Member Care Update

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

Celebrating one year of *Updates*!

Welcome to the *Update*! This month's report begins our second year of publication, as we 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). In addition to the mission/aid emphasis, each report usually contains relevant material from the international humanitarian, health, business, and human resource sectors. Each report is also archived on our web site: **www.ethne.net/membercare**. Please share the *Update* with others and your networks. Feel free to submit materials for us to include too. The Lord bless you!

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Everyone, everywhere will know that you are My disciplined followers,
because you fervently and sacrificially love one another. John 13:35

Our One-Year Anniversary Edition:
Ethnê to Ethnê Member Care

SPECIAL TOPICS: Current issues and approaches related to member care

- *Ethnê to Ethnê Member Care, by the Ethnê-Member Care Facilitation Team.*

Join us as we review the six core concepts that permeate our work in Ethnê-Member Care.

SPECIAL EVENTS: Gatherings to help you connect/contribute to the member care field

- *Petaling Jaya, Malaysia: Pastors to Mission Workers (PTM); March 2008*

Come to the first Asian PTM, to help encourage, equip, and network the growing Asian MCWs.

SPECIAL RESOURCES: Tools to further equip you for member care

- *Resources for International Member Care and Trans-Cultural Health Care*

Here are some key, multi-lingual resources that can facilitate *ethnê to ethnê* member care.

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The *Update* is compiled on behalf of the *Ethnê-Member Care Network*. We are a 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**).

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SPECIAL TOPIC

Ethnê to Ethnê Member Care

Ethnê-Member Care Facilitation Team

Join us now as we celebrate the one year anniversary of our *Ethnê-Member Care Updates*!
Let's celebrate by reviewing six core concepts that permeate our work in Ethnê-Member Care.
Have a close look at these core concepts below, and the three personal questions at the end.

The Vision: We know that there is a purpose to human history, and that there will be a conclusion to this age. We see how God is actively involved in history to redeem humans from every nation, people group, and language (Revelation 5: 9,10). It is an "ethnê to ethnê" strategy, in which believers from different people groups reach out to other people groups, until "all of the earth is filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord." The vision is thus for all ethnic groups to be involved in *cross-ethnê* mission.

The Commitment: Member care is a service ministry which supports this historical and biblical vision. As an international movement of *caregivers* (quality people who provide and develop quality resources), the member care community is committed to helping mission workers develop the personal character, professional competencies, and life skills necessary to work effectively. And this includes mission workers from *all* ethnê.

The Strategy: Now let's consider an amazing corollary to this commitment: I want to suggest that this also means that we are committed to seeing quality member care workers (MCWs) from *all* ethnê raised up and trained, including those within/from the Least-Reached People Groups (LPGs) and the A4 regions (Africa, Asia, Arabic-Turkic, and America-Latina). And these MCWs work both within their own cultures *and* cross-culturally. So the focus is twofold: supporting the diversity of people involved in Christian mission; and training others from various cultures to be quality care providers. **Member care, then, is also very much an "ethnê to ethnê" strategy.**

The Directions: *Ethnê to ethnê member care* (E2MC) is very challenging. What can help the member care community as it moves in this direction? It will be important to set up opportunities for colleagues from different cultures to interact with each other (forums, conferences, writing, networks etc.). It will also be important for colleagues with member care training/experience in different cultures/countries, to facilitate learning and practice as "multicultural bridges". Multi-cultural Southerners/Easterners who have sojourned for extended periods to the North/West and vice versa, will definitely play key roles. Such multi-cultural learning is a core part of providing and developing (*proveloping)* member care well. And it is a two-way street.

Growing and Going: E2MC requires the best or our conceptual thinking and research skills; extensive practical experience; a commitment to use trans-cultural principles (concepts common across cultures, especially ethnic and organisational "cultures"); and lots of personal connections and ongoing relationships with colleagues. Said another way, we as a member care community are heading increasingly towards the reality of "boundaries without borders"—that is we are aware of our personal cultural/disciplinary identities and member care competencies (boundaries) as we intentionally work with those having different geographic/ethnic identities and member care concepts (borders). E2MC challenges us to grow *deeply as persons* as we go *broadly as practitioners* to all peoples.

