

How to pray for mission parents

The first point below is a key to all the others:

- Making sure their work, with all its attendant demands, stresses and exhaustion, doesn't cause them to drop the ball on their biggest ministry: **raising their kids**. *Some former-TCKs talk about feeling like 'mission orphans'.*
- While nurturing children who have to do cross-cultural adjustments all the time, that parents help them grow with **a secure sense of identity**. Part of this is keeping the links between the passport country and work country fresh and active. *For example, regular, meaningful contact with grandparents.*
- Wisdom for parents regarding **the dangers of the mission location**, be they persecution, civil unrest, health concerns or the very rare chance of a sexual predator hiding behind the trusted face of a co-worker.
- God's grace and blessing for parents when they come up against **different parenting styles (and criticism)** from either co-workers or the local culture. *One family in SE Asia were laughed at by locals for putting their 6-month-old in its own room to sleep; a mum in South Sahara was pestered by local mothers for letting her baby cry.*
- That parents remember to prepare in advance for **what educational placement their teenage kids will need next**. *Planning and research ahead of time — sometimes 3-4 years ahead — is needed to understand the pre-requisites to get into certain tertiary courses.*

- For plenty of times of **family bonding and fun**, to make good memories as a family. *Family outings are not a luxury taking the parents away from their mission, they're normal; vital for wellbeing.*



TCK lambs in a Bingham Academy school play