

A **Third Culture Kid (TCK)** is a person who has spent a significant part of his or her developmental years outside the parents' culture. The TCK builds relationships to all of the cultures, while not having full ownership in any. Although elements from each culture are assimilated into the TCK's life experience, the sense of belonging is in relationship to others of similar background. (p. 19, *Third Culture Kids*, David C. Pollock and Ruth E. Van Reken)



Third Culture Kids

1 July 2010

Nate and Nikki are TCKs. They have spent most of their lives in Cambodia. Phnom Penh is home and comfortable to them. Cambodian food (and Indian and Thai ...) tastes good to them. But they are not Cambodian and do not really live like Cambodians. They are American and in many ways live like Americans. English is their primary language and they attend an International school. Kids from school and the mission community here are their friends. Some are American. Others are Singaporean, Korean, Khmer and more. Nate and Nikki fit in with kids who are growing up like them, guests in a country that is not their parents' home country.



Pictures from top: Nikki and Lucy in our hammock, Nate in the drama club play, with Kuy kids at Christmas celebration at O'krouch

There are some great things about growing up as a TCK. TCKs have a broader understanding of the world, a more tolerant attitude toward other cultures and great opportunities to travel and see new places. But there are drawbacks too. They are often saying good-bye to friends. In their world people come and go a lot. They can end up with some confusion about who they are and have trouble fitting into their "home" culture.

Praise God for healthy, well-adjusted children and their good friends. Please pray for Nate and Nikki

- to find their identity in Christ
- that they would enjoy a good brother/sister relationship
- that they would benefit from all the good things about being TCKs
- Pray for wisdom for us to parent well especially as we enter the teenage years (Nate is now 13!)



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