

A MISSIONARY KID

By Tim Dinkins, written from HA in the United States

“Kuwoo Kuwoo” was the sound of the wild monkeys that woke me up each day in the tropical jungles of the Cameron Highlands, Malaysia, where I attended Chefoo school for the past four years. Today I’m thrilled to tell you why I am so happy to be a Missionary Kid.

What’s your favorite kind of food? One of the ten positive things of being an MK is that you get to try many different types of food. Some are really good, but some would just make you sick. The strangest foods I ever had were barbecued rat and fried grasshopper. My favorite food was Kowtom, a soup made of rice and spices.

Friends! How many do you have? Where are they from? Some of my friends are from New Zealand, Australia, England, Korea, Thailand, Canada and America. With all these international friends I have learned all about their countries, their cultures and religions.

Schooling has been a very positive experience for me. For the last four years I have had teachers who are so dedicated to the Lord and teaching that they leave their money and careers to come out to Malaysia and teach us what we need to know.

What is your favorite vacation spot? Mine is a tropical beach called Prajuap. It is reserved for MKs like me. This beach has everything from crashing waves and swaying palm trees to flashing fireworks. Best of all, it is surrounded by a Christian atmosphere.

“Oh, The Places You Will Go” was a book by Dr. Seuss that I once read and enjoyed. That title describes my life. I have been on some ten days of airplane flights in my life. I have been to Tokyo, Japan, Hawaii, America, Thailand, and Hong Kong. One trip returning from Thailand to the US was 20 hours long.

Letters. How many do you write a month? I have written once a week for a few years in Malaysia. Writing all those essays and getting my thoughts on paper also helped me share things with my family and God.

Hobbies. What are your favorite hobbies? At Chefoo we have Aunties who encourage us to take an interest in different things. I like to collect international stamps, coins and souvenirs. Crafts take up a lot of my free time. I enjoy painting, sketching and drawing cartoons.

What is soccer to you? At Chefoo, soccer is football. What is baseball to you? At Chefoo, baseball is cricket. What is American football to you? At Chefoo, it's rugby. I like playing all of these!

Some kids probably get \$50 a month allowance. When I was at Chefoo I learned to survive with the bare minimum of \$1.50. But so did everyone else in the dorm. This taught me to be creative and get by on barely any money.

Lastly, I would like to say that coming back to America as a family has created quite a challenge for us. We have made many adjustments and would appreciate your prayers for us all. If I ever feel sad or downcast, I go over this verse which I memorized as a song: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Phil.4:13. □