

*mission to the world's*  
**Global Youth & Family Ministry**

Can I tell you about what the Lord is doing in my life and the life of Mission to the World, the Presbyterian Church in America's missions sending agency? For the past two years I have been able to be a part of a team of youth workers that have gone overseas on MTW's area retreats to minister to and encourage missionary kids. I left each of those retreats with an intense feeling of the Lord's call on my life to work with missionary kids and to see others equipped to minister to them in a more effective way.

Mission to the World has developed the Global Youth and Family Ministry (GYFM) as part of the mission's Spiritual Life Department. While I have been part of this ministry through the area retreats I have caught the vision of what this ministry is doing all over the world. Our mission statement is, "to encourage and equip youth and their families around the world to KNOW Christ's love for them, GROW in relationship with Christ and His people, and GO as agents of His grace in kingdom living." MTW has now asked me to become part of this ministry on a full-time basis. I am so excited to be joining the team.

The vision of the Global Youth and Family Ministry at MTW is to champion Christ's kingdom call to reach the nations and the next generation. This will involve both ministry to our missionaries and missionary kid's, and ministry through MTW in establishing youth ministry movements around the world. This vision rests upon the supernatural work of God, who alone can build His kingdom through the Spirit's work in our lives together.

As part of the GYFM team, I will be coming alongside the director of this ministry, Eric Larsen, by helping him with recruiting, training, sending and sustaining youth workers across the United States and around the world. This will start by equipping and supporting missionaries and parents already on the field. We will also be involved in the developing ministry to missionary kids. As adolescents, these kids are faced with the questions of identity, belonging, and destiny. These questions can be heavy for a teenager to bear when they are living cross culturally. Coming alongside and encouraging the youth and families on the mission field enables and encourages the family as a whole and the adolescent specifically to be more effective in their calling. Missions to missionaries will have a multiplying effect as we support those reaching other cultures desperate for Jesus.

I will be involved in this ministry in many different ways. Part of my responsibilities will be to participate in key MTW events (i.e. Interview & Orientation, Area Retreats, Summer Conference, Re-Entry, MK Missions Trips and Retreats), build and maintain relationships with MK's and families, pray, encourage and counsel MK's (particularly girls) and organize volunteer teams. There will be many other aspects to this ministry. I am blessed to be able to use the ministry and administrative gifts with which the Lord has gifted me as part of this team.

I am excited to join the ranks of Mission to the World as a laborer in the harvest. I am joining this ministry with MTW as a missionary and will be on full missionary support. I would consider it a privilege to have you part of my team as I follow the Lord. Would you pray about supporting this ministry financially and joining me as part of my support team? I would love to talk to you further about this wonderful ministry that the Lord has called me to.

In Him, *Rachanne Burch*

# Ruthanne Burch

## *biography*

Ruthanne Burch grew up in Brisbane, Australia while her parents were MTW missionaries involved in church planting and theological education. After graduating from Samford University in 2005 with a degree in Human Development and Family Studies, she started working at Briarwood Presbyterian Church in the Children's & Youth Ministry office. During college and while at Briarwood the Lord was laying upon her heart a burden for missionary kids and their families. As an MK, Ruthanne can encourage these youth in a way that others may not be able to as she understands the struggles and pressures that come with growing up on the field. Ruthanne longs to see these missionary kids and their families be encouraged and strengthened spiritually so they may minister well on the field. Ruthanne will join the Spiritual Life Department as part of the Global Youth and Family Ministry.

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# Global Youth & Family Ministry

*what is it & why is it necessary?*

## *Mission*

To encourage and equip youth and their families around the world to KNOW Christ's love for them, GROW in relationship with Christ and His people, and GO as agents of His grace in kingdom living.

## *Vision*

By God's grace, the Global Youth and Family Ministry will champion Christ's kingdom call to reach the nations and the next generation. This will involve both ministry to our Missionaries and TCK's, and ministry through MTW in establishing youth ministry movements around the world. This vision rests upon the supernatural work of God who alone can build his kingdom through the Spirit's work in our lives together.

