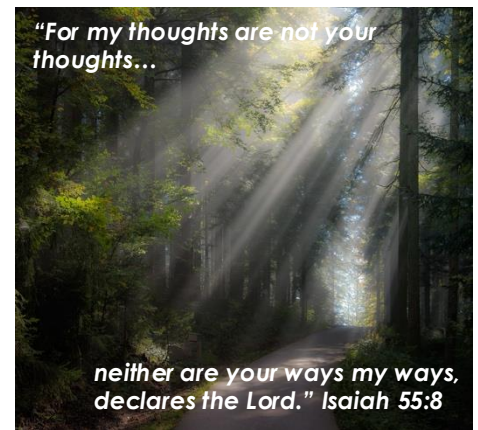


# THE CORBINS AND THE EMBRACE MINISTRY TO TCK'S

Quarterly Newsletter  
Spring 2025



## Our Ways are not HIS Ways

Don't you sometimes wish God had given us a reference book that spelled out exactly what we are to do; with the time we should do it; and the WHY we should? Having already lived a long life here on this earth, I can't count the number of times I have been so baffled by things that happen in my life. That from where I sit, it surely looks like God wasn't paying attention that day, and that event slipped by Him unnoticed. Am I the only one that ever feels this way? I would bet if you are reading this letter, that you have wondered the same things or something similar to that.

For the past 9 years, except in 2020 when the world shut down because of Covid, I have been serving at an agency conference in Europe every spring. I have truly come to love the teens of that organization and have cherished every minute I've gotten to spend with them year after year. By continuing to show up in their lives every year (something that is usually

missing in the life of a TCK), God has allowed me to forge some solid connections with several of them. This has led to deep discussions, counseling sessions, processing life with them, and just walking alongside them. Because people keep coming in and out of the lives of TCK's, trust is often a huge issue for them. So, it takes time and consistency to build a bridge to them that they eventually feel safe enough to walk across to you.

So, when God closed the door on me being able to serve at that agency conference this spring, I was baffled. Why would He allow this growing connection to be interrupted like that? It made absolutely no sense to me. But, Liana and I are learning that whenever He does something like this so unexpected, is when we need to stop and ask Him, "What are You wanting to do through this, Lord?" And as I prayed over this very question, "God reminded me of some missionary families in southeast Asia that I have invested in for quite a few years, but hadn't seen in quite a long time. So, I made a trip to Thailand and India and had great quality time with

three different families there. It was so good to see them in their worlds; to get to know THEIR children now, who are also TCK's; to pray with them; encourage them and love on them. And although I was in Thailand during the massive quake that hit Myanmar (and we definitely felt it), it was clear to me that THIS southeast Asia trip is what God wanted me to do instead of what I had planned.



### TCK TIDBITS

TCK'S (Third Culture Kids) are people who grow up in a culture that is different than that of their parents. They take on aspects of both cultures (the parents' culture and the culture of the host country), but never feel like they totally belong to either.

***"TCK's who rely on the strategy of wall-building have absorbed the idea that the best solution to inevitable goodbyes (and grief) is to keep their heart so deeply buried that nothing can touch it."***  
***--Tanya Crossman, author of "Misunderstood"--***



## Mentoring

You may recall that over the past few years, I have been asking God to bring me some young adults with a passion for TCK's that I could mentor to take up this mantle when I no longer can physically do this ministry. Over the past few years, He brought me 3 couples who are quite interested in TCK care. As I've been thinking and praying as to what this mentoring role might look like, I believe God has directed me to start regular meetings with each couple to look at what all is involved in TCK ministry; to find where there may be gaps in their understanding of what is needed (even though some of them are TCK's themselves, there can still be aspects they don't realize because some things may be very different than their own personal experience growing up overseas); to identify their specific passions and gifts and then brainstorm how those gifts can be utilized in TCK ministry; to identify areas of weakness, strategize how to build competency in those areas, but also to figure out what kind of person may be needed to make up for any insurmountable gaps; and then just to dream with them as to how their ministry might look, with no holds barred. Because of scheduling conflicts, we may not be able to start this for a few months, but it gives me time to refine more what approach I will take with them. Please pray for guidance in this effort because God knows what is most needed for them to be fruitful in this ministry.

## Coming Up

On July 19, I will be headed to Europe for a Ministry Essentials Staff Gathering in Latvia. Our staff, which is spread all over the world, rarely gets to be together. I have not been able to attend one of our gatherings since 2022. It is always a sweet time of fellowship, prayer, encouragement, and tons of laughter. We are like one big family. Also on this trip, I will be visiting a few TCK's and a couple other men I have poured into over the years. Please pray for safety, for God to meet us there at our retreat, and for God-ordained conversations with the guys that I will visit on this trip.

**Would you help us  
invest in TCK's and  
their families?**

**GIVE TO THE CORBINS**

Thank you for so faithfully walking with us on this journey. We are blessed to have you as part of our team. Remember, when God closes a door on something, rather than focusing on it being a "NO" from Him, may we all rather hear Him say, "I've got something better for you." No one loves us like He does.

Still Looking Upward,

*The Corbins*

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## Dylan

Thank you for your ongoing prayers in regard to Dylan. It has been quite the battle with, what seems to be, a new question mark around every corner. Because everything must go through Medicaid, it is often very difficult and very time consuming to get answers on almost anything. So often, the right hand never knows what the left is doing. To say it has been taxing on us would be a huge understatement.

Currently, we are trying to secure an occupational therapist for him. Please pray we can find one who takes Medicaid and who would come to the house to work with Dylan. Getting Dylan out of his room, much less, the house is very difficult.

Please pray for God to instill hope in Dylan's heart. Little by little, he is resigning himself to the idea that he will never get better—even if only to be able to live a somewhat "normal" life. And please pray for a ton of wisdom for us, as we so often have no idea how to best help him.

