

**An investigation into the issues
faced by Missionary Kids upon
returning to Britain**

**by Pam Gouthwaite
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Abstract.

The question I have looked at in doing this piece of research:

“An investigation into the issues Missionary Kids face upon returning to Britain.”

Out of a personal interest as ‘Missionary Kid’ myself and from the point of view of a youth worker I wanted to discover whether all Missionary kids have similar experiences or whether these vary from person to person. If they vary then what is it that causes them to be different? Do all Missionary kids find the transition difficult or does this too depend on the person? If some find it easier than others what has made that difference? What, if anything can help the Missionary Kid to have a smoother ride into Britain?

In order to be able to answer these questions I reduced the variables by recruiting participants connected with one particular missionary organisation. All their parents were or are missionaries in Brazil. I realise that this makes the sample, and thus the results, very specific but I believe that my analysis and discussion of my findings demonstrate that this is actually a benefit. Little of the available research and literature is specific so this project shows how the present discussion around Missionary Kids is applicable to the experiences of particular individuals.

I have looked at the transition process as a whole and investigated into what is involved in preparing to return, re-entry itself, and adapting to life in Britain. Having discussed these I make suggestions for what different people involved in the life of Missionary Kids can do to help them in this transition. Aside from what I have studied there is a whole world of research that could be done in this area and I highlight these in my conclusion.

Abbreviations

TCK – Third culture Kids

“A Third Culture Kid is a person who has spent a significant part of his or her developmental years outside the parents’ culture. The TCK builds relationships to all of the cultures, while not having full ownership in any. Although elements from each culture are assimilated into the TCKs life experience, the sense of belonging is in relationship to others of similar background.” (Pollock and Van Reken (2001: 19)

MKs – Missionary Kids

Anyone whose parents are or have been missionaries. This includes adults even though the term infers that they are children.

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Introduction

Being an MK myself I had a particular interest in this subject as I wanted to discover whether other people experienced similar feelings and reactions as I did when returning to Britain or whether it varies and depends on the person. I found things to be very different from what I expected. People tried to be nice to me but I still didn't feel like I was understood. I didn't know how to go about doing things and finding out about things. I retreated into myself and wore a mask that didn't portray the characteristics I was afraid others would condemn. At the same time, however I stood up for my values and beliefs and wouldn't compromise on them. This didn't make me very popular with the people around me at boarding school. I struggled to 'fit in' and to adapt to doing things the way they were done in Britain as it was alien to me and I just couldn't relate to it as I had very little to refer to as a guide.

Being a youth worker I am interested in groups that are marginalised by society. Since my own return to Britain I have discovered that it is common for Missionary Kids to appear to be in this category of people. They are often treated as strange and 'weird'. Even in the context of church they often seem to be misunderstood and dismissed as 'having an attitude' and after a while people get tired of listening to them but not understanding them and not being able to relate. The MKs themselves get tired of explaining why they do certain things in particular ways, or say things that are often taken the wrong way or have a different meaning from the one they meant.

With the combined interest from the point of view of a youth worker and the fact that I myself am an MK I launched into this search to discover what others' experiences of returning to Britain were. I hoped to find out what the common experiences were and what contributed to these. I also wanted to discover how the transition can be made smoother and less traumatic, in effect, what would help MKs in their move to Britain.

Another interest I had was in that one of the things that struck me when I first returned was how few young people there were in churches. I had been used to the congregation being made up mostly of under thirty's but now I attended churches where the population was mainly over fifty. I struggled to understand why this was the case. I found it hard to be part of church life in a society where I was looked down on for being so young. With this in mind I wanted to discover how many MKs become Christians and keep their faith after returning to Britain. I also hoped to discover some of the factors that had affected them, either way, in terms of faith.

Over the time since I left Brazil I have come to know that even if no-one else understands me Jesus does. He was after all a TCK. Not only did He leave heaven to come here before returning but also within his earthly experience he spent part of his childhood in a culture different to that of his parents'. Although popular amongst many he was also looked down on and questioned about why he did things the way he did.

Literature Review

I initiated my search for literature on the re-entry of missionary kids, debriefing programmes and research in this area by contacting missionary organisations by phone and e-mail. I asked each of them whether they themselves run debriefing programmes for MKs and if not whether they knew of anyone who did. I then asked whether they knew of any literature on this subject that they could refer to me. As a result of this first contact I discovered that very few did any specific debriefing of MKs and none had any programme or particular material I could look at. Many mentioned Marion Knell and recommended her book 'Families on the Move'. A book called "Re-Entry" by Peter Jordan also reoccurred in the responses I got. Others I contacted suggested I read "Third Culture Kids – The Experience of Growing up Among Worlds", written by David Pollock and Ruth Van Reken. Upon further investigation of web-sites¹ I found that Craig Storti's book "The Art of Coming Home" appeared quite often.

It was quite a struggle to find this collection of titles² and Storti himself admits "few books on readjustment are available, and training seminars on the subject are still very much the exception rather than the rule" (2001: xiii). Through reading the titles mentioned above my understanding of re-entry has certainly been broadened and I am now much more aware of the aspects that are involved in the process. In this section I aim to outline what I was initially looking to find, the aspects that I then discovered affect re-entry, and how re-entry affects the individual, the parents, friends, family and new acquaintances and what can contribute to making the process more manageable.

What I set out to discover.

¹ I found relevant web sites by typing key words such as missionaries, missionary kids, third culture kids, Brazil and Britain, into a search engine.

² I am also aware that there may well be literature that is unpublished as it is for the organisation's use only even though those I contacted didn't seem to have any.

Re-entry is the process by which a missionary, an MK or a TCK return to their 'home' country. For the missionary this is more clearly defined as they are more likely to have lived in the home country for a considerable amount of time before going on mission. Many MKs and TCKs haven't ever lived in the 'home' country so aren't so much re-entering as entering. Pollock, Van Reken and Knell approach from the point of view of the 'children', whereas Jordan and Storti are primarily concerned with the adult experience³.

Before reading the books I had thought of re-entry as an isolated process and not seen pictured it in the wider context. I set out looking to discover what is known about MKs who return to their parents' country, for reasons other than their parents home leave, after having spent a considerable amount of time in a 'host' country between the ages of 3 and 18. I thought I would find formulated theories on what they experience, how they feel and what they can do about it. However, I discovered that it is not that simple and that re-entry is part of a wider, more complex process, that starts long before they return and is an ongoing process. The experience of returning is affected by a whole range of factors that go a long way back and are deeply embedded in the MK's experience of life.

The transition process.

Pollock and Van Reken (2001: 62-71) identify five stages in the transition process.

These are:

1. Involvement
2. Leaving
3. Transition
4. Entering
5. Reinvolvement

They explain how a TCK has to go through the process of leaving the stage of involvement they have reached wherever they are living, move to and enter into a

³ Much of what they say is applicable to the experience of MKs

new country with a different culture where they are not involved, and work towards reaching the stage of reinvolverment. Later in their book (2001: 200-213) they explain in greater detail how the stages of the transition process can be applied to the TCK and what can be done to ensure a good resolution of each.

Storti (2001:45-65) has a very similar approach to this process of transition. He names his stages:

1. Leave-taking and departure
2. The honeymoon
3. Reverse culture shock
4. Readjustment

He explains how an individual leaves one place and what needs to go into that process. Then, when the person first returns they are excited to be back and go through a period of enjoying everything they have missed. After a few weeks though this 'newness' wears off and they realise how much has changed at 'home' and how much they have changed while being away. This leads them into reverse culture shock which they need to work through before reaching readjustment.

Knell (2001: 49-55) borrows the Pollock and Van Reken model and uses it to discuss the same process. Jordan doesn't get as far as identifying stages but highlights points that fit into each of these categories.

They each discuss the aspects of the above models to varying degrees.

How this affected my research.

In realising the process of returning is so complex and seeing it pinpointed in the models above I decided that I couldn't look at re-entry in isolation but needed to look at it in the wider context. With this in mind I included questions that ask about

their lives before returning, preparing to return, what helped when returning, how they coped with culture shock and how they see themselves now and in the future. I hoped that this would give me a bigger picture in which I could place the issues they faced on re-entry.

Ted Ward has written an article⁴ in which he questions the concerns so many missionaries have about their kids. I will refer to one of his comments in the discussion. Another author I looked at in less detail, is Graham Fawcett and his book 'Ad-mission'. His writings are useful for devising debriefing programmes.

⁴ The Anxious Climate of Concern for Missionary Children (1989)

Methodology

Introduction: Decision making

I started off thinking I would conduct this study on Third Culture Kids⁵ (TCKs). Due to my personal experience I had a general interest in anyone who has grown up in one culture with parents from another. However, I decided this was too broad a category⁶ and would, therefore, not enable me to come up with very precise conclusions to a question. I felt that the data would lose validity and reliability because my sample would be too small to be representative of TCKs in general.

As a result my emphasis moved to Missionary Kids⁷ (MKs) only but I still felt this contained too much variety to allow me to come up with substantial results. I thus decided to reduce the scope of the study to include only MKs whose parents had worked in Brazil. For ethical reasons I could only conduct this research on adults so that they could give me their own informed consent.

In coming to this decision I started contacting missionary organisations who have missionaries in Brazil. I soon found that it was slow going and, more specifically, that the practicalities of contacting MKs were more difficult and time consuming than I had originally thought. One organisation told me that I would have to send them the letter explaining what I wanted to do and they would then contact the MK but that it would then be up to the MK to contact me if they were interested⁸. I realised this process would take a long time. I would firstly be relying on others to do their part in forwarding my initial letter. After that I would have no way of

⁵ “A Third Culture Kid is a person who has spent a significant part of his or her developmental years outside the parents’ culture. The TCK builds relationships to all of the cultures, while not having full ownership in any. Although elements from each culture are assimilated into the TCKs life experience, the sense of belonging is in relationship to others of similar background.” (Pollock and Van Reken (2001: 19)

⁶ This category is too broad as it includes anyone who has spent a reasonable length of time living in a culture that isn’t their parents.

⁷ When talking about MKs I do not necessarily mean children. My research was only with over 18s but anyone who’s parents are or were missionaries are called MKs.

⁸ This was for reasons of confidentiality. The missionary organisation, rightly, wanted to contact the MK themselves rather than give me the contact details.

knowing whether the MK was interested until they got back to me but this, in itself, could take them a long time and many of them may not have contacted me at all. In the meantime I would be uncertain as to whether anyone would take part at all and could have been left without any participants and no research. I decided there were too many links in the chain for it to be feasible in the amount of time available.

Having reached this conclusion I narrowed the field down to MKs links to one particular organisation with which I have close links. This way my contact with the MKs was more accessible as I know many of them personally and could more easily contact others. This meant that I wasn't relying so heavily on other people to help me make the initial contact. Another reason for choosing to do this is that I would be contacting people who knew me and would therefore trust me. It would give specific insight into what MKs returning from Brazil with this organisation face and would. I hope that the results of the research can be used by organisations and churches to improve present, often non-existent practice.