Agape-Love: Above all, the core of E2MC will involve the trans-ethnê, New Testament practice of fervently loving one another—like encouraging one another each day; bearing one another's burdens; and forgiving one another from the heart. By this all people will know that we are His disciples (John 13:35). The Great Commission and the Great Commandment are inseparable. Our love is the final apologetic. It is the ultimate measure of the effectiveness of our member care.

Three Questions:

- Which of the above concepts are the most relevant for you personally?
- What are a couple things that you could you do to see E2MC further realised?
- How is agape-love foundational for E2MC and practically foundational for your life?

SPECIAL EVENTS: Gatherings to help you connect/contribute to the member care field

- *Petaling Jaya, Malaysia: Pastors to Mission Workers—1st Asian Conference, 24-28 March 08*

As the center of Christianity moves from the West to the East and North to the South, the baton for taking the gospel to all people groups has been clearly passed to the Asians as well. For example, right now, the Koreans, with an estimated 20,000 mission workers, are the second largest sending nation after the USA. When one adds the mission workers from the rest of the Asian countries, including China, we realize that there is a growing wave of dedicated, trained personnel seeking to provide spiritual and humanitarian care to the world.

This is an exciting time for the Asian Church. It is also a time to seriously consider the challenge of caring for this huge mission/humanitarian force. Who will do all this care? It is with this in mind, that a number of mission and member care leaders are organising the first Asian "Pastor-to-Mission Workers" Conference. The goal is to provide a place for Member Care Providers to be encouragred, equipped, and networked with other caregivers. So we invite you to come and help us see the conference theme become a reality: "Make Member Care A Priority". Dr Titus and Helen Loong, highly respected Asian veteran mission leaders, will be the keynote speakers.

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SPECIAL RESOURCES: Tools to further equip you for member care

- *Resources for International Member Care and Trans-Cultural Health Care*

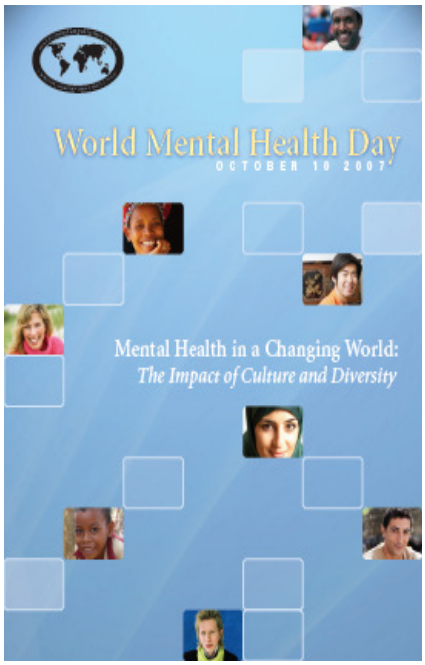
Here are some key, multi-lingual resources that can facilitate *ethnê to ethnê* member care. The fact that these materials are available in different international languages means that they can serve as links between people groups, as member care is taught and above all modeled.

**Sharpening Your Interpersonal Skills Course*
In 10+ languages
www.ITpartners.org

**Serving as Senders*
In 20 languages
www.eri.org

*Healing *the Wounds of Trauma: What the Church Can Do*
In 40+ languages, African focus, and beyond
email: margaret_hill@sil.org

**Mental Health in Emergencies*
World Health Organisation (in six languages)
http://www.who.int/mental_health/resources/emergencies

**World Mental Health Day: Impact of Culture and Diversity*
World Federation of Mental Health (in six languages)
http://www.wfmh.org/2007material.htm

International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church
11 November 2007 Theme: Secret Believers (English)
www.persecutedchurch.org