Member Care Update

Ethnê-MC Facilitation Team
To contact us: mc@ethne.net

Ethnê-MC Update **Issue 1: December 2006**

A warm welcome to the second edition of the *Update*! This monthly report is designed to inform you about important member care resources, news, and topics. We especially want to further equip people with member care responsibilities who are focussing on mission/aid personnel in least-reached people groups (LPGs). Each report is archived on our web site: **www.ethne.net/membercare**. (Note the web site is scheduled to go live this month. We apologise for the delay.) Please share the *Update* with others and feel free to submit materials for us to include. May the Lord bless you and your work!

*****

In this Issue:

SPECIAL RESOURCES: Tools to further equip you for member care

- *Dying for Pornography*

Pornography among workers, and in LPG settings, is huge. Let's deal with it!

- *Doing Member Care Well*

Updates about free on-line access and new versions of this book.

- *Managing Diversity*

Resources to help us make the most of our differences.

SPECIAL NEWS: Events to help you connect and contribute to the member care field

- *Core Coaching Skills Certificate Programme, Singapore; February 2007*

Get the systematic training you need for providing quality coaching

- *Sharpening Your Interpersonal Skills (SYIS), Malaysia; 26-30 March 2007*

This special five-day course is being offered in Malaysia and several other locations.

SPECIAL TOPICS: Current issues and approaches related to member care

- *A Call for Christian Risk—John Piper*

John shares why we can take risks: "Christian hope produces life-givers, not life-takers."

*****

The *Update* is compiled on behalf of the *Ethnê-Member Care Network*. We are a core, growing *network of colleagues* from different nations and organisations. Our passion is to see the least-reached people groups (LPGs) experience the transforming love of Jesus Christ. We are committed to help provide and develop member care resources in order to support the diversity of people/senders who are working among LPGs. Our *Network* is part of the Ethnê to Ethnê Movement (**www.ethne.net**).

Email: mc@ethne.net
Ethnê-MC Website: **www.ethne.net/membercare**
Subscribe: Ethne-MC-subscribe@yahoogroups.com
Unsubscribe: Ethne-MC-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com

SPECIAL RESOURCES

- *Dying for Pornography*

Pornography kills. It destroys the beauty of our human sexuality, replacing it with a haunting, incapacitating bondage. For those within our mission/aid community who are struggling with sexual addictions like pornography, there is hope and help. Remember, pornography = exploitation. The humans that create and proliferate porn do not want *you*. They just want your *money*! Pornography exploits millions of people including our friends in LPG settings. So if you are struggling, get help. And don't give up. You cannot overcome pornography by yourself, by sheer will power, or simply by promising yourself that you will never do "it" again. Recovery takes time and discipline, strict accountability and utter honesty, and close friends and tight internet controls. Don't let yourself be exploited. Don't kill your soul, your family, and your ministry. Remember, we are as healthy as our secrets. Learn more about the recovery process and healthy human sexuality. Get help. Now!

www.sexhelp.com (resources and includes a self-assessment tool)
www.safefamiles.org (oriented towards child protection/families, plus free internet filtering)
www.xxxchurch.com (resources and contemporary issues, including international updates)
www.sa.org (core site, also with resources in German and Spanish)
www.covenanteyes.com (accountability tools for internet use)
www.arabicrecovery.com (many resources in Arabic)

- *Doing Member Care Well—On-line and now in Spanish!*

Many of us are aware of this compendium of 50 articles with over 60 authors, published in 2002. But did you know you can download this book for free from **www.wearesources.org**. Here's more news. A condensed Spanish version was just published called *Cuidado Integral* by COMIBAM (**www.comibam.org**). Also, there is complete translation in Korean (**www.clcbook.com;** also free on-line at **www.wearesources.org**); a condensed version in Portuguese (**www.descoberta.com.br**); and a related version in Chinese called *Running to Win* (available on-line for free at **www.chinamembercare.com**). Next steps? Let's continue to encourage the production of additional, quality materials in different languages (written, audio, podcasts, DVD), and then translated widely.

- *Managing Diversity*

Do you like to work with people who are different than you? *Diversity* is not just a politically correct term; it is a reality. And *Ethnê-MC* is committed to support the *diversity* of people who are working among LPGs. Many books are available to help us work with others from different backgrounds, including multicultural teams. Check out the titles from the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM; **www.shrm.org**), such as *Multicultural Manners*, and *Managing Diversity Survival Guide*. You can also stay current on developments in the human resource field via SHRM's free e-newsletter.