With this established, I moved on to defining more detailed boundaries. I decided on the following criteria:

- back in Britain for up to 10 years but to try to get a group with varying times since their return
- had spent 5 years or more of their formative years (3-18) in Brazil
- mixture of Christians and non-Christians
- mixture of males and females
- mixture of people who now live in Brazil and Britain

Having grown up in this environment I made the judgement that these boundaries would either be essential to the study or useful to discover more about. I also needed to make sure there weren't too many variables in the sample so that the results would be valid.

Bearing these in mind I put together a list of all the people I could think of who would help to fill those categories. Initially I was going to pick a group of people from this list, who would give me the variations I was looking for but decided instead to contact as many as possible. I hoped this would keep my options open and also thought I would be more likely to get a reasonable amount of people taking part in the study. It also meant that in the event of having too much data to analyse I could choose to use data that fulfilled those characteristics and, although this would leave others out, it would at least mean that I had enough to work with.

In the meantime I was also deciding what method of research to use. After analysing and evaluating my pilot study⁹ I decided to change the methods I used for the main research from semi-structured interviews¹⁰ to qualitative questionnaires¹¹ which I either e-mailed or posted to thirteen people (eight were returned). The reasons for choosing questionnaires are:

- the participants have time to read the question and think about it which allows them to voice their answers in the way they intend them
- the structure of a questionnaire is consistent and therefore easier to analyse and compare one to the other
- if thought out properly there is no danger of asking too many questions in one go
- it is less time consuming for me
- the data is already written out and therefore easier to use

The questionnaire I put together for this research can be viewed in Appendix 1 (pg: i) and is discussed in further detail later in this chapter.

In using this method I was aware of the following problems I could come up against:

⁹ For the full details of this preliminary study see assignment for M13019 'Research Methods'.

¹⁰ For details on why I decided not to use interviews see Appendix 5: page xxv)

¹¹ I found that Baxter, Hughes and Tight (1998) outline the uses of interviews (153-156) and questionnaires (159-163).

- it could take the participant a long time to answer
- it is very time consuming for the participant
- if a person is not a fast typist they could be put off - although it was done in such a format that they could print it off, do it by hand and return it by post
- I might have to e-mail a few times
- It would be harder for them to ask for clarification of my questions and for me to ask for clarification of their answers.
- There is no scope for asking participants to elaborate on any particular point they make.

The rights of the participant in relation to the research:

With these in mind I sent a covering letter with the questionnaire explaining the purpose of the study and what their role would be in it. I made dates clear asking people to contact me by a certain time if they couldn't do the questionnaire but to otherwise return the completed questionnaire to me by a certain time. I stated that, although I would not mention individual names various people who might know them might read it and recognise them through quotes included. I would make every effort to maintain confidentiality and anonymity. I made it clear to them that there was no obligation to participate and that they could withdraw from it at any point¹².

¹² For an example of this letter please refer to Appendix 3: page vi

Evaluation of research method used:

During the course of carrying out this research I have found that most of the points above were confirmed. Others I came across are as follows:

- some participants didn't get the e-mail
- the attachment questionnaire didn't work
- some didn't answer within the specified time to inform me that they weren't going to participate
- some didn't return the questionnaire by the date I had specified
- some didn't answer at all
- I sent reminders but even for these didn't get replies from some people
- of those who answered most left some questions unanswered (different people omitted different questions).
- Some people mistook the questions to mean one thing rather than another¹³ but I don't think this affected the overall analysis of the data too much.
- In some cases people stated that they didn't think the question was applicable to them¹⁴.
- Some participants didn't answer some questions but didn't give a reason for this.
- In a couple of incidents I felt that people's responses skirted round the issue that the question directed them at (in an interview I would have been able to pick up on this and pinpoint it more easily)
- The practicalities of getting in contact with MKs were still more complicated than I had envisioned and there are some I had intended to contact who I didn't manage to for one reason or another
- Some commented on how time consuming it was, hard they found it to complete and how challenging it was.

¹³ E.g.: Question 11 in the first section: "If you held or hold..." the word 'held' was taken to mean past tense rather than 'supposing' as was intended. Another example was in asking 'where were you born' and 'where do you live now' I meant country and some people put city and country.

¹⁴ One person didn't really consider himself as ever having 'come back' to Britain so didn't answer the whole of the second section "Questions about coming back".

The positive points of using a questionnaire are that:

- it was less time consuming for me as I only had to do one proforma questionnaire and send it out to various people (so I didn't have to spend time interviewing them face to face)
- the answers were already written out for me and I didn't have to transcribe them
- some people responded very quickly
- I was able to choose my questions carefully and word them the way I intended
- the data obtained was very qualitative due to the nature of the questionnaire (this shall be explained in more detail later)

In terms of my initial concerns I did get comments from people about how long it was taking them to do. I don't know why some didn't answer but it may have been linked to it being so time consuming and challenging. There was some confusion about what was meant by one or two questions. As it is a questionnaire I didn't clarify answers with them and wasn't able to clarify what was meant by certain questions. As the questions involve the participant to think about their past and their feelings it could be quite an emotional experience. I can only suggest that people be aware of this and seek help if necessary.

The questionnaire

In this section I will explain the format of the questionnaire and explain why I included each question and what I aimed to achieve and discover with each one. In this discussion I have grouped the questions into what I aimed to discover through each one and what the purpose of including them was.

I kept the aims of this study (as described in the introduction) at the centre of the formulation of the questionnaire. It is made up of three sections:

Section A: Patterns of life (consists of 16 questions).

| Question number(S) | Reasons for including that question |
|---|---|
| 1-6 | To establish a biography of each participant and a context for their answers. To find out what the influences on their life were as they grew up. I hoped that this background would help me to identify whether this had any effect on later answers. |
| 6, 6b, 9, 10 | To find out what their perception of themselves is in a cultural context and how they see themselves relating to each country. |
| 11, 11b, 12, 12b, 16 | To find out whether the MKs can place their loyalty and if they do which country they choose. |
| 7,8a, 8b, 13, 13b, 14, 14b, 15, 15b, 16b | These questions all look at the MKs impressions, perceptions of Britain and Brazil. They also aim to identify what their preferences are and whether they can chose one over the other. They ask the MK to compare the two countries. I hoped to find out whether these bore any relation to the questions in Section B and the issues they identify about coming back. |

Section B: Questions about coming back (consists of 12 questions).

| Question number(S) | Reasons for including that question. What did I aim to discover by including this question? |
|---------------------------|--|
| 1 | Were they expecting to come back? Was their return planned? |
| 2 and 4 | What were their expectations, fears, hopes and perceptions of coming to Britain? Did they find the transition easy or difficult? What, if any were the challenges? |
| 3 and 5 | What were the differences, if any, between their original expectations and perceptions and reality? Were their fears and or hopes confirmed? |
| 5d and 8 | What effect did the above have on them and what was their reaction to it? |
| 6, 6b, 7, 7b, 9 | What, if anything, did they think helped them in the transition? |
| 10 | Ask for their suggestions for what might have been useful and what could have helped in the transition process. |
| 11 and 12 | Whether their perception of either country has changed over time. Whether they think better, or worse, of any country now then they did upon returning at first or whether this is still the same. |

Section C: Question of Faith (consists of 5 questions).

| Question number(S) | Reasons for including that question. What did I aim to discover by including this question? |
|---------------------------|--|
| 1 | Whether they have taken on the faith of their parents or not. |
| 2 | Whether there has been a change in their faith between when they first came back and now. |
| 3 | Whether their parents faith and work had a positive or negative impact on their lives. |
| 4 | What they think other people's expectations on them were and |

| | |
|----------|---|
| | whether it affected their personal journey of faith. |
| 5 | How they responded to other people's expectations (e.g.: by rebelling, by obliging, by rejecting or by embracing) |

I recognise that this section is a lot shorter than the first two sections. This is because I believe these five questions are sufficient to determine what I set out to discover through it.

Section A is a basic outline of their lives up till now. I chose to ask these in order to have a context on which to look at the data in Section B. Through Section B I aimed to discover what the transition process is like for most people. I wanted to know whether they all face similar issues or whether it is different for everyone. If different, how do these relate to the questions in Section A. In Section C I hoped to find out whether their parents' job and the transition had any effect on their faith.

Despite it being a questionnaire the data provided was very qualitative. This is due to the fact that most questions were open which meant they lent themselves to creative, detailed, and richly informative responses. I tried to be neutral in my approach, as I didn't want to put words into their mouths, so didn't create categories but asked them to identify these where appropriate.

Process of analysis:

Having received the returned, completed questionnaires, I printed the hard copies off and photocopied them so that I would have one that I could use to annotate on and an original to come back to if needed.

Once this was done this I devised a referencing code as Denscombe (1998:209) suggests that “each piece of ‘raw data’ material should be identified with a unique serial number or code for reference purposes”. He says that “without an adequate reference system, it will be virtually impossible for the researcher to navigate back and forth through the data, or to record which bits of data are significant”. The process I went through to devise the system was as follows:

- Each questionnaire was labelled with a letter from A to H. I kept a copy of the key so that I could know which participants’ answers they were. This would maintain the level of anonymity promised in my initial contact with them.
- Numbered the pages
- I labelled the three sections of questions from A to C (each question already had a number).
- Numbered the lines for each answer (starting at 1)
- Numbered the columns in the tables C1 to C4

An example of a reference to data would be:

Participant D, page 8, section B, question 6, line 1 = D8, B6, 1 and would find me ‘some of my family was already here’.

With this in place I read through each questionnaire underlining words of interest and making some notes using the reference system.

In order to have all the answers to any one question on the same page I decided to collate all the data onto one document so did this though copying and pasting.

This was helpful initially but for further, more detailed analysis, I identified categories talked about and tabled the answers, within the previously identified groups of relating questions, alongside each other, in those categories so that they could be more easily compared and trends could be identified quickly.

In the next section I will be looking at the groups of questions identified above and highlighting what the data provided tells me about each one. I shall also show how they are interrelated and relevant to each other.

Analysis of the data.

In the first 6 months after moving to Britain:

5 people said they were not happy to be in Britain – two of these had wanted to ‘come back’

2 said they were happy

The two people who said they had no problem settling in had both been in Brazil for four years and went out to Brazil at the oldest ages. This suggests that having lived in Britain for a longer period of time before going out, and spending a shorter amount of time there makes the transition easier.

One person said ‘I never really came back’ and so did not answer the questions in this section.

The issues identified

Words used by the other five people to describe how they felt and reacted to these feelings are outlined in the table¹⁵ below.

| Feelings | Reactions |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">- depressed (4) 2 of which related this to the weather- Misunderstood (3) 2 said they were expected to be like those around them but often didn't know what to do the other said they felt 'belittled'.- lonely- excluded | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- rebellion (3)- arrogance, disdain- to withdraw and keep to self- escapism – doing something they enjoy (e.g.: reading)- to want to go back to Brazil- to want to lash out |

¹⁵ For full details on any of the data in this analysis please refer to Appendix 4: pages vii to xxiii. Numbers in brackets indicate the number of people who commented on that category.

| | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">- separated- suicidal- trapped and restricted- culture shock | |
|---|--|

It seems to me, from the data presented, that the transition process is difficult for those who have lived in Brazil for more than 5 years. Upon returning to Britain they tend to feel different from those around them and often misunderstood. For these reasons they are likely to feel lonely and left out and depressed. In response they rebel and have outwardly aloof attitudes towards others as they cope by using methods of escapism and withdrawing which can come across as arrogance.

