

MEMBER CARE NETWORK BRIEFING

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

May 2003 No.7



Dear Member Care Colleagues,

We are sending out a special Briefing update to you, from our Global Member Care Resources group (MemCa).

It is a one page overview of the MemCa Consultation that will take place in Canada at the beginning of June. This update describes our purpose and goals, the participants, and some background. You may even want to print it out for reference in order to keep the Consultation in prayer. Feel free to pass it on to colleagues too. We are prayerfully looking at some of the next steps for helping to develop member care, including centers/hubs, standards/guidelines for caregivers, regional issues, training, radio/web-based ministry, and so on. And all of us as part of the global member care community, are in a real sense a part of this process together!

The next Briefing will consist of a summary of our Consultation, and we hope to have this to you in mid-June. If you have any questions or suggestions please do not hesitate to contact us.

Warm greetings in our Lord.

Kelly O'Donnell, Harry Hoffmann, Dave Pollock

Global Member Care Resources (MemCa) **Missions Commission, World Evangelical Alliance**

Doing member care well helps us to do missions well. Here is an update about our group of 30 international colleagues who are working together to develop member care around the world. By "member care" we mean the investment of supportive resources to help mission personnel (including home office staff and children) remain healthy and effective, from recruitment through retirement.

Purpose Statement

The mission of MemCa is to help develop member care ministry internationally, prioritising personnel from the Newer Sending Countries and those working among the least evangelised.

Some Background

MemCa was formally launched in September 1998, during its first meeting in Oxford in the United Kingdom. Key to its creation was the research from the WEA international study on the serious implications of missionary attrition, as well as the growing awareness of the strategic role of member care in Christian mission. Members have been actively involved on six continents, training member care personnel, consulting with mission leaders, writing materials, and organising member care consultations. In short, we are helping to catalyse the flow of care necessary to sustain and develop mission personnel.

MemCa Consultation 31 May-6 June, 2003 Vancouver, Canada

Our purpose for meeting in Vancouver is to increase our viability: get to know each other better; exchange updates and plans; discuss critical issues that affect our work; review our purpose, structure, goals and progress; identify additional resources; and decide on some projects that will help us in our work, especially those that will help us develop member care in each geographic region/specialty domain. We want to reaffirm/adjust our goals and identify the resources needed to see these goals realised. Our Consultation takes place in the context of the larger WEA Conference on Globalisation.

Participants

- Africa: Karen Carr, Darlene Jerome (Ghana), Naomi Famonure (Nigeria), Dirk Visser (RSA)

- Asia: Pramila Rajendran (India), Belinda Ng, Gracia Wiarda (Singapore), Harry Hoffmann (Thailand), Philip Chang (Malaysia), Byun-Moon Kang, Kyoung-Shim Lim (Korea)
- Australasia: Murray Winn (New Zealand)
- Europe: Anke Tissingh (Spain), Kelly O'Donnell (France), Siny Widmer (Switzerland), Annemie Grossshausser, Hartmut and Friedhilde Stricker (Germany), Marion Knell, Marjory Foyle (UK)
- The Americas: Marcia Tostes (Brasil), Dave Pollock, Brent Lindquist, Richard and Laura Mae Gardner, Bruce and Kathy Narramore (USA)

Some of Our Current Projects

- Help establish and strengthen member care affiliations--national/regional groups, Partnerships.
- Help establish and strengthen strategically located member care hubs/centers.
- Help develop networks of caregivers for the various specialist domains of member care
- Maintain the WEA MemCa Web site (www.membercare.org); encourage member care materials to be written/translated in different languages; send out the MemCa Briefing 3-4 times a year.

MemCa Contacts

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WEA MEMBER CARE NETWORK BRIEFING

This *Briefing* was prepared and sent by Kelly O'Donnell, Dave Pollock and Harry Hoffmann.
Global Member Care Resources (MemCa), WEA Missions Commission

MemCa is an affiliation of 30 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.

MemCa Website: <http://www.membercare.org> (*Briefings* will be posted on this web site)
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