

Raising Resilient MKs: Resources for Caregivers, Parents, and Teachers

Joyce M. Bowers, Editor (Colorado Springs, CO: ACSI, 1998) 510 pp.

Reviewed by Dedria Davis-Tidwell and published in August 1998

When I went swimming as a kid, I'd take a big inflatable beach ball and attempt to stay on top of it while in the water. Well, you can guess the result! Filled with air, the ball might be submerged for a few seconds, but it would immediately pop back to the water's surface and buck me right off! However I did discover one way to defeat it . . . I could deflate it a bit so that it sagged and crinkled and my weight would hold it down.

As I recently read *Raising Resilient MKs*, I recalled this childhood game. You see, the ball was resilient and bounced back despite my best effort. Similarly, those of us who care for MKs-- parents, teachers, dorm parents, "aunts and uncles," friends, and supporting churches-- pray that our MKs will be like well-filled beach balls, resilient to harmful outside forces. Our desire is that they be so grounded in Christ that they can "roll with the punches." But at the same time, we must be very, very sure that we aren't guilty of letting out some of their air so that they lose their resiliency and succumb to external pressure. *Raising Resilient MKs* helps us recognize ways to strengthen our MKs and avoid jeopardizing their resiliency.

The book opens with a brief historical perspective, reviewing contributions from the three ICMKs (International Conference on Missionary Kids). The focus then moves to contemporary facets of MK care: "MKs, TCKs, and the Body of Christ"; "Understanding MKs and TCKs"; "Resilient Families"; "Educational Issues"; and "Collaboration." Prefacing each section are resolutions adopted at the ICMKs, reminding us of our commitments to our Missionary Kids. The book then concludes with a look toward the future, and offers categorized appendices of recommended readings, resources for MKs, and concise information about the contributors.

The book's 56 articles are well-chosen, comprehensive, and thought-provoking, addressing current concerns such as: "Developing a Flow of Care," "The Importance of Fathers in MK Development," "Understanding the Needs of Asian MKs," and "You are a Protector."

All-in-all, *Raising Resilient MKs* provides both theoretical and practical wisdom which, when applied, should make us more effective "little Christs" to our Missionary Kids.