

MEMBER CARE NETWORK BRIEFING

A Communiqué of the Global Member Care Task Force (MemCa)

February 2002 No.3

Greetings:. Welcome to the *Member Care Network Briefing*. We are sending it to over 1000 people who are actively involved in member care: members of regional and national task forces, people who oversee member care related ministries, member care practitioners, and several mission/church leaders. The newsletter is a service of *Global Member Care Resources* (MemCa) which is the new name for the Member Care Task Force of the WEA Missions Commission. (Note that the World Evangelical Fellowship also has a new name: the World Evangelical Alliance—WEA). We send the Briefing three times a year, and include important updates and analyses regarding member care.



NETWORKS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

DEVELOPING A FLOW OF CAREGIVERS

In our first issue (October 2001) we looked at the crucial importance of developing working relationships and personal friendships with one another in member care ministry. We pointed out that there is a growing "flow of caregivers" who are resourcing mission personnel around the world. Member care as a field is developing through our email updates/correspondence, writing/training, working on joint projects, meeting each other at conferences, and our common commitment to support missions. We want to deliberately link together and deliberately support each other as we provide member care resources.

A few years ago I (Dave Pollock) was introduced to a book that presented some basic ideas for the functioning of global networks in the 21st century. I think that these ideas are helpful to us as we continue to "knit the network and develop a flow of caregivers". Here are some of the points that were made by the authors of *The Age of the Network* (Jessica Lipnack and Jeffrey Stamps). How are these five points similar to your experience in networks?

- *21st century networks have a unifying purpose or mission.* Our member care networks and caregivers find their focal point in a) the admonition to love one another, found in John 13:34,35 and b) our commitment to support mission personnel who are reaching out to the lost. Such common values and goals hold our net together.
- *21st century networks have independent members.* Independence allows us to follow the course that we believe is best for us, as we seek to connect with others in strategic ways for the greater good.
- *21st century networks have voluntary connections.* We're bound together not because there are rules and laws and organizational structure, but because we share the common values and we share a focus on what we want to see accomplished in the Body of Christ.
- *21st century networks have multiple leaders.* Every segment of our net has its own leadership whether it be in the fields of medicine, psychology, education, finance, team building, crisis management etc. Multiple leaders foster a resilience so that when for whatever reason a particular leader disappears from view there are others who pick up the slack and continue to move ahead.
- *21st century networks have multiple levels.* There are networks within networks as people form teams, task forces, committees etc. Some of these groups may take on certain roles of leadership to help the total network but it is not an issue of domination or control but rather working together to do the best possible job in fulfilling the mandate that we have been given by the King.

MEMBER CARE TRACK IN CAMEROUN, AFRICA

NAOMI FAMONURE

My heart is bubbling with excitement. I am writing you from Cameroun (July 2001) where the Bible and Missions conference has been going on and the Member Care consultation running side by side with it. This is the first of the regional consultations in Africa and it was really a success.

There was such a desperate cry for member care from the participants. We discussed these areas:

1. The need for member care is really the need of the hour.

2. Missionaries who evangelized us from the West did not teach us how to care for our own missionaries and where they did, the structures left behind were not appropriate for us to implement. Further, there was no proper orientation about how to take over the work in missions.
3. The church in Africa is too weak financially to care for missions. Others feel that because there is unfaithfulness in handling church finances many who would have given in support of missionaries and evangelists do not give.
4. The needs of the children of missionaries are especially overlooked.
5. The church in the central African region as a whole needs to be adequately taught in missions. Most Bible schools and theological seminaries where pastors are trained do not have missions included on the curriculum. What pastors understand as "missions" is often not really missions.
6. Tribalism is a problem. Some Christians may not give in support of a missionary who is not from their tribe even if he is from the same local church or denomination.