## *Youth Ministry: A Strategic Time for Outreach*

United Nations Report:

“ Today's generation of young people is the largest in history. Nearly half of the world's population (almost 3 billion people) is under the age of 25 ... Investing in this younger generation is important for a host of ethical, human rights, gender and economic reasons, and it is a top priority of (the UN)... support for adolescents and youth is one of the most cost-effective strategic interventions”

.....

U.S. data show children and adolescents most responsive to the gospel.

International missions must strategize to reach this group.

*Reaching the Nations & the Next Generation*

# Global Youth & Family Ministry

*what is it & why is it necessary?*

## *Global Youth*

Explosive growth in the world's youth population and the emergence of a global youth culture makes this one of the largest unreached people groups in the world

### *The Need*

- “I wish we had a youth ministry like the one I experience in the US... We don't have anything like that here, and I think it hurts my relationship with God.”-- 14 year old, Scotland
- “...50% of Iran's population is under the age of 25. The persecuted church is crying out for help in evangelizing and discipling them.”-- Pastor of underground church, Iran

### *What's Next*

- Reaching youth reaches the next generation of international church leaders
- Reaching youth reaches families

## *Global Nomad - Third Culture Kids*

The challenges of adolescence are compounded by the Third Culture Kid's cross-cultural upbringing, exposure to spiritual warfare, high mobility, and isolation.

### *The Need*

- A key reason career missionaries leave the field is family issues
- Unresolved grief is experienced by countless TCKs because of the geographical, emotional and spiritual losses endured. These often come out in denial, anger, depression, busyness... mirroring “post-traumatic stress disorder”
- This cross-cultural upbringing leaves many TCKs feeling rootless and restless for the rest of their lives.

### *What's Next*

- Sustaining missionaries and their families who are cross-cultural catalysts for gospel transformation
- Missionary kids, unlike their mono-cultural parents, are hard-wired for crossing cultures

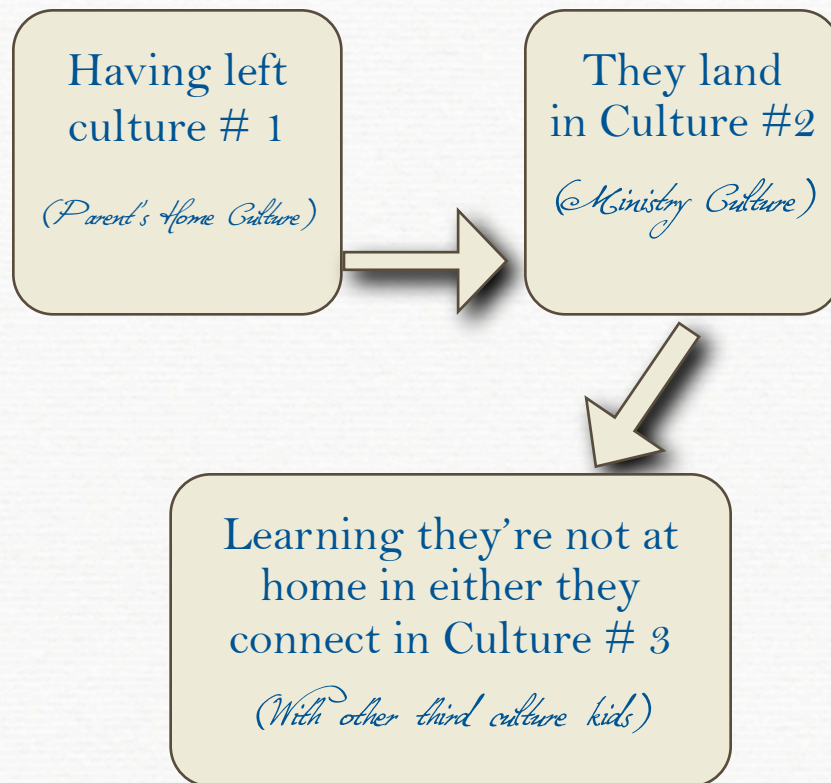
*Reaching the Nations & the Next Generation*

# Global Youth & Family Ministry

*what is it & why is it necessary?*

## *What is a Third Culture Kid?*

“A Global Nomad, assimilating in neither the passport country nor the host country, becomes part of a third culture,”... In many ways “prototype citizens of the future”.