Their impressions of Britain when visiting.

(Section A - question 3):

This question was mainly here for me to have a context in which to place answers to other questions. Five people made positive and negative comments about being in Britain the other two only made negative ones. Both the positives and negatives varied from person to person. Within the same visit any one person could have both positive and negative impressions.

Expectations of what returning to Britain would be like.

(Section B: question 4)

| | Positive | Negative | Reaction (5b) |
|-----------------------------|---|---|--------------------------------|
| Feelings | ✓ Exciting + scary (travel + new experience) | ≥ Be sad | |
| Home | ✗ Coming home Just as much home as Brasil | | |
| People | ✗ Friendly | | |
| Academic | ✓ Heard that school had good standards ≥ Good education | | |
| Reactions | | ≥ Want to go back | |
| Leisure | ✗ Fun | ✓ Boring ✓ Have to play rugby instead of football | Came to enjoy rugby |
| Weather | | ✓ Wet | |
| Faith | ✗ Christian school encourage me to grow as a Christain | | |
| Whole experience | ✗ Just another move ✗ That it would be normal ✓ English speaking | ✓ Awful | |

Key to symbols:

✓: expectations were fulfilled

✗: expectations were unfulfilled

≡: partially

People were more likely to move to Britain with positive expectations. Only two people had no completely negative expectations. Unfortunately, only two of all the positive expectations were fulfilled and one was partially fulfilled. The other five expectations didn't match up with reality. Of the negative expectations three were fulfilled and two were partially fulfilled.

Despite this most participants express that, with time, they adapted and the effect of the newness lessened with time. Initially, however, having most of their expectations not match up to reality it likely to have played a part in their reactions (as outlined above).

As we will see in this next section Britain and Brazil are very different and thus it is not surprising that Britain was not 'home' to most of these MKs and that they were disappointed. Having now had a broader experience of both cultures and countries they highlight the differences between the two. This may shed light on why they responded the way they did and why certain things could contribute to making the transition less of a culture shock.

Present view of British and Brazilian people and culture.

(Section A: question 7a, 8a, 8b)

Although I asked people to prioritise the differences they perceive in culture I found little correlation between the priorities. Similar things came up but they were rarely given the same level of priority. As it was an open question it is remarkable that people did often come up with very similar descriptions.

Typical words that came up describing each group of people are:

| Brazilian | British |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">- friendly- welcoming- accepting- less segregation and more integration- warm- caring- prioritising people, chat, enjoyment- laid back, lazy, relaxed- emphasis on cleanliness and being presentable- happier people- ambitious- 'naïve' in that 'they think they can change the world'- extrovert- passionate | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- reserved- standoffish at first- serious, cold, timid- warm- reliable, organised, pragmatic, loyal- worry far too much- more materialistic, financially freed, rich- cynical, ,- self deprecating,- analytical, critical, deep, complex- well informed |

Brazilian culture is painted as being somewhat chaotic to the outside eye but to the insider it creates an atmosphere of 'friendliness' and happiness. British emphasis seems to be on one of 'organisation', 'order' and making things happen. This can make them seem 'reserved' and 'cold' at first. Where in Brazil people are described as 'extrovert' and 'passionate' the British are described as 'timid' and 'self conscious'.

The words used describe stark differences in these two groups of people and their cultures. One is not necessarily better than the other as we shall now see that characteristics which appear to be negative are sometimes actually appreciated and missed. Sometimes opposite descriptions such as 'laid back' (Brazil) and the 'efficiency of meeting deadlines' (Britain) are appreciated or missed by the same person.

What is appreciated and missed about each country is outlined in the table below:

| Brazil (Section A: questions 13b and 14b) | Britain. (Section A: questions 13 b and 14b). |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Weather: warmth, heat, climate (7) - Friendliness (4) - 'the people', 'friends', 'hospitality' (3) - 'laid backness', 'relaxed lifestyle' (4) - leisure: 'night life', 'social activities', 'music', 'football', 'being able to swim properly', 'lots of things to do, regardless of financial status' (6) - food (2) - culture: 'being able to say things without fear of a strange meaning being attached to my words' (1) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Weather: 'cold'(sometimes), 'snow' (when younger), and 'seasonal changes' (3) - 'Friends', 'family' and 'the people' (5) - Provision of 'health care', good 'education', 'conveniences' and 'transport system' - 'organisation', 'efficiency', 'order + structure' and 'orderliness' even though one of these appreciates the 'laid backness' of Brazilians (4). - 'logical discussion' and 'being able to reason logically, intellectually + in depth' (2) - leisure including: 'BBC radio 4', 'my cats', and 'people here want to travel – encouraging me to' (3) - foods (4) - culture: 'I understand the culture' (1) |

It seems that although the people and the cultures are very different this does not mean that one is better than the other. Different aspects of each culture are missed and appreciated. Some feel they can understand or are understood better in one country than in the other. Nonetheless the above does highlight big differences between Brazil and Britain and how, when an MK has first moved to

Britain and hasn't made friends yet, coping with the differences can be quite challenging. The MKs do express that as they spend time in Britain they make friends, adapt and begin to understand the culture more. We will now look at the things that help MKs make this transition and come to a status of acceptance.

What helps in the transition process.

| What helped prepare them for the transition (Section B; question 6) | What helped during the first few months: (Section B: question 7 and 8) |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - having others around who were or had been in a similar situation – this includes other MKs, relatives, pastors, meeting Brazilians) - hearing positive reports about school and life from other MKs - having family in Britain - parents being around during the initial time - Watching culturally typical British comedy videos such as Faulty Towers and Mr Bean. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - People who had had similar experiences (other MKs, pastor, guardians) - Meeting Brazilians - learning to understand British culture - making superficial friends - keeping to self - being challenged to find something they enjoyed and to do it - time - having family in Britain - God |

| What they thought could have helped (Section B: question 10) | Why and how they think these helped or could have helped them (Section B: question 7b) (Section B: question 10) |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - meeting Brazilians - meeting others in similar situation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 'learnt to understand and appreciate British culture' - 'adapted' to being here |

| | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - having friends in 'home' communities - having 'previous knowledge of British culture' (food, clothes, humour) - and 'explanation of culture shock' - 'being prepared for the fact that there would be a transition' - 'to be accepted by someone' for who they were – being validated and not made fun of - talking though the issues of living far apart from other family members and ideas for how to maintain a strong relationship to visit Brazil | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - were able to hold onto personal 'identity' - 'went back' and saw that things had changed - see that 'British could be nice' - 'would know what was happening' not just blame self for the way they felt |
|--|--|

As the sample is very small and the questions were so open there are only a few things that appear more than once and are mentioned by more than one person. However, I don't think this invalidates their comments as I didn't restrict their answers to categories so where there are overlaps they are particularly significant. There are a few common strands and no instances where people say the opposite of one another.

In terms of what helps ease the transition process the commonly mentioned factors are having parents around at the beginning, meeting others in similar situations (other MKs or Brazilians), having some previous knowledge and understanding of British culture and what to expect so that the culture shock wouldn't be a surprise and they would feel more prepared for it. No one mentions having gone through an official preparation programme or being debriefed but there are hints at the fact that something like this could have been helpful (these are made by four people – even one of the ones who was happy to be in Britain). The opportunity to go back to Brazil and visit seems to be recommended even though this may initially cause the MK to feel like they don't fit anywhere they realise that things move on and change and that Brazil too is 'no longer home'.

However, for those two who had no problems settling in it is useful to note that apart from what I mentioned above, the process was probably improved by the fact that they 'made good friends', felt like they had 'more freedom', had others around them who were in similar positions such as other 'MKs' and people with backgrounds linked with Brazil. One says he 'played the system well' and that 'school kept me happy'.

Present perception of themselves in relation to each country

(Section A: questions 9a, 9b, 9c, 10)

| | Identify with (9a) | Fit better (9b) | Cultural traits (9c) | Home (10) |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|--|-------------------------------------|
| B r i t a i n | A, C | A, D, H | A, D, F | A, E |
| Brazil | B, H | B, D, F | E | B |
| Neither, can't say, don't know, mixed. | E, G, F | E, G | G, H, B, D | C, D, F, G, H |
| Comments | -would like to think Brazilians (D); | -At the moment I fit better in Brazil , but that could change in the future (F) -At the moment, with my current changes in lifestyle, with a baby on the way, in Britain. | - a curious mix (B) - become more Brazilian when speaking Portuguese (A) -too stressful to work out(D) | - usually wherever my family is (G) |

Over all it seems that one may feel more Brazilian or British in any one or two areas but it does not necessarily follow that the other categories will be the same.

For at least one category, seven people responded that they either didn't know, couldn't say, were even in both, were mixed or neither. Some placed themselves in one category but commented 'at the moment' saying that this is dependent on what their life is like now. One comments that it is 'too stressful to work out' and another says that their cultural traits 'become more Brazilian when speaking Portuguese'. One participant said they feel more at home 'where my family is'.

This suggests that, although some people come out feeling predominantly linked to one country over the other, most are uncertain, feel like a mix and swap between the two. A minority has managed to become predominantly one or the other but the country they link themselves more closely to isn't always the same one as some would say Britain while other would say Brazil.

Loyalties:

(Section A: questions 11, 11b, 12, 12b, 16, 16b)

These questions asked which passport the participant would keep, who they would support in the football world cup and the Olympics, and where they would prefer their children to grow up.

The results were as follows:

| | Keep which passport | Support in world cup | Support in Olympics | Prefer children to grow up in |
|---------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Brazil | B | A, B, C, D, E, H | B, D, H | B, G |
| Britain | A, C, E, F, G, H | F | A, E, F | |
| Don't Know | D | | | A, F |
| Neither | | | | E, G - other |
| Whoever is still in | | G | C (leaning towards Brazil), G | |
| No answer | | | | C, D, H |

As you can see only one person answered Brazil to all four questions. This is the same person who, in the section previous to this one, answered that they were more Brazilian in 3 out of 4 of the categories. No one else answered the same country to all the questions.

Passport:

Six people said they would keep the British passport. The main reason for this was that it 'gives more freedom', 'gets you almost anywhere' and that they Brazilian 'gets you into fewer countries'. One said it was because 'culturally I am overwhelmingly British' while another said 'I have settled here now', 'my entire family lives here' and 'home truly is 'where the heart is''.

B said that they would keep the Brazilian passport because 'I see my long term future in Brazil'.

D said 'I don't like the idea of a document statin my nationality... Logically, I would like to see it as insignificant and hold the passport which gives me the most freedom to do what I want, but again my heart says keep the Brasilian one!'

World cup:

Six people said they would support Brazil in the world cup. Reasons for this were that 'football is Brazil's game', 'I associate football and fun with Brazil', it's my 'nationality' and 'birth land'. Others said they support it just to be different and stand up against the crowd. One of these said that if they were in Brazil they would support a British team. One of these was the one who answered Britain to all the questions in the previous section.

