



Home Videos Community



Obed, 15, and Mozes, 14, are missionary kids (MKs). They were raised by their missionary parents, Cees and Mirjam, alongside their sister Rhodé, 21, and brother, Joas, 23, in Zambia and Malawi, before moving to their parents' home country, the Netherlands, in 2016. Last summer they moved with their parents to Uganda, where they are serving among the Karamojong. They talk to us about the realities of the MK life and making videos for their YouTube channel, Brothers Abroad.

WHAT BROUGHT YOU BACK TO AFRICA?

Mozes: Going back to Africa started as a joke. It would rain outside and our older brother would be like, "Yeah, it's time to go back to Africa". But then it got way more serious and I vividly remember the evening our parents sat us down on the couch and were like, "Is it okay with you guys if we started to think about moving back to Africa?" I was stoked.

Obed: So, after we got used to the idea, we thought about it and we came to the conclusion that we did want to go back to the mission field.

Mozes: We went to Uganda for a visit to see if we would ever move to Uganda, how it would be. And we met some AIM people here in Uganda, and that's how we got the idea of going with AIM.



WHY DID YOU START YOUR BROTHERS ABROAD YOUTUBE CHANNEL?

Obed: When we were in the Netherlands, it struck me that so many children had no idea what was going on in the missionary world. And I really felt a passion to show them.

Mozes: We're showing our supporters a piece of Uganda, not just the landscape, but also the people, the culture, what kind of people they are.

Obed: We are trying to give people a picture of what it is to be a missionary, which is living life in a different style than you would do in other circumstances. And on top of that, because it's us teenagers, I think we're giving people a feel of what it is to be a mission kid in Africa.

WHAT'S IT LIKE BEING MISSIONARY KIDS?

Mozes: As an MK, you learn to adapt to different situations and environments easier or quicker



than most people. For example, you're going to a church in Karamoja, you know how to react.

Obed: I think we have a broader world experience. And that leads to a deeper knowledge or deeper desire to have an impact in the world. Mozes and I have some really deep discussions about what we want to do in the world.

Mozes: I think you also get a strong sense of family and home despite where you live.

Obed: But I think one of the biggest challenges is knowing that when the day comes we're going to have to leave and we're also going to leave behind a lot of friends. It feels like you're not able to have a really deep friendship because you feel like you have to leave it behind again.

Mozes: Exactly. Saying goodbye to family and friends is hard, but the moment you see them again is just so much more valuable.

"Being a third culture kid and an MK is something really, really special."



ARE THERE DIFFICULTIES BEING AN MK?
Mozes: You guys, you see the fun parts of being missionaries, like going to Karamoja or moving here in the first place.



Obed: It's just like a lot of social media. We often only showcase the positive. But that's not what it all is. There's a downside of being an MK and being in the mission. The only thing is that you guys don't hear that as often. I think that's just something we want to let you know, that there are sacrifices you have to make. You don't go into being a missionary if you think it's going to be all smooth and fun. There are sacrifices. But, you make those sacrifices for the kingdom of God.

Being a third culture kid and an MK is something really, really special. These experiences will shape you for the rest of your life, and in a positive way. The bonds we create are so powerful that even over such long distances and maybe not seeing each other for so long, we're still able to connect with each other.

There will be hard times, but Jesus warned us about that. If we want to build the Kingdom of God, there's going to be sacrifices to make. And I think being a missionary is one of the most beautiful things you can do to build the Kingdom of God.

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