

# CULTURE

*Shock*

a publication of the Missionary Kids Association

November 2005



## INSIDE:

"Walking in the Light..."

**Faces of Pakistan**

THOUGHTS ON MENTORING





This issue is going to have a couple articles that deal with the subject of mentoring, and so I wanted to talk a little bit about it and introduce some thoughts. These are just basic thoughts that I want to share. You will definitely be hearing more from the MK Association regarding this topic!

Max DePree, a noted Christian author states that mentoring is an intentional, exclusive and voluntary relationship between two people. Others state that mentoring facilitates development or empowerment (I like that word), and will lead a person into greater maturity.

I recently heard a statistic (and I am sorry but I did not get the source) that those people who finish well in life will have 10-15 active mentors. That really shocked me because I have always thought when you find a mentor, you find one person and they should be able to help you through life's situations. I quickly found that there are various types of mentors (some sources suggest nine different types). You could have a coach-mentor who sees your skills and God given talents and motivates you to use them. You could have a spiritual guide-mentor who provides spiritual accountability and guidance through spiritual disciplines for growth and maturity. Some might have a sponsor-mentor who offers career guidance and protection as you move upward in an organization. Other types of mentors are: discipler, counselor, teacher, a contemporary role model or a historical role model. Some of these mentor types would have more input into your lives, some you might never meet. But each person would pour something into you that would make you a better Christian, leader, husband, wife, son, daughter or person.

I really believe that as MKs it is so important for us to have mentors in our life that will help us along the way. I know that as a 17 year old returning from Africa, I could have used 100 mentors who would have counseled me in the what not to wear, say, do or even how to act (maybe you weren't like me...but I think that there are some people out there who would agree with me). I recently realized that, this next June, it has been 10 years since I returned from Kenya. I still seek the wisdom and guidance of mentors in my life. I still need someone to help me make important decisions, and I still just need someone to pray with me.

Mentoring relationships will vary depending on what you need in your mentor. But, when you are looking for a mentor, you do not have to try to find someone with amazing talents or extreme wealth. Here are some things to consider about the person that is a possible mentor in your life. You want a mentor with experience, someone who is a good listener and shares similar interest. This mentor will need to have strong relational skills who practices positive thinking and encouragement. There is a good article (where some of these thoughts have been taken from) in the Catalyst Groupzine "Challenge the Process".

Begin to look inwardly and see where you are in need of a mentor. We are not expected to go at this life alone and make things happen on our own. Draw from the wisdom of those around you. Gain insight from the experience of those who have been through the things that you are facing. Whether young or old, we all need mentors.

**FROM** *the President*  
by: **Robert Johnson**



Robert and his family live in Wheaton, IL where he is working on his Master's Degree in Intercultural Studies. There are many days that he wishes he could just be lazy, but there is way too much to do.

# No Place "Like" *Home* for the Holidays

Sister Howell and I have just returned from the Global Council in Thailand. We missed many of the younger missionary kids or should I say "global nomads." Had you been there we would have really "rocked." We would have "turned the world upside down" or at least Pizza Hut.

The holiday season is upon us. For global nomads this sometimes presents a predicament. For example, "I'll be home for Christmas" stirs mixed emotions. Where is home? Well meaning friends attempt to comfort with, "Home is where your heart is." Global nomads have multiple homes and have little idea where home actually is.

Holiday time is family time. You may be far from family during the holidays. Instead of joy; nostalgia, loneliness, or even worry may become marks in life. I well remember how my heart ached each time I passed Jared's room when he became the first of our global nomads to return to North America. What to do? That is the question.

1. Bloom where you are planted (the old saying goes). Make your present locale "like" home for the holidays. Make the best of the twists and turns of life. Create memories.
2. Far apart from family members? Global nomads are masters at creating families. Adopt-a-parent or family member and spend time together. If invited to a friend's house for Thanksgiving or Christmas accept the invitation with gratitude.
3. Sharpen your communication skills. Send a greeting card, e-mail, letter, cassette, picture or home video to those you love. Make a telephone call. When you brighten the day for another, it will become a lot brighter for yourself.
4. At Christmas, it's all about Jesus. Bring Luke 2 alive in your cultural context. Read it. Sing it. Dramatize it. Celebrate it!
5. Treat yourself to a holiday gift. I recommend *Best Christmas Pageant Ever*. It is a simple, enchanting story of the worst kids in the history of the world. The Herdmans are guilty of every childhood crime and crash a local Christmas pageant. None of them have ever attended church much less heard of the Christmas story. You'll love it! A friend sent me my copy from Amazon.com. And that it is an idea too. Why not get a copy for yourself and one for a friend.