F supports Britain because 'I'm British!'

G would support whoever is still in.

Both F and G were born in Britain.

Olympics:

As you can see, it does not follow that the participants who support Brazil in the World cup also support Brazil in the Olympics. It varies. Three of them remain loyal to Brazil and support Brazil but two change their allegiances to Britain.

Reasons for changing over are that Britain 'has a better history with and is generally better at Olympic things' and 'Brazil doesn't tend to feature greatly in comparison'.

Prefer children to grow up:

One of the people who said Brazil explains that 'much of their family would be in Brazil' and two people who didn't answer said one of the reasons was because their families and people they care about are in Britain but in some ways they would quite like to say Brazil.

Comments about the benefits of bringing children up in Britain centre on the better education and other provisions such as benefits and facilities. One said it's 'almost not worth it' because of the 'restrictions under the excuse of what is safe + proper'.

It appears that there is little correlation between where the MKs themselves feel they identify with, fit in better, demonstrate more cultural traits of, and feel more at home in, and where they place their loyalty. Different factors seem to be at work here.

Once again, however it is interesting how many are divided, for whatever reason, between the two countries in different answers. This was demonstrated above as well. It seems that no matter how much they want to say they belong more in one place or another they cannot completely detach themselves from one or another. One person has come very close as the only question they didn't answer Brazil to was that of cultural traits. The others, on the whole seem to enjoy the mix within them and take advantage of the benefits this offers. It gives them freedom to align themselves by one country in one thing and another in something else. A prime example of this was in supporting Brazil in the world cup as it is generally better.

Has the transition had any effect on their faith:

| | Would you have said you were a Christian when you came back? | Are you a Christian? | Change over time |
|------------------|---|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| yes | A, B, C, D, E, G, H | A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H | All same |
| no answer | F | | don't know |
| comments | in a Brazilian mould | I'm a believer, but I don't practise | |

In this section I hoped to find out whether the transition had any effect on their faith.

Despite the fact that I thought a couple of these people might say they weren't Christians I found that they all say they are. It would be interesting to find out more about this on a larger scale and discover what percentage of MKs become Christians. It would also be interesting to compare this to the 'kids' of clergy and other church leaders to see what the comparison between the results is.

People said they 'respected' their parents work and that they were 'brought up very well' and were 'grateful for [their] upbringing'. They tended to enjoy the 'company of Brazilian Christians and some were 'always surrounded by Christian thoughts and people'. One person expressed a resentment of having 'always been told to go to church, to do this and to do that'. Other thoughts were that they had experienced a 'bigger world picture' and seen 'suffering and poverty' but that this made them question 'God's heart for people'. People said that it encouraged them in their faith, that faith became their anchor and that their faith was 'formed, shaped, strengthened and deepened by their parents' work. One person pointed out that it is 'very hard to measure' and that they don't know whether things would have been different if their parents' occupation had been different, that the fact that their parents were 'Christians and good parents' made it easier for their 'faith to flourish'.

The categories their answers came under for what they thought others expected of them and what their responses to these were are summarised in the following table:

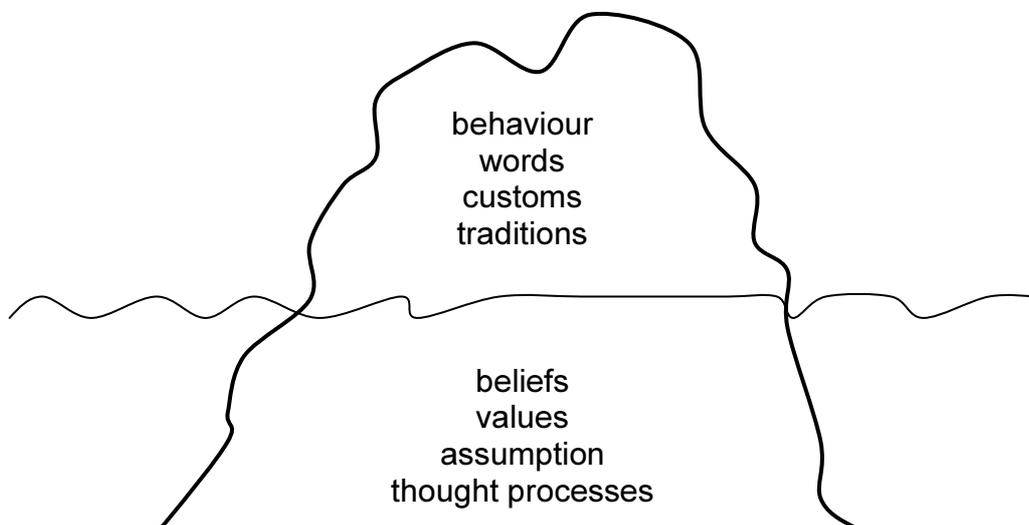
| Expectations | Responses to these |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">- to be perfect- excellence- to be a good Christian- don't care | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- to conform and live up to them- not to care and to be themselves- to rebel and prove them wrong |

These were written in relation to faith, academic achievement and just in general. So it seems there are particular ways of reacting to what others expect but nothing stands out as being the most common.

Discussion.

Although most of the authors debate similar points of view in their writings, different people highlight different aspects of the re-entry process and factors linked to it. Ward (1989) is the only author to say that there 'is little persuasive evidence of the negative effects of the rumoured threats: cultural confusion, linguistic confusion, or rootlessness', whereas all the others agree that it is an issue and go into these in depth. Having set this scene they then discuss how MKs and TCKs can be helped in this transition. Following on from the analysis of my data I would like to discuss the findings in relation to what others have written in this area.

In terms of culture Pollock and Van Reken (2001:41) explain that there are two levels of culture. They describe these by using Kohls' iceberg model. One part is those characteristics that appear above the surface, while the other section is more hidden and appear below.



Knell (2001:24-5) backs this up in saying that "Culture expresses itself in what we do, what we say, the customs and traditions we follow. Underneath those outward

expressions of culture lie the internal workings, what we believe, our values and assumptions about ourselves and the world in which we live, the way we think.”

So when MKs express that they experienced culture shock upon return that would suggest that there was conflict between their culture and that of those around them. Initially they say they feel misunderstood, lonely and separated. When such a difference was later highlighted between their perceptions of Brazilian and British people it is understandable that they feel this way. If Brazilians are indeed more ‘friendly’, ‘welcoming’, ‘warm’ and ‘accepting’ then the move to Britain where they perceive the people to be ‘reserved’, ‘serious’, ‘cold’ and ‘timid’ creates quite a contrast. It jeopardises the cultural behaviours they are used to. However, it would appear that one’s culture is not completely fixed as after spending a longer time in Britain they were able to say that they had begun to understand the culture, accept and practice it which suggests a certain amount of cultural adaptation has taken place.

Pollock and Van Reken (2001:53) use a model, which puts the whole re-entry experience into context. In it they identify ‘foreigner’, ‘hidden immigrant’, ‘adopted’ and ‘mirror’ type of people:

| | |
|--|---|
| <u>Foreigner</u> Look different Think different | <u>Hidden immigrant</u> Look alike Think different |
| <u>Adopted</u> Look different Think alike | <u>Mirror</u> Look alike Think alike |

During a transition it is likely that the MK would be moving from one of these segments to another. The MKs who took part in my study all look like the British as they have at least one British parent. Depending on how much they have been immersed in Brazilian society and culture and how heavy the British influence in their lives has been, it is most probable that they will find themselves in the ‘hidden

immigrant' sector when they first return, as they will have picked up different ways of doing things and thinking about things. This would explain why they experience the symptoms of being misunderstood and 'expected to know what to do' as they may look like they fit but they express themselves differently and are unsure as to how things work in Britain as opposed to Brazil. As Storti (2001:10) puts it, the MK has lost all sense of 'routine'. The 'predictable and unchanging sequence of behaviors accompanied by a never-varying sequence of conversational exchanges' that they were used to, has gone and been replaced by an new set of sequences and behaviours that they are not familiar with. As we have seen, however, this changes with time as the MK gets to know the people and the culture and formulates new routines.

Storti (2001:52) warns that after the 'honeymoon' period, 'the things you don't like about home stand out with great clarity, while anything you might like barely registers'. During their first months in Britain most reacted negatively to everything British even some of those who had been positive about moving. A common reaction to being here is to 'toy with the notion of going back overseas, back 'home' though you know that no home exists there for you anymore' (2001: 57). Of the MKs who took part in this study half of them wanted to go back to Brazil and or when visiting parents, wanted to stay. However, after spending a longer time in Britain they realise that Brazil too is no longer home. This affects them to such an extent that even now, in the group I studied, only three people can say they feel more at home in one country than the other.

Brazil is a country of varying extremes of social class. Within the same city one may find the most poverty stricken people and the wealthiest. All of the MKs who participated in this study experienced both of these. Their parents' work was more often linked with the poorer people but as from the age of about 11 they went to an international school with some of the richest young people in the country. For this reason most were already aware of the very different ways people could use their money and what they placed priority on. Only one of the participants mentioned the materialism they encountered in Britain while two people appreciated the fact

that the pound is worth more in Brazil so they get more for their money there. For these MKs it doesn't seem to have had the effect talked about by Pollock (2001:249), Knell (2001: 139) and Jordan (1992: 79) which was to react in some way to the difference in views of materialism. I expect that this is due to the specific circumstances common to their lives. Other MKs who grew up in Brazil but didn't experience both extremes of social class may be more likely perceive a, comparative, wastefulness in Britain.

One participant brought up the fact that there is a difference between gender roles in Brazil and Britain. It is interesting to note that the two who now live in Brazil are male. I would like to argue that it is easier for a male person to return to Brazil than a female. Women are still more restricted there and expected to be more submissive to men, get married, stay at home and have children. Although this stereotype is changing it still makes it easier for a man to be accepted back into Brazilian society and find a niche there.

In terms of ethnicity Brazil, again, has a huge range of skin colours from very black to very fair. All the participants are white but this would not necessarily distinguish them as foreigners in Brazil. The lighter the skin colour the wealthier one is likely to be in Brazil so they would possibly have that stigma attached to them. Upon moving to Britain there would be little change in this as the situation is very similar. There are varying skin colours in British society and white people are still, generally expected to be better off financially and perform better in the education system. Thus, this again is not so much of an issue for these MKs as it may be for those returning from ,or to, other countries.

I think the biggest factors that play a part in how these MKs feel when they return to Britain, and consequently how they react, are the hidden aspects of culture. What their values, assumptions and thought processes are and how these compare to those of their peers will play a big part. So for those two who said they had no problem settling in I expect that these aspects of their culture were not too greatly different from that of those around them. For the others, however, varying

degrees of not fitting in with the culture were expressed. Some were unfamiliar with particular the dual meaning of particular words and what sort of behaviour was expected from them. One MK expressed that they miss 'not having a different meaning attached to my words' in Brazil. These are aspects of culture that appear above the surface and so distinguish the MK from others very quickly. When it comes to the hidden aspects of culture where they are likely to cause upset when they voice their opinion Storti suggests that they 'have to be careful what they say around people, careful not to project their own values and feelings into situations, careful to hang back and take measure of things' (2001: 54).

