Member Care Update

Ethnê-MC Facilitation Team
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Ethnê-MC Update **Issue 2: January 2007**

A warm welcome to the *Update*! This monthly report informs 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**. Please share the *Update* with others and feel free to submit materials for us to include. May the Lord bless you and your work!

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In this Issue:

SPECIAL TOPICS: Current issues and approaches related to member care

- *The Rest of the Team, by Neal Pirolo*

Neal shares with us the need for a committed, comprehensive support team.

SPECIAL RESOURCES: Tools to further equip you for member care

- *A special blog from MC Associates:* ***www.CoreMemberCare.blogspot.com***

Introducing a new communication tool for promoting good practice.

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

- *India: Missionary Upholders Trust Consultation, February 2007*

This gathering focuses on member care standards and good practice.

- *Kenya: Training in Trauma Healing; February 2007*

A special course to equip people to help victims of war and other traumas.

- *USA: Society for Human Resources Management—Global Conference; March 2007*

This international conference and organisation offer many resources in the HR field.

- *USA: Families in Global Transition Conference; March 2007*

Now in it's eighth year, this conference brings together many international sectors.

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The *Update* is compiled on behalf of the *Ethnê-Member Care Network*. We are a core, growing *network of colleagues* who are involved in member care. We come 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**).

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SPECIAL TOPICS

The *REST* of the Team

Neal Pirolo

The mission support team—don't leave home without it! What is your team like? For more information see the author's excellent book, Serving as Senders*, now in over 15 languages.*
www.eri.org

It was a desperate attempt to keep the opposing team from scoring, but our forward's tripping was only too obvious. Our goalkeeper is nervous. He is intent on the kicker. "Low and to the right—I'm sure of it!" The kick! The dive! The grab! He hugs the ball to his chest, stinging from its force. He won the game! But, wait a minute. Did that goalkeeper win the game? Or, did it take a whole team? Certainly, a whole team was necessary! The same is true in missions—it takes a whole team—though it is much more than a game. It is a battle for lost souls. Mission workers may be like that goalkeeper. They may get their ten minutes on Sunday morning. But each worker needs a whole team to support one's ministry.

Paul, a missionary statesman, asked for care in six areas. Sometimes he received that care, sometimes not. Once when he needed encouragement, his team was begging him not to go to Jerusalem. So strong were their efforts to dissuade him, that he said, "Why are you unnerving me with all your tears? I am not only willing to go bound to Jerusalem, but to die for His Name's sake."

On the other hand, what a beautiful Letter of commendation he wrote to the Christians at Philippi: "From the very first you have been partners with me in the ministry of the Gospel." He thanked them for sending Epaphroditus to minister to his needs. He commends them for each of the six areas of care. He ended the Letter with: "You did it again!" In response to their generous financial gift, he said, "My God will supply all of your needs according to His riches in glory through Christ Jesus."

MORAL SUPPORT: Today, every mission worker needs "the *rest* of the team" to provide the support needed to participate in the ministry. Utilizing the gift of encouragement, friends can be morally supportive to the one going.

LOGISTICS SUPPORT: Exercising the gift of administration, some can care for innumerable home responsibilities. For, "No soldier going to battle should entangle himself with the affairs of daily living," Paul told the young mission worker, Timothy.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT: What a privilege God has allowed us to invest in Heavenly stock as we give our offerings. May it be as in the days of Moses, when he could barely constrain the people from giving, for their hearts had been made willing.

PRAYER SUPPORT: Paul's continual request for prayer teaches us that it stands above all other expressions of need. Sometimes it was simply, "Pray with me…." Other times it became a passionate appeal. Prayer invades the spiritual. Daily intercessory prayer is needed by every mission worker.

COMMUNICATION SUPPORT: As culturally adaptive as mission workers may become, they need contact with their home culture through communication support.

REENTRY SUPPORT: The Bible gives us our model for helping a missionary through the difficult transition of coming home. Acts 14:26-28 and Acts 15:35 give us the five steps to a healthy reentry. Because mission workers are going through the stress, they need a team of people to help.

In Romans 10, Paul was describing the missions process. He ended by saying, "How can they preach (how can missionaries be effective), unless they are *SENT*?" Missions is about those who go and those who serve as senders. *Senders are the rest of his team!*

SPECIAL RESOURCES

- *Core Member Care (CORE)—a new blog at* **www.coremembercare.blogspot.com**

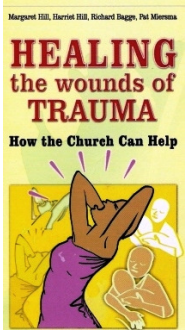
Do you want to dialogue about cutting edge issues in member care with international colleagues, at your leisure from your own computer? CORE is a new blog designed to promote conversations for personal and professional growth and to promote good practice. The materials are intentionally chosen to help us think outside our comfort zones, look into our own hearts, explore member care in light of current world events, and consider additional ways to ethically provide resources to the international humanitarian/mission sectors. CORE is maintained by Member Care Associates an international group of health care professionals. The initial discussion is on seven "core" challenges in aid/mission life (internal and external issues). Join the conversations. Click the link above to check it out!

SPECIAL NEWS

- *Chennai, India: Missionary Upholders (MUT) Consultation, 2-4 February 2007*

This is the fifth consultation that MUT has organised for it's member missions, church leaders, and other Christian leaders. The theme "Towards Higher Grounds" explores the standards of excellence that are needed in mission and in member care. Specific sessions will address family life, health, stress, death, leadership, systemic health/dysfunction, and future directions for member care. There are 80 + organisations enrolled as Member Missions of MUT whose workers are mainly eligible for the benefits offered under the MUT programmes (e.g., pension schemes, health care, rest houses).
Contacts: jjratnakumar@gmail.com; www.membcaremutin.net

- *Nairobi, Kenya: Training in Trauma Healing*; 5-9 February 2007



The book, "Healing the Wounds of Trauma: How the Church Can Help" was developed in Africa to help church leaders work with their traumatized church members after wars or other disasters. Specifically designed for use in local languages, it has already been translated and taught in local workshops in over 40 languages across Africa. At this workshop, participants will learn how to use the material to train local church leaders to help people who are suffering from war and other trauma. The course is non-residential, though help can be given in finding accommodation in Nairobi. The cost is $70 with lunch included each day.
Contact: Margaret_Hill@sil.org

- *Los Angeles, California, USA; Human Resources Global Conference; 19-21 March 2007*

One way to stay in touch with the field of Human Resources (HR) is to consider the resources by the Society for Human Resource Management (newsletters, books, conferences). Their annual conference (in Los Angeles this year) is for professionals from around the world in HR and related areas. It includes workshops and sessions on global HR practices, issues, and resources. There is also a Global Exposition to meet with industry experts. The HR field is vast and secular--it can feel a bit "foreign" and overwhelming a times. Yet take time to explore it. You'll find relevant resources for your work.
Contact: **www.shrm.org/conferences/global**

- *Houston, Texas USA: Families in Global Transition Conference; 29-31 March 2007*

The 2007 Families in Global Transition conference will be a forum where members of internationally mobile families gather with those who assist them—human resource personnel, relocation experts, educators, and counsellors. Representatives from the government, missions, military, corporate, and education sectors will share their perspectives on their common goal of helping families make smooth intercultural transitions. Together the participants will discuss the special dynamics encountered in the internationally mobile lifestyle and explore practical ways to optimize the potential of this experience.
Contact: www.figt.org