

Anna & Neal Hampton
How to Care for TCKs in a Risky World
MKCS Webinar: April 21, 2020

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Suffering and Risk are not the Same

Suffering and risk ask different questions...

- *Suffering asks primarily WHY and WHEN questions (Why did you let this happen? When will it be over?)*
- *Risk asks primarily WHAT and HOW questions (What is really true about this risk? How am I supposed to act?)*

THEOLOGY OF SUFFERING

Is not... (from Job's 3 friends)

1. Job suffered because of sin (*Suffering is consequential*)
2. Job suffered to pay the price for his sin (*Suffering is punitive and proportional*)
3. Job's suffering can end if he repented (*Suffering is optional*)

Is ... (from Job's friend, Elihu)

4. Job suffered because God desires to speak (*Suffering is enlightening, God is pursuing us*)

THEOLOGY OF RISK

- Our Foundation is **God** (*He is trustworthy, is sovereign over a story of hope*)
- Our Responsibility is to **hear** and **obey** (*He may have chosen us to risk*)
- Our Posture is **worship** (*He alone is worthy to be worshiped*)

Caring for TCKs in Risky Environments Do's and Don'ts

1. **Do** provide TCKs with helpful security technology (*Cell phone tracking, personnel monitors, etc.*)
2. **Don't** give technology to TCKs without equipping them with tools to mitigate the risks involved
3. **Do** coach TCKs through scenarios (*Being able to do something helps TCKs feel less isolation and resignation about risk. This greatly increases their resilience in risk. For example equip with Teens especially can have a naive sense of invincibility, so this needs to be done with appropriate cautions and boundaries*)

4. **Don't** scold expressions of fear or say "there's nothing to be afraid of" (*There's a lot of bad theology about the emotion of fear. You do not want to give your TCKs the feeling that fear means they are lacking faith or sinning, rather to help them be comfortable with expressing their fear, addressing it, and facilitating healthy responses to it like: "Courage is doing the right thing even when you are afraid."*)
5. **Do** embrace questions and give clear, simple answers. (*Like answering the question "why do we have to stay home all the time?" with: "We want to be very careful and stay in the safety of our home for some time."*)
6. **Don't** propagate Risk Myths when responding to questions. (*like "you're never safer than in the center of God's will" or "If something bad happens, it's because we haven't prayed enough"*)
7. **Do** inform TCKs about adults who are addressing the risk (*children need to know that their parents and other trusted adults are aware of the threats and are doing things to protect them. You may say something like "the police know and are looking out for this..., doctors are helping people and are working on a cure..., we have many wise people helping us know what to do right now."*)
8. **Do** encourage 5 people (who are not relatives) to unconditionally love your TCK
9. **Do** facilitate TCK connections (*TCKs are potent care givers to one another*) (*But do not force connections that are not there – "Oh, you'll like this person. They're also a TCK"*)
10. **Do** embrace different parental care methods (*fathers and mothers have different, but equally valuable approaches toward caring for their children in risk*)
11. **Do** identify the underlying need (*especially when it is expressed in a confusing, insensitive, disrespectful... fashion*) (*do they need comfort? Security? Assistance? Attention? Etc.*)
12. **Do** welcome risk as a potent season of worship. (*In the Bible worship is always part of risk. Rather than tell a TCK, "God's got this" or "God is still on his throne" it is often better to say "God is worthy of our praise, even in danger" and "Jesus promised us he would always be with us, even in times like this. What do you want him to know about how you're doing?"*)

TCK Risk Management Organizational Assessment

1. We have age appropriate resources available to employ in risk.
2. Our organization provides security information to parents so they are equipped for good risk decision-making.
3. Our organization's contingency policies include TCK care responses.
4. We have clear policies regarding relocation and TCK needs are an important component of those policies (relocation and transition often accompany risk management).
5. We have personnel delegated with the responsibility and authority of TCK care.

Resources (recommended by Hamptons/panel):

- Anna's Website: www.better-than-gold-faith.blogspot.com
 - "Lay Equipping of Parents"
- Anna Hampton's Book: Facing Danger: A Guide Through Risk
- RAM training: Risk Assessment & Management Training (By Neal Hampton)
- In the Warlord's Garden by Melinda Lewis
- Commentary referenced: Taking God Seriously: Major Lessons from the Minor Prophets by Stuart Briscoe

- Topsy-Turvy Kingdom by Josh & Dottie McDowell
- World Health Org published book about Covid-19 for those aged 6-11
 - <https://heavy.com/news/2020/04/who-book-coronavirus-covid19-children-kids/>
- Comfort for Kids Facing Grief, Fear, or Change - Tama Fortner
- God is Always Good: Comfort for Kids Facing Grief, Fear, or Change - Tama Fortner
- Healthy, Resilient, and Effective in Cross-Cultural Ministry - Laura Mae Gardner

Additional Resources (recommended by attendees)

- Article on "Snow-Plow Parenting" Statistics and effects on Kids for reference:
 - <https://globalnews.ca/news/5076459/snowplow-parenting-problems/>
- Far from Home: A Story of Loss, Refuge, and Hope by Sarah Parker Rubio
- Hinds' Feet on High Places (there's a kid version)
- "It Will Be Okay" by Lysa Terkeurst
- Help Kids Cope by The National Child Traumatic Stress Network