Jordan points out that 'if you don't adjust in some measure... you will become critical of and alienated from others around you' (1992:80). In realising that those around them don't necessarily agree with them they react by withdrawing, feeling angry, being arrogant, retreating into some form of escapism and wanting to go back to Brazil. When their ways are not accepted they 'rebel' against the perceived expectation that they should conform. Storti says that 'resistance' is a common and prominent reaction to reverse culture shock.

It seems that many things could be done to help MKs when they return to Britain but how effective they are is hard to measure. These MKs didn't go through any formal programme with the organisation they were linked to. Some hint at the fact that it may have been helpful in one way or another. They commonly express appreciation of having other MKs or people who have been through the transition process around. For these MKs meeting Brazilians in Britain is also mentioned highly among the things that help them the most. Those 'who have not had an overseas experience can never understand things in quite the same way as those who have' says Storti (2001: 25) and all the groups of people mentioned above can relate in some degree to what the MK is experiencing. Pollock and Van Reken say that it is at the re-entry 'stage that TCKs most need a good 'mentor'' (2001:253). Knell goes one step further and says 'TCKs need mentors of their own age group who will be the culture-brokers into the new society'(2001:148). Storti also says that 'one of the most helpful things you can do during reentry is to

seek out other returnees for a sympathetic ear.' (2001:41). It is interesting that it appears so often in the literature and is also suggested by the MKs themselves. I therefore stress that it could be of great value for missionary organisations to help facilitate this among returning MKs.

Conclusion

All in all I hope that my research is a useful resource for missionaries, MKs, TCKs, missionary organisations and others involved in the care of returning missionaries and/ or their children (such as youth workers). It is very specific to MKs returning from Brazil and the particular experiences of MKs returning for other countries is likely to vary in some degree. The issues relevant to them will be influenced by the cultures they have experienced. An example might be of an MK who grows up in a country where Islam is the dominant religion may find returning to Britain very freeing as they are now allowed to be open about their faith, wear the clothes they want and not worry about the food they eat. For an MK returning from Brazil however, the particular issues relevant to them will be slightly different. They may still be glad that they are now not accused of being heathens if they dance, cut their hair or wear trousers but they are faced with a very different society where there are fewer young people in church and people are, perhaps less acceptant of Christianity.

In this research the Brazilian life style has been made to look more attractive than the British. People appreciate the fact that the weather is generally warmer and dryer and that leisure activities are less limited by financial position. There seem to be fewer restrictions but possibly more dangers. Life is portrayed as being more fun. MKs returning from other countries will not necessarily get this impression of Britain in relation to their 'host' culture.

The things MKs appreciate about their 'host' country and 'home' country are likely to vary depending on their experience but, in general it would appear that most find the transition difficult in one way or another. The degree to which they find it difficult may also be influenced by how long they spent in their 'host' country, what their impressions of Britain were during that time and what their expectations were of what re-entry would be like. I certainly found that in my research these factors seemed to bear some relevance to the way they responded to being in Britain.

I would like to also make the point that, to a certain extent, their experience is part of the natural development of adolescents. According to Erickson between the ages of about 13 and 19 years the adolescent goes through a time of grappling with 'identity' and 'identity confusion'. So, if he is right, then all young people are trying to find out what their personal identity¹⁶ is at this time. It is a natural time to be experimenting and trying things out, rebelling and pushing the boundaries. With many MKs returning during these years¹⁷ they should be aware that this is natural but that the fact that they are moving countries and having to adapt to a new culture during this time could heighten these symptoms and make them more acute. They should be reassured that this is normal and be supported through the experience. If this stage is resolved satisfactorily they will then be able to move on to the young adult stage of social intimacy and be able to share the person they have discovered themselves to be with others.

Suggestions of what to do.

I suggest that the first step anyone needs to make in relation to this subject, whether they are missionaries, MKs, responsible for missionaries or in some way linked to them, is to familiarise themselves with the general things that can be expected of returnees. This includes general issues and reactions as well as particular differences between their host culture and British culture (or other home culture).

As mentioned in the discussion it is very important for the MK to have someone who can relate to them and reassure them that they are just going through the normal process of re-entry. This person should preferably be someone who has been through the process themselves but anyone who is willing to listen to them and try to understand them is better than not having anyone. If the organisation

¹⁶ Who they are, who the people around them are, and how they fit.

¹⁷ All those who took part in this study were between 12 and 19 when they returned.

has no way of providing this then I suggest the MKs and their parents actively look for someone to fulfil this 'mentor' role.

Another very prominent factor that seems to help is having parents around during the first few months of transition, when their family is due to return to the 'host' country. It is a good idea therefore to plan for the MK to return at a time when this is possible. If this is not feasible then to have regular contact with relatives or guardians or someone else with an experience of living abroad seems to offer immeasurable benefits to the MK as they negotiate the process of transition.

Taking note of the different stages of the transition process and acting on them is very important. Pollock and Van Reken building a RAFT. This refers to Reconciliation, Affirmation, Farewells and Think Destination. Leaving one place well has a great impact on how you enter the next place.

Pollock and Van Reken say that organisations can help by offering the MK the opportunity to make a visit to the country they have left (2001:254). This will give them something to look forward to but can also help them to realise that that country too is no longer home and that they need to move on in their lives. Jordan also highlights the fact that children should be included in the debriefing process (1992:118).

Suggestions for future research:

To make further comparisons between MKs and the offspring of church workers, especially clergy would also be interesting. To discover what the impact of being brought up in such a home is and whether there are any comparisons to be made could be insightful. As many of these families have moved around a lot too, even though their moves have mainly been within the same country, it would be interesting to see how their lives, the issues they face, and their reactions compare to those of MKs.

Another helpful comparison to make might be to do a similar study on MKs who grow up in other countries. This way the particular differences in their experiences can be identified and compared. Authors on this subject have so far have written from a general point of view, expressing what the common experiences of TCKs and MKs are but building up a bank of more specific information could be useful to the people involved.

Most research so far seems to have centred on Americans and people returning to America. Although general categories of issues faced may be very similar I suggest again that it would be very beneficial to have specific information on the experiences of people returning to other countries. I have looked at Britain but further research could give attention to another country.

I recognise that there are areas related to this topic that I haven't even come close to investigating. These include the impact of an MKs educational life on re-entry, how they relate to others and levels of maturity and development. Future research may find that investigating these issues in more depth could add to the knowledge that is already out there.

Theological reflections.

Many of the people who took part in this study mentioned that God plays a big part in them being where they are now. Sometimes it is that he has given them peace about being here, others say that He was their anchor when they were struggling. Many mentioned that they want to be where he wants them and want their children to grow up wherever he says is best.

In chapter 29 Jeremiah¹⁸ tells the people to settle down and build their homes and prepare to be there for a long time. There is a comparison to be made here

¹⁸ Jeremiah 29: ⁵“Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce. ⁶Marry and have sons and daughters; find wives for your sons and give your daughters in marriage, so that they too may have sons and daughters. Increase in number there; do not decrease. ⁷Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the

between the Israelites in Babylon and the experiences of MKs. For some of my group being in Britain could be compared to the exile while for others Brazil came closer to this. Some may have returned thinking they would go back to Brazil or found that this was their yearning once they got here. Many of these feel like God has told them to stay in Britain for the moment and, although they were initially unhappy with this idea they have now settled and grown accustomed to life here.

During their wanderings the Israelites carried with them the tabernacle as they had no permanent place to build a temple. In John 1:14 we here that the 'Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us'. In the original text the word used for dwelling place was 'tabernacle'. In some ways MKs have been carrying that tabernacle around with them but now it is time to stop in one place and let the Lord come and dwell. For many home has become wherever God wants them to be.

This doesn't stop them taking family and friends into consideration as most of them mentioned these as reasons for some of their answers. One person said 'for me home truly is 'where the heart is''. Knell (2001:19) says 'home is wherever their parents are, even if they themselves have never lived there. It is the family relationship which gives them stability.' As they mature and get older they develop more independence and find their own home but for many this process involves knowing God's will in their lives.

As both Peter (1 Peter 2:11) and Paul (Hebrews 11:13) say we are 'aliens and strangers on earth' and we won't feel completely at home until we get to heaven as we are 'fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household' (Ephesians 2:19).

What to do now.

city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the LORD for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper." ⁸Yes, this is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: "Do not let the prophets and diviners among you deceive you. Do not listen to the dreams you encourage them to have. ⁹They are prophesying lies to you in my name. I have not sent them," declares the LORD.

Even though this is true it doesn't mean that the transition is easy. As we have seen the experience presents its challenges and individuals benefit from being supported through this time. However, as one participant puts it 'Being an MK has its advantages and disadvantages. You become bilingual, bi-cultural and are given very good educational chances. In contrast, you move all over the place and probably develop a difficulty in building relationships. I would say that, on the whole, the advantages outweigh the disadvantages'. All the people who took part in my research expressed being grateful for their upbringing and the experiences they had in 'growing up between worlds' and I would encourage any MK to concentrate on the benefits of their experience and look for the positives. As Storti says, 'You wouldn't have to reenter, after all, if you hadn't gone abroad. But if you hadn't gone abroad, you would never have had the wonderful adventures and experiences that you now sometimes long for, never met the people you now miss, and never have learned those invaluable lessons about yourself and the world that have changed both you and home forever.' (2001:42).

Appendix 1: The questionnaire.

Investigating the issues faced by missionary kids on returning to Britain.

Section A: Pattern of life questions:

1. Where were you born?
2. If not born in Brazil how old were you when you went out for the first time?
3. Please use the table below to fill in the following details:
 How many times did you visit Britain?
 How old were you each time?
 How long were you in Britain for?
 What was the reason for the visit?
 What was your experience of Britain each time? (ie: what impression did you get and why)

| Time | Age | Length of visit | Reason for visit | Impression of Britain. |
|------------------|-----|-----------------|------------------|------------------------|
| 1 st | | | | |
| 2 nd | | | | |
| 3 rd | | | | |
| 4 th | | | | |
| 5 th | | | | |
| 6 th | | | | |
| 7 th | | | | |
| 8 th | | | | |
| 9 th | | | | |
| 10 th | | | | |

4. How old were you when you came back with a more permanent view to being here (ie: to study, or because your parents returned from the mission field)?
5. Since then have you been back to Brazil?

- 5b. If yes please use the table below to fill in the following details:
 How many times have you been back?
 How old were you?
 How long were you in Brazil for?
 What was the reason for your visit?
 What was your impression each time?

| Time | Age | Length of visit | Reason for visit | Impression |
|-----------------|-----|-----------------|------------------|------------|
| 1 st | | | | |
| 2 nd | | | | |
| 3 rd | | | | |
| 4 th | | | | |
| 5 th | | | | |

| | | | | |
|------------------|--|--|--|--|
| 6 th | | | | |
| 7 th | | | | |
| 8 th | | | | |
| 9 th | | | | |
| 10 th | | | | |

6. Where do you live now?

6b. What are the three main factors that have contributed to your decision to live there at the moment?

- i.
- ii.
- iii.