Sister Howell and I will be spending Christmas in El Salvador. Will we be at home or will it be "like" home? I'm not sure. There is one thing I do know. We will be thinking about our biological family, and the extended family we've created, which will include you. Both are blessings from above! So, across the miles and far apart; our mission joins us heart-to-heart. Feliz Navidad!

*The General Director*  
by: Rev. Bruce Howell

**FROM**



Bro. Howell is currently the General Director of the Foreign Missions Division. He and Sis. Howell raised three MKs who are all involved in ministry across the United States.

The MK Association remembers  
the lives and ministry of

*Michael and Marilyn Edge*



Our thoughts and prayers are with their  
daughters, and their families.

The concept of mentoring is somewhat unclear because most of us do not know what is entailed in having a mentor. Is it a friend we look up to? Is it an older person we admire and want to imitate? Is it an individual like us or different from us? A mentor can be all of the above. I personally believe that they should be someone who is filled with life experience (which often makes them our senior), and one who is similar to us for comfort but different enough that they spur us to betterment. Proverbs 27:17 says, "as iron sharpens iron, a friend sharpens a friend." That means that through the friction of interaction you are both enhanced.

The Bible depicts several mentoring relationships: Jonathan and David, Elijah and Elisha, Ruth and Naomi, all of whom imparted something over a long period of time that changed the life of the other and led them on a particular path.

In essence, a mentor is a teacher. A teacher is not necessarily an individual who stands in front of students in a classroom. I have many teachers in my life who impart wisdom and instruction without ever declaring that is what they are doing. Titus 2:4-5 says, "these older women must train the younger women to love their husbands and their children, to live wisely and be pure, to take care of their homes, to do good, and to be submissive to their husbands. Then they will not bring shame on the Word of God." It seems in our day, us young people (myself included) are wary of receiving instruction from elders because we feel we have already arrived, or that our own experience is enough. Scripture teaches against that. We are to respect elders and glean from them. One mentor of mine is Sister Gayla Baughman in Stockton, CA. She is a godly, modest, wise and gentle lady who is willing to share her time and heart. She has been a friend and confidante to me for several years now. When I first met her I would never have thought she would have the impact on me she has had because we looked nothing alike and I assumed we did not think alike ... she was from the "old days." But this is not so. She is one of

the most relevant women of God that I know and I can trust her perception and judgment. At times when my life was wandering a little without saying anything pointedly she spoke with her kindness and the woman I am today is not the girl she met 5 years ago.

Another mentor I had was a literal teacher, Miss Laura Tame. In my senior year of high school she moved to Islamabad, Pakistan to be our choral director. She was young and energetic which initially drew me to her but it was more than that. She was a dedicated Christian who just a few short years earlier had struggled with the very same things I was struggling with. I used to have severe anxiety and stage fright and only through much prayer and her eager encouragement she helped me to step out in ways that I had never ever thought I could. Even today when I am testifying or singing at a church I thank God for Laura Tame who saw that I could do it.

I have two best friends, Cheyenne Johnson and Emilie Smith who are the same age as me and at the same place in their lives, but both offer me attributes I do not possess and they have caused me to change through our friendship. They give me strength, guidance and accountability. A mentor should be that to you.

Think of a mentor as someone who will push you a little beyond what you consider possible for yourself. They must be someone who believes in you, not someone who is too critical or will simply use you for their agenda. You will likely have many mentors in life and the beauty of mentoring is that they come in at varying stages we go through. Never close the door on someone who could bring great growth in your life just because you size them up as being too different from you.

I personally have a burden for MKs and I pray for you often. I appreciate that you stick it out and make the best of both worlds. It's not easy, especially for those of you who are isolated, but it can be done more smoothly with the help of those who have already done it.

# THOUGHTS on Mentoring

by: Kamala Burton



Kamala, and her husband Eric, just returned from a six month AIM trip to Pakistan. They are currently living in Alaska. If you want the word on the "health issues" you need to contact Kamala.

### Acts 5:14-15

14 And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women.

15 Insomuch that they brought forth the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and couches, that at the least the shadow of Peter passing by might overshadow some of them. (KJV)

The greatest culture shock I experienced happened when we moved from Ohio to Connecticut. Of course the fact that I was 22 years old and was moving to become the pastor of a church had much to do with it. We did not know much about the job, but we had an “in” with the Personnel Director (Jesus). Over many years of ministry and living we have learned that knowing the Lord and staying close to Him can see you through anywhere you go, whatever you do.

By the time we arrived in Africa as Missionaries, we had already experienced culture shock and reverse culture shock (when we moved back to Ohio). The fact is, life will hand you lots of shocks whether you travel or stay at home. Africa had its own set of rules and we made our share of blunders. The covering of God, and His care for us, kept us. After 20 years in Missions we followed the leading of God to return to the US. Four years later He nudged us back to Africa, so this is being written from the land of our calling. After all these years, we are AIMers.