# Global Youth & Family Ministry

## *recommendations*

*Tom Cheely* - Missions Pastor, Briarwood Presbyterian Church

It is exciting and moving to hear the reports that come from around the world these days praising the work of the Holy Spirit in the lives of so many. Yet the cry is still "MORE LABORERS!" "More trained Laborers."

We are delighted to be able to introduce to you Miss Ruthanne Burch, a Briarwood church member and staff member, who has responded to the challenge from the Lord and has made herself available for the ministry of disciple-making, training others to train others. Ruthanne has been on the Briarwood staff since her graduation from university, which followed growing up in Australia -- daughter of MTW missionary parents. She has served us here on the Youth department staff. She has served MTW in an interim capacity at Area Retreats working with the children and youth of missionaries. Now she is joining MTW as a missionary with the Spiritual Life Department specifically working with the children of our denominational mission-ministry people.

It is our hope that you and your congregation would prayerfully consider expanding your outreach ministry by partnering with MTW through Ruthanne and the rest of the Global Youth and Family Ministry staff which she will join; and that you will decide to be a part of what God is doing among this often overlooked people....children and youth of missionary parents. Investing financially through Ruthanne will pay strong dividends in the moral and spiritual future of the whole world. Would you consider a monthly financial commitment to help complete her support quota and to move Ruthanne forward to a quick ministry participation? We are already behind in getting her on the job.

THANK YOU in advance for what you are going to do.

Ruthanne will be in touch with and will be able to share with you in great detail issues of ministry process. She would be delighted to come and share with you, your missions committee, a Sunday School class, a Bible study group. These are exciting days! Let your people hear about what God is doing!!

In H I S service that ALL might hear,  
R. Thomas Cheely  
Missions Pastor, Briarwood Presbyterian Church

## *Steve Collins* - Director of Spiritual Life, Mission to the World

Thank you for the opportunity to talk to you about joining the support team for Ruthanne Burch. The Global Youth and Family Ministry is a new venture for Mission to the World. We want not only to minister to our own missionary kids (MK's) but to also reach the youth culture around the world where we have teams and partners working to build and strength churches. I can't think of many places where a financial investment in a missionary will have such a world-wide impact. This ministry is perhaps one of the most strategic areas of ministry in Mission to the World.

As it relates to ministering to our own MK's, think with me for a minute about them. If you have teenagers or are aware of the youth programs in your church, think of how many times your child or the youth of your church are touched by the church. Youth groups, bible studies, weekend retreats, sunday school, etc. There could be as many as 3 - 5 opportunities a week for your students to be have contact with the church and the gospel message. MK's don't have this opportunity. Some youth live in such areas that there may not be a church or if there is one it may not speak their heart language and probably will not have a youth program. The MK's might be the only youth in that church.

The Global Youth and Family Ministry is working with PCA youth pastors and our MTW team leaders to provide more resources and opportunities for our MK's to grow in their personal relationship with Christ and to decrease the isolation they experience. These MK's are often the greatest gift to missions that can be given. If they have a positive experience on the field and grow in their love for Christ many of them will return to the field and serve very effectively for many years as adults. In addition, when our MK's are adjusting well to the field families stay on the field longer. If a teenager is struggling overseas sometimes missionary parents are forced to leave the field. What a tragedy for a missionary that has invested years of cross-cultural and language learning to have to come home, when it could have been prevented. Ministering to these youth overseas is vital to helping our families be strong and healthy and keeping them on the field.

I hear over and over again from our team leaders and those working with church planting that the majority of our churches are completely missing the youth in their culture. What good will it do to plant a church that will die in a few years because it has not reached the younger generation? Again, the Global Youth and Family ministry is meeting with our team leaders to begin targeting ministry to youth. We hope to raise up national youth pastors and provide them with training that will enable them to reach this next generation.

Ruthanne is a vital link in this ministry. Without her leadership and skill we simply can't get this work done. Ruthanne, because of being an MK herself has a passion for reaching our MKs and the youth of the world. Again, I will say that I can't think of any ministry that will have as much impact on missions as this.

On behalf of the nearly 400 MK's with MTW between the ages of 11-25 thank you for your consideration of support for Ruthanne Burch. I pray that you will see the importance of this ministry and will give generously to her support.

Steve Collins

Director of Spiritual Life, Mission to the World