SPECIAL NEWS

- *Core Coaching Skills Certificate Programme, Singapore; 26 February - 2 March 2007*

This 60-hour professional coach training is for ministry leaders who wish to gain advanced coaching skills to enable a part-time or full-time coaching role. It is thoroughly biblical, field tested, and facilitated by professional coaches. Core competencies include helping others: grow holistically; move from vision to action; broaden perspectives for innovative solutions; learn new skills for taking the next steps; and contextualise ministry efforts. The programme is overseen by Dr. Keith Webb.
Contact: **www.creativeresultsmanagement.com/courses**

- *Sharpening Your Interpersonal Skills (SYIS), Petaling Jaya, Malaysia; 26-30 March 2007*

Interserve Malaysia is pleased to offer a training workshop on SYIS. Topics include: Loving Listening, Helping Others Solve Problems, Confronting, Receiving Confrontation, Managing Conflicts, Helping Others Manage Conflicts, Building Personal Trust, Living in Community, Helping Others Grieve Well, Being an Encourager, Moral Purity, Managing Stress, and Maintaining Margin.
Contact: **in2serve@yahoo.co.uk** (please write "SYIS Malaysia" as the subject matter)

SPECIAL TOPICS

A Call for Christian Risk

John Piper; © Desiring God, www.desiringGod.org

By removing eternal risk, Christ calls his people to continual temporal risk.
[Applications: What are some of the reasons for the risks you are taking in LPG work?]

For the followers of Jesus the final risk is gone. "There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus" (Romans 8:1). "Neither death nor life . . . will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 3:38-39). "Some of you they will put to death. . . . But not a hair of your head will perish" (Luke 21:16, 18). "Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live" (John 11:25).

When the threat of death becomes a door to paradise the final barrier to temporal risk is broken. When a Christian says from the heart, "To live is Christ and to die is gain," he is free to love no matter what. Some forms of radical Islam may entice martyr-murderers with similar dreams, but Christian hope is the power to love, not kill. Christian hope produces life-givers, not life-takers. The crucified Christ calls his people to live and die for their enemies, as he did. The only risks permitted by Christ are the perils of love. "Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you" (Luke 6:27-28).

With staggering promises of everlasting joy, Jesus unleashed a movement of radical, loving risk-takers. "You will be delivered up even by parents . . . and some of you they will put to death" (Luke 21:16). Only some. Which means it might be you and it might not. That's what risk means. It is not risky to shoot yourself in the head. The outcome is certain. It is risky to serve Christ in a war zone. You might get shot. You might not.

Christ calls us to take risks for kingdom purposes. Almost every message of American consumerism says the opposite: Maximize comfort and security - now, not in heaven. Christ does not join that chorus. To every timid saint, wavering on the edge of some dangerous gospel venture, he says, "Fear not, you can only be killed" (Luke 12:4). Yes, by all means maximize your joy! How? For the sake of love, risk being reviled and persecuted and lied about, "for your reward is great in heaven" (Matthew 5:11-12).

There is a great biblical legacy of loving risk-takers. Joab, facing the Syrians on one side and the Ammonites on the other, said to his brother Abishai, "Let us be courageous for our people. . . and may the LORD do what seems good to him" (2 Samuel 10:12). Esther broke the royal law to save her people and said, "If I perish, I perish" (Esther 4:16). Shadrach and his comrades refused to bow down to the king's idol and said, "Our God whom we serve is able to deliver us . . . But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods" (Daniel 3:16-18). And when the Holy Spirit told Paul that in every city imprisonment and afflictions await him, he said, "I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course" (Acts 20:24). "Every Christian," said Stephen Neil about the early church, "knew that sooner or later he might have to testify to his faith at the cost of his life" (A History of Christian Missions, Penguin, 1964, p. 43). This was normal. To become a Christian was to risk your life. Tens of thousands did it. Why? Because to do it was to gain Christ, and not to was to lose your soul. "Whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it" (Matthew 16:25).

In America and around the world the price of being a real Christian is rising. Things are getting back to normal in "this present evil age." Increasingly 2 Timothy 3:12 will make sense: "All who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted." Those who've made gospel-risk a voluntary life-style will be most ready when we have no choice. Therefore I urge you, in the words of the early church, "Let us go to him outside the camp and bear the reproach he endured. For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come" (Hebrews 13:13-14). When God removed all risk above / He loosed a thousand risks of love.