One of the greatest desires in people is the longing to be in charge. For many, security comes from having a plan, setting your goals, and moving unerringly towards success. This is fine if that is what God wants you to do. As an MK, you above all should understand that there is more than one way to live a life. The trick is to desire and seek God’s plan for you. Find it and stick with it. Pleasing God is the greatest accomplishment any man can aspire to, and it has the greatest rewards.

On the outskirts of Nairobi, Kenya, there is an animal orphanage. Some of the cutest things I have ever seen were the little baby elephants coming in to be fed. Some of the smallest ones have to wear a gunnysack on their backs to protect them from the sun. You see, normally these little ones would be kept under the mother, living in a perpetual moving shadow until they are developed enough to walk in the light. At the orphanage they tell of one of the elephants they raised to be big enough to go back out into the wild. One day they released this fellow, and he went off into the grassy plains to see the world. The relationship built with the elephant during his time with them remained deep in his mind. It is said that elephants have long memories. From experience I know that MKs do too. One day the keepers at the orphanage were surprised to see the fellow they released into the wild come lumbering back into the compound. He was suffering from a wound caused by a hunters’ snare. It cut deeply into his foot, and infection had set in. Now this

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happened a long distance from the shelter, but his advantage was that he remembered the way back home.

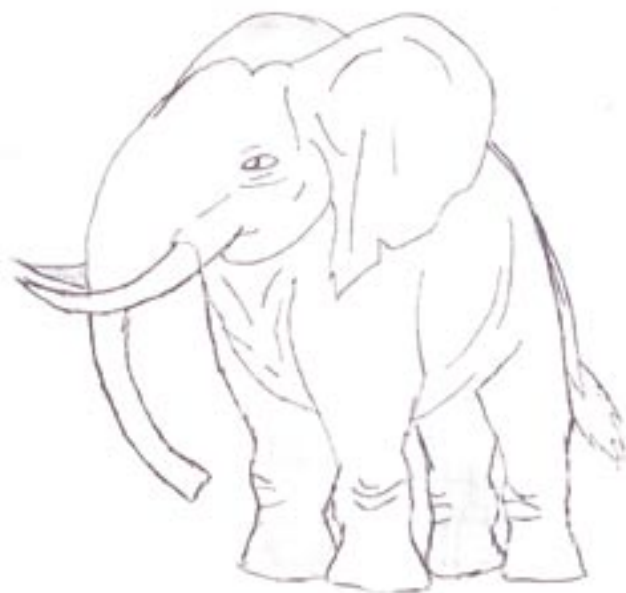
They removed the snare and treated the wound. After weeks of convalescence, he set off on his own again. To their surprise a short time later he returned with another elephant in tow. This one also had been caught in a snare, and allowed the keepers to care for her, even though she did not know them. As big as they were, the elephants understood the benefit of allowing someone to minister to them. That is not always easy, but we all have to do it.

When Peter walked the streets of Jerusalem, they lined the streets with sick people. They believed that if only his shadow would pass over them, they would be healed. And they were healed. All of us start out under the covering shadow of someone. Sometimes we pass from the shadow of our parents and home to the covering of a mentor. Even after we go out on our own we sometimes need to return to the care of those who love us. We might be so fortunate as to find a mentor we can even trust with our friends. Eventually it is the will of God for us to walk away from the shadow and find our own light. It is when we walk in the light that we begin to cast shadows of our own.

After about three years of pastoring in Connecticut we developed a love for the culture and people of New England. However there was a strong desire in us for a mentor, someone to show us the way we so desperately wanted to go. Prayer for this guidance led us to spend some time working with Brother Billy Cole. Brother and Sister Cole worked us hard and taught us much. When we left their covering to go out on our own again we were much better prepared to walk in our own light. Now, after many years of ministry, we still go to visit and keep in touch with the Coles. We have introduced others to them and those others have been blessed as well. In our maturity we have a few of our own friends who come to us for covering. It is a very precious relationship.