The awareness about member care and missions is slowly developing. Initially leaders thought we were advocating "pampering" missionaries (like material provisions for example) which they fear will extinguish faith in the missionary. I believe this misconception will change with time and with concerted education, such as the "awareness seminar" for missions and denominational leaders proposed for July 2002 in Cameroun. For now we have a member care committee made up of nine members from three countries for the central African region. They already had a meeting during the conference and will meet again in October 2001 in Chad to discuss setting up a member care team of professionals. For more information contact Naomi Famonure, Coordinator, Member Care Track, AEA Evangelism and Missions Commission: <naomi_messiah@hotmail.com>.

UPCOMING MEMBER CARE EVENTS

INDIA: CEO's Pastoral Care Network, January 2002	Abuja, NIGERIA: member care workshops at NEMA missions conference, February, 2002	PHILIPPINES: national member care consultation, January ,2002
Rhyl, Wales, UK: Pastoral Care Course, Feb/Mar 2002	Chiang Mai, THAILAND: Family Education Conference, Feb. 4-6, 2002	Bihar, INDIA: member care consultation, February 4-5, 2002
New York: USA: MK/TCK Retreat: February 8-10, 2002	UK: national member care conference 'Growing People' , 18-20 February, 2002	Conference for Christian boarding home personnel, March 24-28, 2002
Pennsylvania, USA: Heartstream courses for Missionary Care Professionals, April 2002	INDIA: Institutes on Counselor Training, April/May 2002	Budapest, HUNGARY: Hope for Europe, Missions/Member Care Track, April 27-May 1
CYPRUS and GERMANY: Multicultural Teams Seminar, Cyprus May 2002/Germany Sep. 2002	BRAZIL: national member care consultation, May 2002	USA: Mental Health and Missions Conference - November 2002
USA: Pastors to Missionaries Conference - December 2002	AFRICA: SYIS and Member Care While Managing Crisis Seminars in Africa, 2002	NEW ZEALAND—Heartstreams Member Care Course, later in 2002
THAILAND: Christian Counselors in Asia Consultation, later in 2002	For additional events in the UK, contact <info@peopleinaid.org>	

DOING MEMBER CARE WELL – BOOK UPDATE

Word has traveled far and wide via the internet and word of mouth about the new edited book: *Doing Member Care Well: Perspectives and Practices from Around the World*. About 5000 copies were ordered via the special pre-print offer. And over 100 people were involved in writing, reviewing, and putting together this volume. The books will begin to arrive in March. It is our sincere hope that as it is read and discussed: a) sending groups and member care workers alike (from NSCs and OSCs) will be better equipped to support their mission personnel, b) MC workers will be much better connected.

REFUGEE HIGHWAY CONSULTATION

“HOPE FOR THE REFUGEE HIGHWAY CONSULTATION”: MEMBER CARE GROUP

The first global consultation focusing on Christian ministry to refugees brought together 185 leaders from 43 countries. Sponsored by World Evangelical Fellowship, the participants were convened in Izmir, Turkey, November 15-20, 2001 to focus on the needs of the world's 50 million refugees who are in flight, in transit, and in resettlement. Seven strategic areas of focus were identified: ministry to refugee children, emergency response, sensitive and effective witness, the unique needs of refugee women, missiological foundations, public advocacy, and equipping churches in their refugee ministry.

During this hands-on consultation, sixteen working groups formed to grapple with their identified key issues. These working groups attempted to answer the question "what can we do together that we can't do alone?" They then developed a specific action plan to move towards the desired partnership outcomes. For example, twelve people, facilitated by Dave Pollock and Kelly O'Donnell, met as the "Care for the Caregivers" working group. We put together an eight-page summary of our interaction/plans, which includes an initial annotated listing of core written materials regarding stress/adjustment for humanitarian aid workers and an initial listing of some of the basic/unique challenges of aid workers who minister to refugees. For a copy email Kelly at 102172.170@CompuServe.com or visit the Memca Web Site.

A key outcome of the consultation was the development of an international information clearinghouse to allow for more effective communication among agencies serving in many countries. An online database and knowledge base will be established and a Resource CD will be made. Also, a "Code of Best Practice for Christian Ministry to Refugees" was drafted and will be circulated for further reflection. This benchmark document promises to increase the effectiveness of refugee ministries around the world. For more information contact: Geoff Tunnicliffe, Director, Refugee Highway Consultation, globalroundtable@shaw.ca / www.globalmission.org.