7. In order of priority highlight the top five main differences between British and Brazilian culture (in your view)?

- i.
- ii.
- iii.
- iv.
- v.

8a. What three adjectives would you use to describe British people?

8b. What three adjectives would you use to describe Brazilian people?

9a. Which group of people do you identify with more?

9b. Where do you like to think you fit better?

9c. Do you think of yourself as having more British or more Brazilian cultural traits?

10. Which country do you feel more at home in (delete as appropriate):

Brazil Britain Neither Can't say

11. If you held, or hold, both a British and a Brazilian passport and had to give one up which would you give up?

11b. Please explain the reason(s) for your choice.

12. Who do you support in world competitions like the World Cup and the Olympic games?

12b. What are the factors that have influenced that decision?

13. In order of priority what three things you most appreciate about Britain?

- i.
- ii.

- iii.
- 13b. In order of priority what three things you most appreciate about Brazil?
 - i.
 - ii.
 - iii.
- 14. What three things do you miss most about Britain when in Brazil?
 - i.
 - ii.
 - iii.
- 14b. What three things do you miss most about Brazil when in Britain?
 - i.
 - ii.
 - iii.
- 15. What three things are you most glad to get away from when in Brazil?
 - i.
 - ii.
 - iii.
- 15b. What three things are you most glad to get away from when in Britain?
 - i.
 - ii.
 - iii.
- 16. If you had children where would you prefer them to grow up? Please circle as appropriate.

Brazil Britain Neither/Other Don't know

- 16b. What are the three main reasons for this choice?
 - i.
 - ii.
 - iii.

Section B: Questions about coming back

- 1. What was the reason for your return to Britain?
- 2. Did you want to come back to Britain? Why or why not?
- 3. Once here did you change your mind about wanting to come back (either way)?
- 4. What three main expectations, if any, did you have of what it would be like?
 - i.
 - ii.
 - iii.
- 5. Were those expectations fulfilled?
- 5b. If not, what was different?

5c. If there was a difference between your expectations and your experience how did they affect you?

5d. How did you cope with/ deal with this?

6. What, if anything, helped to prepare you for coming back?

6b. Was it effective? Why or why not?

7. What, if anything, was done when you got to Britain that helped you in the transition process?

7b. If yes, how did it help you? If, no, is there anything you think would have helped (please state what and why)?

8. Within the 1st 6 months how did you respond to the differences you found between Brazil and Britain?

9. What, if anything, helped you adapt to being in Britain?

10. What, if anything, could have helped you adapt to the transition? Please explain, briefly, why/how you think they would have helped.

11. How has your perception of Britain changed over time?

12. How has your perception of Brazil changed over time?

Section C: Questions of faith

1. Are you a Christian?

2. Would you have said you were a Christian when you came back?

3. What effect did the nature of your parents' work have on you, in terms of faith?

4. What do you think other people expected of you?

5. What was your response to this?

If you have any other comments you think might be useful please write them here.

Appendix 2: Reasons for and against using MSN and phone for interviewing.

| | Positive | Negative |
|--------------|--|--|
| MSN | Cheap Conversation like Can follow up on something Is typed up – easier to use later and look back at Have time to think Could be less nerve-racking (less threatening) Gets it over and done with | Delayed reaction (time to think) Can't see facial expressions and non-verbal communication Could take a long time Could be hard to arrange a time Some might not have access to it |
| Phone | Easier to follow something up Easier to clarify More instant reaction – getting immediate, gut feelings | More expensive Hard to record Can't see facial expression and non-verbal communication Hard to judge nature of pauses. |

Appendix 3: The covering letter I sent out to participants.

Dear

This e-mail has probably come as a surprise for you so let me explain what's going on!

I am now in my third year of University studying Youth and Community work with Applied Theology. As part of this years' work I have to do a dissertation. I have chosen to do this on ***¹⁹ Missionary Kids (MKs) whose parents were stationed in Brazil. How exciting! However, as you may have figured out by now, I need your help. My main aim is to investigate the issues MKs face upon returning to Britain and what can help them in the transition.

I hope this investigation will raise further awareness of the particular issues most MKs, whose parents first culture is English but who have spent five or more of their formative years in Brazil, face. With this knowledge I hope to make missionary organisations aware of the issues and suggest possible action that could improve the present, often non-existent, de-briefing programmes for MKS. I am also looking to draw together resources that both missionary organisations and missionaries themselves will find helpful in the time leading up to their return to Britain (whether short or long term) and helpful once they are back.

With this in mind I have put together the enclosed/ attached questionnaire. Due to the nature of what I'm investigating it is quite long. Some questions only require short answers while others require more detailed answers. If you agree with the importance of this study and, are willing to, please take time to complete it. I will be very grateful. You can return it by e-mail to either:

(Here I wrote my e-mail address)

or by post to:

(Here I put my permanent postal address).

I also need to let you know that Mary Johnson²⁰ is supervising my dissertation and so may recognise who you are through quotes I may include or our discussion about the data. Many people have also said they would be interested in reading it. As such I cannot promise complete confidentiality but won't reveal individual names and will keep identities as anonymous as possible. If this is a problem for you please let me know and feel under no pressure to complete the questionnaire. I will respect that decision. If you are also interested in reading the dissertation when it is completed please mention this to me.

On a practical note, if the attachment hasn't worked for some reason please tell me and I'll try something else (e.g.: snail mail!). Please try to return it by the 7th of March (if you decide to fill it in) but if you decide not to do it could you let me know in the next two weeks please. The sooner you get back to me (either way) the better as I can continue to act accordingly.

¹⁹ For reasons of confidentiality I have not included the name of the organisation.

²⁰ This name has been changed in order to maintain anonymity.

Thank-you so much for your attention. I look forward to hearing from you.

Pam Gouthwaite

Appendix 4: Analysis

Section A: Impressions

Impressions of Britain when they visited (question 3).

| Positive | Negative | Reactions |
|---|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Easy to make friends good to see grandparents - Lovely! With a history. - Pretty countryside, beautiful winter snow. - Fun - Genteel and nice - Nice + pretty + fun - Sweets were nice - I liked being back - Glad that I could have British food | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - English people a lot colder physically, less hugging - Found British people rude, standoffish, too fixated on rules + not enough on justice - Terrible. Absolutely hated boarding school - Boring - Not over enjoyable - Not the usual to me - Expected to go back and for it still to be normal to me - Realised it was temporary so even though people were different just put up with it - Strange + difficult - Shockingly difficult - Weird + strange + different - annoying education - Big culture shock - Culture shock - Pretty strange | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wanted to go back to Brasil - Distanced myself from people in my class as didn't want to feel I was like them, they were not who I identified with. Didn't want to lose who I was. - Distanced myself from others but then found some brasilian friends and related well to them also found people at uni were all a big mixture and I was just another of the mixture - Couldn't wait to get back to Brazil |

Impressions of Brazil when visiting (question 5b)

| | Positive | Negative |
|------------------|---|--|
| home | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Always felt normal because it was the family home - Nice to be home with family + in sun! | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Parents had moved - My parents had left so felt sad I had no base - Not quite home anymore - Not home, changed. |
| weather | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nice and hot, home, wanted to stay - Fantastic! Warm | |
| holiday | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Holidays! (x3) - Natural place to be in holiday time | |
| leisure | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fun to join 'clube militar' for swimming and tennis. - Had a treat of going up north to beach | |
| people | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Always welcoming + friendly. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - People moved on |
| financial | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Much more developed, appeared to be a lot more wealth, I had money to spend! | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No free banking – eek |
| feelings | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lovely! - Loved it - Would love to go back - Was very happy there and felt comfortable | |

Section A: Britain and Brazil compared

In order of priority highlight the top five main differences between British and Brazilian culture (in your view)? (question 7)

| Category | BRAZIL | BRITAIN |
|--|--|--|
| Responses towards others | ii. Welcome everyone ; iii. everything is my business iv. segregation and integration of different ethnic groups – appears less of an issue ; all accepting | i. Amount of physical affection in public – less ii. greetings and introductions to strangers – less iii. it's their business |
| Attitudes towards others | i.: friendlier (B,H) ii. friendly more open v. I've got your money so, what you gonna do about it? | iii. cynical v. reserved cold + reserved the customer is always right |
| Attitudes towards life | i. always willing to make things work out ii. priorities = people, chat, enjoyment iv. passionate ; laziness v. laid back (D, F) vivacious | ii. priorities= jobs/ tasks restrict themselves too much for 'fear' iii. worry far too much iv. more organised analytical, critical, planning, completing v. deep and complex |
| How they are in themselves | ii. happier v. happier | iv. self deprecating and unassuming |
| What they place importance on in life | iii. cleanliness clean presentable | iii. Cleanliness – more relaxed importance of fashion, style constantly trying to improve it iv. more materialistic |

Adjectives describing British (question 8a).

| Attitude towards others | Response towards others | Attitudes towards life | Outlook on life |
|-------------------------|--|---|--|
| Loyal Reliable | Reserved Initially standoffish Timid Overly self conscious Cold Warm Hasty | Ordered Cynical Pragmatic Open minded Serious | Financially freed Rich Well informed |

Adjectives describing Brazilians (question 8b).

| Responses to others | Attitude towards others | How they are in themselves | Attitudes to life | Priorities in life |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------|--|---------------------------|
| Extrovert Credulous | Friendly Open Caring Warm | Happy Suffering | Laid back Relaxed Passionate Ambitious Naïve – think that they | Family based community |

| | | | | |
|--|--|--|----------------------|--|
| | | | can change the world | |
|--|--|--|----------------------|--|

What to you appreciate about Britain (*question 13*).

| Category | Comments |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Geography | ii. People are closer- as it is a smaller country, your friends aren't far away. |
| Structure of society | <p>i. Standard of Education i. people tend to be well informed, and it's always possible to find someone to have a serious discussion with</p> <p>i. the convenience of everything from shops, to telephones, to health care + Education</p> <p>i. good public health and transport system i. Independence- with travel- it doesn't matter if you don't have a car</p> <p>ii. Organization ii. relative safety ii. good benefit system iii. NHS (!) iii. the gentleness + consistency of the way everything flows iii. good jobs</p> |
| People | i. now probably my friends/ family |
| Culture | <p>i. I understand the culture ii. The history, background + depth to everything, including the language iii. community</p> |
| Spiritual | ii. church |
| financial | i. cheap technology |
| attitudes | <p>ii. respect for orderliness and homeliness ii. challenges me to be open- minded and accepting of others iii. emphasis on personal responsibility and honesty</p> |
| Food | <p>iii. sweets ;) iii. There is a bigger variety of crisps</p> |
| Leisure | iii. people here want to travel – encouraging me to |

What thee things do you miss most about Britain when in Brazil (question 14).

