

## **ABSTRACT**

DISSERTATION: The Psychological Well-Being of Missionary Kids

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DATE: July 2018

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This study has presented an overview of the factors relating to the psychological well-being of missionary kids (MKs) after they return from the mission field to the culture designated by their passport. Past literature addressing MK well-being was reviewed and it was determined attachment with parents, experiences of trauma, cultural adaptation, and social support were prominent factors in MK adjustment and well-being. Multiple regression testing was utilized to examine how these factors predicted levels of psychological distress amongst a sample of 204 adult MKs currently living in their passport culture. Results indicated these variables, together, significantly predicted MK psychological distress ( $p=.000$ ). Attachment, cultural adaptation, and social support each significantly contributed to this prediction, while trauma experience did not. Implications of these findings were discussed and need for future research explored.