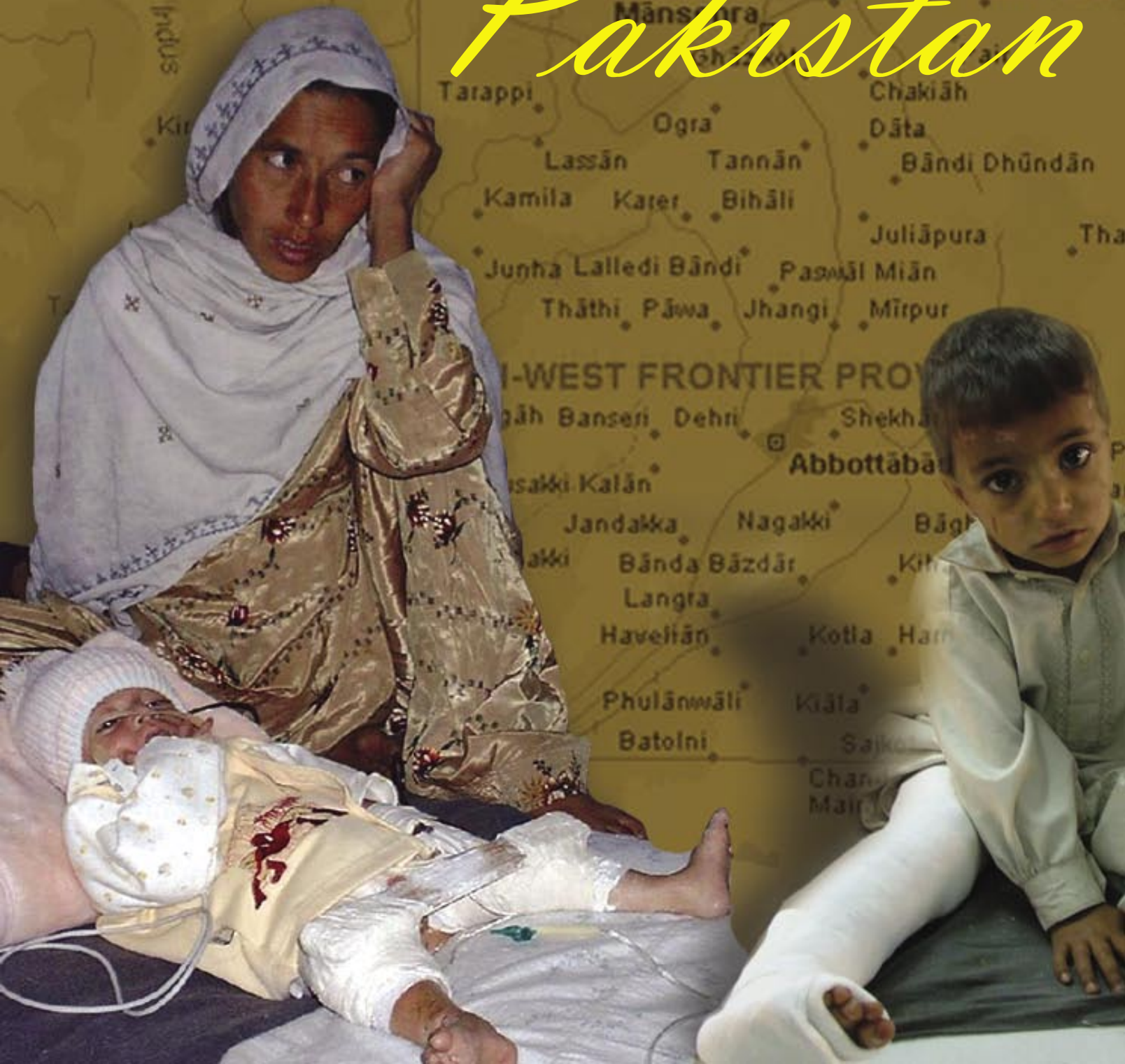
One of these days, if it has not happened yet, God will nudge you out of the shadows and into the light of His direction. If you do not have a trusted mentor, pray that God will give you that relationship with some honorable and wise individual. Seek to please God first, no matter what.

MKs have a special system of relationships in the many adopted “Aunts and Uncles” they acquire on the field. You may want to take advantage of this, especially if your parents are far away in their Missionary work. We value your future as the destiny of our extended family. So if you need a shadow for a while, just find someone who is walking in the light and stay close.



# FACES of

# *Pakistan*



When the quake struck, M. Akram grabbed his youngest daughter and ran for the door, but the roof fell on them. After several hours he was rescued, but his daughter died during the rescue. Of his three children, only one of his daughters survived and nine of his eighteen family members were killed, including his wife, brother, nephew, wife's mother and her two daughters. After a three days journey he arrived at the hospital for treatment of his shattered right arm. There were 1200 homes in his village which was home to 2000 people. Half of which are now dead.

This is a true story, and there are many others that tell of the horror and great loss that people experienced in Pakistan. Please be in prayer for those affected by the earthquake, and also for our missionaries and national workers and saints. This is a time that will be emotionally taxing, physically draining and full of questions. This will also be a great time for the love of Jesus to be shared with those who do not know him. There is hope!