| Category | Comments |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Geography | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. seasonal changes ii. I never lived close to any friends in Brazil, so I always missed going to friends houses. iii. sometimes the cold! Snow- not that I love it, but you do miss it when you are younger. |
| Structure of society | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. The organization Efficiency of meeting deadlines ii. order + structure, conveniences like maps! + 1471 iii. safety Extra Curricular Activities – esp adult education courses |
| People | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. logical discussion(sometimes even post modernism) Family when they are in UK Being able to reason logically, intellectually + in depth! ii. 'educatedness' of ppl friends and family the people |
| Culture | |
| Spiritual | |
| financial | |
| attitudes | |
| Food | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. fish and chips Crisps ii. marmite |
| Leisure | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ii. If I went there now probably my cats iii. BBC radio 4 |
| other | Having a home there as I don't anymore |

In order of priority what three things you most appreciate about Brazil? (question 13b).

| Category | Comments |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Geography | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. The WILDERNESS! Passion, raw nature, excitement! i. Good weather- seems to make for a happier country ii. Weather as it seems to affect our lifestyles morethan you'd imagine ii. the climate iii. Weather |
| Structure of society | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Community feel and the society there |
| people | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. The friendliness of most people. i. the people ii. open friendliness and interest in foreigners ii. friendliness + warmth of ppl ii. welcoming iii. Friends iii. the opportunities |
| culture | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. being able to say things without fear of a strange meaning being attached to my words i. laid-back ness ii. The more relaxed cultural environment. iii. laid backness iii. Hospitality as it was first created to be |
| Spiritual | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> iii. Church life. |
| financial | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> iii. the way the £ is worth 4x more over there |
| attitudes | |
| food | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> iii. Good food, and healthy juice- a better way of eating. |
| leisure | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. the football spectacle ii. Being able to swim properly ii. Lots of things to do, regardless of financial status. |

What three things do you miss most about Brazil when in Britain? (question 14b).

| <u>Category</u> | Comments |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Geography | i. the climate! The weather. ii. The weather. Weather Warmth + light the heat |
| Structure of society | |
| people | i. The people. Friends the people My friends. friends |
| culture | i. Hugs and kisses as greetings Spontaneous hospitality ii. Happy passionate self expression (as in the football) the ease with which you can get to know new people The more relaxed lifestyle. |
| Spiritual | |
| financial | |
| attitudes | |
| food | iii. Favorite sweets foodstuffs – guarana, brigadeiro, churro, etc food |
| leisure | ii. the night life iii. The football. music social activities |

Section A: How they view themselves in relation to each country.

| | identify with (9a) | fit better (9b) | cultural traits (9c) | home (10) |
|---|-----------------------------------|--|---|---------------------------------|
| B r i t a i n | A, C | A, D, H | A, D, F | A, E |
| Brazil | B, H | B, D, F | E | B |
| Neither, can't say, don't know, mixed. | E, G, F | E, G | G, H, B, D | C, D, F, G, H |
| Comments | -would like to think Brasilians ; | -At the moment I fit better in Brazil , but that could change in the future -At the moment, with my current changes in lifestyle, with a baby on the way, in Britain. | - a curious mix - become more Brazilian when speaking Portuguese -too stressful to work out | - usually wherever my family is |

Section A: Loyalties

| | Keep which passport (11) | Support in world cup (12) | Support in Olympics (12) | Prefer children to grow up in (16) |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Brazil | B | A, B, C, D, E, H | B, D, H | B, G |
| Britain | A, C, E, F, G, H | F | A, E, F | |
| Don't Know | D | | | A, F |
| Neither | | | | E, G - other |
| Whoever is still in | | G | C (leaning towards Brazil), G | |
| No answer | | | | C, D, H |

Please explain the reason(s) for your choice (question 11b).

| | Keep which passport |
|----------------------------|--|
| Brazilian | I see my long term future in Brazil |
| British | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - culturally I am overwhelmingly British - have settled here now; my entire family lives here; home truly is 'where the heart is' - British passport gives more freedom; Britain is where I live at the moment and am going to for the foreseeable future - British gets you almost anywhere - Brazilian passport gets you into fewer countries as easily as the British passport, and the Brazilians don't seem too fussed about who enters their country, the British are a bit more picky. - is easier to apply for a new [RG] - it's just the way the world works |
| Don't Know | ' don't like the idea of a document statin my nationality... Logically, I would like to see it as insignificant and hold the passport which gives me the most freedom to do what I want, but again my heart says keep the Brazilian one! |
| Neither | |
| Whoever is still in | |
| No answer | |

What are the factors that have influences that decision? (question 12b)

| | Support in world cup | Support in Olympics |
|----------------------------|--|---|
| Brazil | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I see myself as Brazilian not English - No one else in my surroundings does support brazil (standing up and being counted; not following the crowd syndrome; Football is brazil's game; - I always have... have no desire to England to win, in fact used to want them to lose, possibly through a desire to define my identity as one ting and not the other - Brasil is my birth land; Brasil is unbeatable in football. - If I were to live in Brazil, I would support Scotland – just for the competitive spirit | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - pity: I don't feel like brazil usually gets a look –in - England has a better history with and is generally better at Olympic things. ; I identify more of my passions with Brasil |
| Britain | - I'm British! | |
| Don't Know | | |
| Neither | | |
| Whoever is still in | - I support the one least likely to win | |
| No answer | | |

What are the three main reasons for this choice? (question 16b).

| Would prefer children to grow up in | |
|--|---|
| Brazil | The fact that I prefer Brazil to England. They would not be considered British (my future wife is Brazilian) Much of their family would be in Brazil. |
| Britain | |
| Don't Know | Would want our children to grow up with us present as parents, so it would be wherever we were (possibly Portugal?) Nevertheless we appreciate fun and advantages of learning two languages so might speak Portuguese and English at home as parents between us. So long as they have security of a family home that they live in and go out from it would not matter massively what culture they are absorbing. |
| Neither | In Brasil there is more freedom but also more danger. There are more facilities + better education in Britain but there are so many restrictions under the excuse of what is safe + proper that it's almost not worth it! No where will ever be perfect! |
| Whoever is still in | |
| No answer | Want them to experience a variety of cultures especially Brazilian but my husband is Egyptian/german so i have to consider what he thinks I want to be where God places us not where we think is best Would like to be in Brasil but our families may not be there <i>Comments:</i> That's a toughy- I would love to bring my baby up in brazil, but because my boyfriend already has children who live in Scotland it is never an option. There are however great benefits of being in Britain- education standards are considered higher etc. Benefits for single mothers etc, are highly available. |

These answers could be divided into the following categories:

- Cultural
- Opportunities
- Family
- Others
- Freedom
- God

Section B: Expectations

1. What was the reason for your return to Britain?

Education: 6

Medical: 1

1 doesn't consider themselves to ever have returned

| <u>Participant</u> | Did you want to come back? (2) | Once here did you change your mind? (3) | Happy to be in Britain (initially)? |
|--------------------|--|---|-------------------------------------|
| A | Can't remember – not too fussed | No problem | Yes |
| C | Yes | Yes | No |
| D | No | No | No |
| E | Yes | Yes | No |
| F | Yes | No | Yes |
| G | Yes | Yes | No |
| H | No | OK after 2 years | Initially no later yes |
| Others | B: 'didn't come back' (when came back for school hated it) | Didn't come back | Still in Brazil |
| Total | Yes: 4 No: 3 | Yes: 3 No: 4 Doesn't say: 1 | Yes: 2 No: 5 Settled now: 1 |

4. Main expectations

| | Positive | Negative | Reaction (5b) |
|------------------|--|--|---------------------|
| Feelings | ✓ Exciting + scary (travel + new experience) | ⊇ Be sad | |
| Home | ✗ Coming home Just as much home as Brasil | | |
| People | ✗ Friendly | | |
| Academic | ✓ Heard that school had good standards ⊇ Good education | | |
| Reactions | | ⊇ Want to go back | |
| Leisure | ✗ Fun | ✓ Boring ✓ Have to play rugby instead of football | Came to enjoy rugby |
| Weather | | ✓ Wet | |
| Faith | ✗ Christian school encourage me to grow as a | | |

| | | | |
|-------------------------|--|---------|--|
| | Christain | | |
| Whole experience | ✗ Just another move ✗ That it would be normal ✓ English speaking | ✓ Awful | |

Key to symbols:

- ✓: expectations were fulfilled
- ✗: expectations were unfulfilled
- ⊇: partially

Section B: Preparation

What, if anything was done when you got to Britain that helped you in the transition process?
(Question 7)

| | What (7) | How it helped (8b) |
|------------------|--|--|
| Family | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - boarded during the week and went to Mum and Dad's at weekends - stayed with my family - parents were in England for a year went to the same school as my brother | I soon really liked school. |
| Friends | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - at uni I met some brasilians - The family that I lived with had previously lived in South America - Church was the biggest difference but even there the Pastor had also been in Brazil as a missionary - older boarders who also had a Brazil background - had good guardians | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - by helping me to understand some aspects of English humour: I did slowly come to accept some part of British humour + appreciate them. - challenging me to adapt to where I was + find what would motivate me again.: I was challenged to look for something I enjoyed doing + to take it up. - hold on to my identity - removed me from my semi-permanent situation momentarily and gave me repose from it. |
| Returning | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - returned to brazil for a month | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - showed me that not everything was the same, things had changed and life wasn't so bad after all - I realised then that my life had been through many changes in the past year, many of these for the better, my life had had a change in direction and I had prospects for the future and a plan for my life. |

Other comments: what could have helped (question 10)

| | What | Why/ how |
|----------------|--|--|
| Friends | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - meeting others in the same situation - meeting people who had already been through those stages– people who returned and had already settled with friends in uk | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to prove to me English people could be nice |
| Family | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -To have had someone accept me for who I was and validate me and my feelings, without constantly taking the mickey or making sarcastic/ironic remarks at me. | |
| Culture | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Culture Shock should have been explained– what it is and what the effects are | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I thought it wasn't me and I only realised that I had been through last year 5-6 years after I came back!! |

| | | |
|--------------------------|---|--|
| Formal programmes | Formal sessions where we might have been able to talk through as a family the implications of all living in separate places, particularly re: communication and the hightened stress of the 'precious' holiday time we did spend together would have helped us. | Family ties, already weakend from living at a distance from Mum and Dad for three years Brazil, just weakened further – especially in terms of communication of needs and deep feelings. |
|--------------------------|---|--|

What helped or could have helped.

| Category | What helped (9, 6, 7) | What could have helped (10) |
|---|---|--|
| Friends with similar experiences | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Another MKs positive reports of life at the school he was going to. - room sharing with missionary kid boarders with similar experiences - senior boarders who would do the bullying were also from Brazil - marrying my husband who is a similar background in that he is a tck. - Being able to help someone who was more different than me to adapt - Guardians! - Finding a boyfriend in the same situation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - being able to meet brazilians ; being able to commiserate. - having friends my own age in home church/town/school; wouldn't feel completely out of it |
| Family | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Family already there (D- familial support - Parents came over with me the summer before so help me settle in. - My sister came with me... | |
| Knowledge of culture | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - culture chock was minimal - Perhaps watching Mr Bean and Faulty Towers videos | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - having some previous knowledge of british culture - explanation of culture shock an ... how it could affect me and what it is would have been nice to be prepared for it and understand it before it happened, I just thought I was depressed, homesick. - Being prepared for the fact that there would be a transition! – this might have helped me in terms of not being surprised by it. hints of things that would be different: food, clothes, humour and what I could do to get myself up to speed and to understand these things. |
| Escapism | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - reading(escapism) - The knowledge that I could go home and visit | |
| Other comments | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - time - peace from God - I feel I have only recently adapted to being in UK and accepted this is my place for now - Can't remember – was happy - Though I was going to boarding school, so anything seemed like a better option – even Scotland (H | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - coming from a British school where English was spoken as much as Portuguese - I had no problems with the transition - I don't feel that there is any specific thing that can help people adapt, people react differently to different situations. |

