer partners and groups that can meet during free times to pray for personal as well as field needs.



"Philosophy of Ministry" Paper

A "Philosophy of Ministry" paper requirement will be determined by each individual mission agency. If your mission requires one, PATH staff will help by evaluating your rough draft before the last week of the program. In preparation for this, you should obtain your mission's philosophy statement.