GIVING CREDIT AND GETTING PERMISSION

GIVING CREDIT AND GETTING PERMISSION—THOUGHTS FROM DAVE POLLOCK

In the past few weeks an interesting and sometimes troubling issue has arisen in discussions with TCKs in our transition seminars. It involves "pirated recordings" of music, videos etc. and whether or not a TCK who has purchased an inexpensive tape or CD in Thailand should continue to own and use that tape now that they are in the US, Canada or the UK where "intellectual property" is strongly protected by law (though still sometimes stolen on the internet). A related issue is the matter of how materials developed by others are used within our missions/member care community as we do seminars, speak at conferences, and teach classes. Do we give proper credit where credit is due? Do we get permission to copy materials when permission is needed?

Over the years we have faced this situation as an organization and individually. Since, as Solomon said, "there is nothing new under the sun", all of us find that our "original thinking" started somewhere outside ourselves. I readily admit that much of the material that has become the TCK Profile, the Transition Model, Culture Stress models are a strong mix of the shared thinking of and with others as well as observation, study and experience of my own finally synthesized and refined by use. The term "Transition Model" for example was born over a meal, roughly jotted on a paper serviette in Bangkok in 1978 during a discussion with a few friends. This concept has been developed into maturity over the years from my own experience along with the contributions of the thinking of many others who are committed to caring for globally mobile people.

As members of the global member care network, we represent so many cultures and so many countries. We have such a variety of cultural values, rules and laws the question we face is how do we handle each others' work with integrity while still making use of it for the good of the people we serve. Both sides of this relate to how we demonstrate love—His love—to one another and how we build and preserve unity in the Body. We all need to not only think about this for ourselves but share our thinking with each other so that as a culturally and nationally diverse group we can come to some basic agreements and avoid division. To start the discussion I would like to suggest a couple of ideas for consideration.

1. Written materials—published or unpublished—should not be copied for distribution without permission. Copies can usually be made for one's personal use though.

2. When material developed by any of us is used by another, the source should be mentioned. A couple of examples might be: as "Polly Chan in her article...has said..." or "this model was developed by Dr. Duncan Westwood [list article/date] ..." or "Here's an idea of how InterHealth is doing this..."
3. When new observations are developed based on someone else's work, acknowledgement should be that it is "based on" or "adapted from" that person's material.
4. "Copyrights" should be obeyed. It is important that when we use each others materials and ideas we respect the "copyright" and accurately reflect what the other has said or written.

These are discussion points. Do you agree or disagree? Do you have other ideas or issues you want to discuss concerning this area? In our diversity we want to build unity rather than disunity. I'm looking forward to hearing from you. <Interaction@compuserve.com>

SPECIAL NOTE

"Honourably Wounded" (rev. 2001), by Marjory Foyle, can be obtained from Christian bookshops worldwide, and the shops can also arrange special orders if people running conferences want to get some. Other contacts are: Asian: <ccalmm@pacific.net.sg> UK: Gardners Books, 1 Whittle Drove, Eastbourne, East Sussex BN23 6HQ UK Tel: 01323 521555 This store usually buys stocks of many Christian books from publishers and they are good suppliers. Europe: ASAF Import <asaf.import@tip.nl> The Americas: <kregelpub@aol.com>

This Briefing was prepared and sent by Dave Pollock and Kelly O'Donnell
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Special thanks to Harry Hoffmann for his editorial and formatting help.

MemCa is an affiliation of 25 international colleagues committed to help develop member care resources within missions. The Task Force (now called *Global Member Care Resources*) is comprised of member care specialists who come from different mission organizations/sending churches. It is one of the seven task forces of the WEA Missions Commission. Task Force members work together and with other colleagues on projects which benefit the global mission community along with specific regions. A special emphasis is on supporting mission personnel from Asia, Africa, and Latin America, and on those working among unreached people groups. Members are also committed to provide personal/professional support for each other as needed. Our friendship and Christian fellowship provide the foundation for our joint work.

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