Section B : Effect and Response

| | How did the difference between your expectations and experience affected you? (5c) | How did you cope with/ deal with this? (5d) |
|------------------------------|--|--|
| reaction | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Withdrew into myself - Wanted to lash out at what was different + shout at people ... | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - rebelled against 'going with the flow' - By keeping mostly to myself. - rebelled; just wanted to leave |
| feelings | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - School work kept me pretty happy - Depressed and angry - Didn't expect the dreariness of winter and this probably added to my depression. | |
| culture | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Felt very separated and different from surrounding culture - didn't understand ppl's attitudes and found myself constantly confused. was also expected by colleagues to be able to conform and somehow to know what I was supposed to do. - Difficult to ... feel any sense of belonging beyond the superficial. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - made an effort to learn about eng culture so that I could understand what ppl were talking about - The culture shock hit me! Just as I wasn't fully Brazilian nor American I was not English either. Furthermore England had moved on from the England I knew |
| friends | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Made some really good friends - Difficult to make friends | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - made superficial friends |
| Impressions of others | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Belittled the things I felt were important + deliberately (I felt) misunderstood me - Wasn't understood and didn't understand | |
| school | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - School was my home and its activities and possibilities pretty much defined my outlook on life I certainly took advantages of school life and played the system well <li style="padding-left: 20px;">- School turned out to be fairly nominally Christian and in the case of some staff pretty 'anti'. I kept up the effort of church going but found little encouragement beyond the Chaplain, who was near to retirement and mocked by most boys. |

| | | |
|-------------|--|--|
| Life | | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- reading to escape- It takes time to adapt to any country, and at this age I just felt that brazil was my home. For the first time – school didn't save me |
|-------------|--|--|

Within the 1st 6 months how did you respond to the differences you found between Brazil and Britain? (question 8)

| | Positive | Negative | What helped |
|-----------------|--|---|---|
| Church | | - biggest difference | - the Pastor had also been in Brazil as a missionary |
| Culture | - Brazil as a background was fairly glamorous | - rarely identified with what ppl my own age said and felt- their experiences were generally completely foreign to me - people didn't seem to understand why I would be different inside or even notice that I felt different myself | - older boarders who also had a Brazil background |
| Feelings | - Excitedly | - Excluded (didn't know anyone) - slightly depressed by weather - depressed - angrily - passionately rebellious - lonely - suicidal | - keeping myself to myself in arrogance + disdain! |
| Life | - more freedom - Fun - Thriving - Settled in without any problems | - Didn't get to know Britain very well was a little secluded to the school and hated it – also felt it was overprotective - hearing from friends in brazil and felt as though I was missing out | - figured that returning to brazil would resolve this |

Section B: Changed perceptions (questions 11 and 12)

| Britain (10) | Brazil (11) |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I think I thought of myself as fairly Brazilian in some ways. The longer time away from Brazil has shown that to have been chimeric or at least temporary. Britain as home is easy to accept as family, especially grandparents were here and then my parents returned to the UK. Britain as the best way of doing things is not a feasible perception for me as I have lived and seen another culture, which though vastly different is so for complex reasons – greater cultural and historical awareness allow me to hold my cultural Britishness lightly, even if it has been formative. - have begun to understand + accept + practise their ways; as I've begun to identify more with them. harsh view of their attitudes has softened have simply become used to them + accepted them as time passed. - Realise now that Britain is full of layers and my initial bad experience was only one slice of UK society and culture and it was probably worsened by my negative expectations... - Mostly it has mellowed – I accept it as it is and me as I am Some things I have learned to appreciate Some things I still object to strongly on moral + godly principles - It's still the same, I just needed a change - I became older, gained freedom, began to understand the British more, made friends, began to explore Britain and it's social boundaries. I don't think you can explain perception very well - I have become accustomed to the way of life, it still isn't great, but when you have friends and family near by, what else can you ask for. You make do with what life throws at you. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I haven't been to Brazil for a long time, recent images of violence don't fit my childhood memories. My brother and sister both live in Brazil now so it is a potential place to visit. We meet lots of Brazilians here in Portugal and they give us a cheery, positive reinforcement of the personality traits I associate with Brazil. Truly grasping the size of the country compared to Britain and the relevance of that to culture and development is something that comes after childhood, I feel I know Brazil less well as time goes by. - have had little contact with brazilians over time here, so don't think perception has changed dramatically, except insofar as I know that the more time I spend here the less I'll understand them when I return. feel quite separated from life there. was quite young during transition, so have become more aware of brazilian politics. - I realise it is probably too idealistic full of childhood memories - As a child, teenager and young adult – really up until my last visit to Brasil, Brasil was either hateful and not home or beautiful and the only place that would be home – depending on the season of my life. Now I hope I hold it more objectively – it was once home and remains the place I was born and grew up, many parts of it I still love but I do not + never will belong there. - A lot tougher to make a living and survive, still loads of red tape, but seems less corruption! - Not much. Not been there over a period of time recently (3 months doesn't count). After returning I could see that which I liked and disliked, more clearly though. - It remains a place where I would always love to go back to, but only on the condition that I could take my friends and family, I would hate to leave people behind again. At 19 things seems to have more meaning, as do people and you cannot leave certain things behind, like you could when you were 8, 11 or even 14. I figure that is why [my brother] felt the need to go back. |

Section C: Effects on faith

6. Are you a Christian?

- I'm a believer, but I don't practise

7. Would you have said you were a Christian when you came back?

| | Before | Now | Change |
|-----------|------------------------|---------------------|------------|
| yes | A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H | A, B, C, D, E, G, H | All same |
| no answer | | F | don't know |

8. What effect did the nature of your parents' work have on you, in terms of faith?

| | Effect | Thoughts now |
|-----------------------------|---|--|
| Faith | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - my faith was <i>encouraged</i> - faith was <i>anchor</i> when insecure - Christianity has always been - <i>accepted</i> by me - <i>Formed, shaped, strengthen + deepened</i> it. - <i>Not much</i> - im <i>still</i> a Christian | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Quite clearly the <i>fact that they were Christians and good parents</i> made it easier for my Christian faith to flourish . - except they were christians and tried to pass this on to me - <u>When</u> faith is forced upon you it is natural to rebel - I'm lucky that I have not turned my self against god |
| View of parents work | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>respected</i> my parent's work - I was <i>brought up very well</i>, and I'm grateful for my upbringing | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - come to look on my parents' work differently now as communication has let me into how they were feeling about it at the time, and as I have met other missionaries and reflected on the needs of missionaries. - Would things have been different if my father had been a baker and my mother a cook? I don't know. Very hard to decide. Very hard to measure. |
| Church | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>enjoyed</i> the company of Brazilian Christians in the churches that they worked in - always <i>surrounded</i> by <i>Christian thoughts</i> and people in Brasil a country I <i>did not resent</i> - have <i>always been told</i> to go to church, to do this and to do that | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - don't feel the need to go to church to prove this fact - worship and pray in the comfort of my own home |
| World view | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - created <i>bigger world picture</i> - inured me to <i>suffering</i> and <i>poverty</i> to a certain extent | |
| culture | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - my <i>lack of full understanding</i> of ppl's attitudes(I found it <i>hard to grasp the person's value</i> when things that they said didn't fully make sense to me) | |

Expectations and effects (questions 4 and 5)

| | Expectation | Response |
|------------------|--|--|
| general | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the best from me in all areas - I don't know and to certain extent I don't care... - Nothing out of the ordinary - To be perfect (at least within the churches) - In Brazil people expected me to be perfect | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I in turn expected this of myself as a result I got stressed at the prospect of letting people down or not meeting their standards as I was eager to please - Don't think about it... - I tried not to disappoint ppl that I cared about, but if I felt that expectations of good and reasonable behaviour were silly, I would usually rebel. - Proved them wrong! - I'm now myself, piercings, tattoo's, but people have realised that I'm still the same person inside and that nothing else matters. - I've always kept quiet about people's expectations, because if I had spoke out, they wouldn't have liked what I had to say! |
| accademic | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Excellence (if at all possible, effortlessly) in this environment was how I sought to have value, and how I understood the values that school life was based around | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As my intellectual understanding of the faith grew I was nevertheless slow to allow my heart and attitude to change in a way that would challenge or oppose the primary values and manners of my peers. Close proximity to more mature Christian models in my own sphere came only later when my parents returned and we resettled in a new church, and then from a missionary family who offered much hospitality when I was at university |
| faith | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - that I would be a christian - that I would be a good example - Either to be some fantastically perfect christian or to be completely lost! | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In the first to try and live up to it but at the same time to point out my humanity! - In the second of quiet anger + patient frustration pointing out my beliefs + behaviour! |

Appendix 5: Pilot study – the pros and cons of using a questionnaire.

I had an outline of questions in front of me that I used as a framework to work from in the interview. I arranged a time to meet up with the interviewee, bought a dictaphone and familiarised myself with it and then spent an hour and a quarter interviewing the participant. Following the interview I typed up a transcript of it. In evaluating the use of this method I identified that interviewing and typing up the transcript is very time consuming. It is sometimes difficult to hear some of the words on the tape. In typing it up I pressed 'record' instead of 'play' and lost two seconds of the data by recording over it. Even though it is face to face I still failed to pick up on some terms and ask for clarification of what the interviewee meant. On the positive side it did mean that, at times, it allowed the interviewee to ask what I meant by particular questions and that I could clarify things that the interviewee said. The data I ended up with was qualitative which was more useful to my analysis than quantitative would have been due to the nature of the question being researched.

Doing this pilot study meant that when I came to thinking about using interviews for a larger scale study I was aware of the following:

Positive:

- there is the flexibility to be able to develop on a certain area of interest
- it allows both the participant and the interviewer to clarify any particular question or answer
- gut reactions and initial thoughts are given

Negative:

- with some people living abroad it would be, financially impossible for me to interview them face to face
- even with those living in Britain it would be very expensive and time consuming to do as they all live in different places
- arranging a time when both are free could be difficult
- transcribing would take a long time
- meeting someone face to face puts them on the spot as they have to be immediate in their answers and have little time to think them²¹
- had more potential for inconsistency as questions are likely to vary from person to person

With the amount of time available for this study I decided that doing face to face interviews was not feasible. I looked at other ways I could do a semi-structured interview such as by phone or using an internet chat programme (such as MSN messenger²²). However, I decided that,

²¹ apart from if I gave them an idea of the questions I would ask beforehand (this could be a positive as it means you get gut reactions)

²² The pros and cons of these methods are in Appendix 2 (page: v)

despite the positive reasons for using this method of gathering data, it would still be too time consuming.

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