

# John & Ronda Lennon

## Missionaries to Ecuador

WINTER 2016

Dear Friends and Family,

The greatest ministry resource on the mission field are the children of missionaries. They are generally called M.K's or T.C.K's which means *Missionary Kids* or *Third Culture Kids*. From an early age, M.K's are usually very active in the life and ministry of their parents. They often see God work first hand in the salvation and transformation of many people, including their own friends and their families.

Some M.K's or T.C.K.'s embrace life and culture in their host countries. They enjoy the excitement of new foods, cultures, and all their new surroundings have to offer. But then there are those who struggle to find their identities, as they don't fully fit in their new host countries nor do they feel at home in their passport countries. Sometimes depression, loneliness, emotional disorders set in or even suicide takes place.



Some of the Missionary Kids at the M.K. School in Ecuador

Such was the case of one of our son's inner circle of friends, a 17 year old young man from the U.S. Midwest, who was also student at the M.K. school and had battled depression for some time. During the Thanksgiving break, despondency overtook this young man and he tragically took his own life. As you can imagine, it devastated the missionary community, the students at the M.K. school and especially his missionary parents.

It is during these times as a missionary when the Word of God becomes your only source of strength and comfort. The hope of the Risen Savior and eternity with Jesus Christ become the strength of your life. We are grateful for the many people who walked with us and the inner circle of M.K.'s during this difficult period of time. As for the missionary family who lost their son, God's grace has been abundant. The verse that the family shared at the memorial service was found in ***Romans 8:38-39 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come. Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.***

So as a result of this tragic event, we would like to ask you to take a moment and pray for your missionary friends. If your church has a world map with pictures of missionary families or if you have a stack of missionary picture prayer cards, please take a moment and pray for the M.K.'s. It could be that they are passing through difficulties that are unimaginable to folks back in their passport country. You taking the time to pray and encourage them could make the greatest contribution to the spreading of the Gospel around the world! So thank you for taking time to pray for our kids!

Love and Prayers,

*John & Ronda Lennon*

Quito, Ecuador

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