



My ministry at HKACM

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Here at HKACM, my main vision is to equip and train Chinese missionary kids (MKs) to fulfill their calling in Christ by inspiring them to fully embracing their identity as second generation missionaries. When I talk with missionaries, I encourage them to think about their kids not as missionary kids, but as missionaries. When a family of four people heads out for the mission field, there are four missionaries heading out and not just two! So, it is just as important to equip the children of missionaries for their mission as it is important to equip their parents.

One major part of this vision is the help MKs reenter into the Hong Kong culture. Most of them have not spent any significant time in Hong Kong, although their parents are from Hong Kong. So, when considering which university to attend, too often they only think about going to the States or Canada. This is because many of their friends from international schools go to North America for university.

However, I believe that Hong Kong is the best place for missionary kids to experience their early adult life, and so I encourage them in that direction. As a global city, Hong Kong brings together the Western and Chinese cultures. As an emerging mission sending base, Hong Kong has been chosen as the base for many missionary movements because it is a place where there can be integration of the wisdom of Western missionary movements and the growing force of the Chinese missionary movements. For Chinese missionary kids, who have both Western and Chinese cultures, Hong Kong is one of the best places for them to grow in and explore their bicultural identity and find their place in God's kingdom.

However, for a Chinese missionary kid to return from the mission field to Hong Kong, the process is not easy, since there are many cultural adjustments they must make. I have been exploring different ways of helping them to adjust to the Hong Kong culture. Our annual MK summer camp is an important part of this program. During this camp, older and more experienced MKs run the camp. These MKs have gone through the re-entry process back to HK and are now ready to mentor others.

Besides the camp, throughout the summer, MKs get together on Sundays to attend an English-speaking church in Hong Kong, instead of just following their parents to Chinese-speaking churches. Although reentering into the Chinese culture is important, the church experience should be a time for them to make friends with people who are culturally similar to them so that they can be easily supported throughout their cultural adjustment.

Church is usually followed by lunch together and then a hangout time like a movie or sport or touring the city. On one occasion, we visited Hong Kong University (HKU) during a Sunday afternoon. Overall, the Sunday program helped to give MKs a full picture of what life would be like if they came to HK to work or study, and also gives them a sense of belonging to their parents' home culture.

Throughout the summer, the MKs are also mentored in their future career direction. We arranged for some to teach English throughout the summer. Last summer, I gave a couple of them the opportunity to take my place to teach children's Sunday School on the topic of missions. It was a valuable experience for them to participate in a similar ministry as their parents in Hong Kong. I was also able to give some career coaching to a number of MKs on an individual basis. Since they have to go through many more transitions than other peers, career coaching is critical!

After the summer, most MKs return to the mission field and only a small number stay behind for university studies or high school if their parents have moved back to Hong Kong. For the MKs that stay behind, I have organized a monthly gathering for the purpose of mutual encouragement and prayer support, which is especially important for the freshmen college-aged MKs who are adjusting in their first year back in Hong Kong.

For the MKs who are not in Hong Kong during the year, I am developing a career-coaching program that can be administered via long distance. This is still in process! This career-coaching program will help MKs to discover both their natural talents and abilities and also their spiritual talents and interest in terms of their missionary heritage and upbringing. The goal of this program is to enable MKs to eventually choose a career path that will be able to merge their missionary identity and their natural gifts and abilities.