

**Words of Appreciation**  
**Member Care Updates (2009-2026)**  
**Kelly and Michèle O'Donnell**



***Expanding the global impact of member care***  
***Working together for wellbeing and effectiveness***

***Our Member Care Updates 1) promote the wellbeing and effectiveness (WE) of staff and their families and sending groups and 2) support the diversity of colleagues with member care responsibilities. The focus is on the mission sector with applications for/from the overlapping health, development, humanitarian, and other sectors.***

“Tolkien (1965, p. 325) has said it well: ‘Everything that is gold does not glitter. Not all those who wander are lost. The old that is strong does not wither. Deep roots are not reached by the frost.’

In the world of missions and member care, some of the choicest servants are unheard of, not necessarily professionally trained, and not usually invited to be plenary speakers at conferences. But they are solid gold—they sparkle internally, privately, out of the limelight; and they are sturdy folk, with deep roots in God, putting into practice the biblical call to “love one another.” It is not the member care specialists—as important as these are—who are the main practitioners of member care, even though some of them might be leading the member care charge. Rather, it is the missiological equivalent of “the average person on the street”—the missionary on the field. Herein lies the backbone and the future of member care: mutual support and spiritual nurture among missionaries, and between missionaries and the people to whom they are called. We member care workers primarily polish the gold that is already there. May God give us grace to follow their examples of sacrifice. And may we do our part in supporting them in their most holy work, serving with them unto the ends of the earth and until the end of the age.”

Final Thoughts in the Introduction—From the Ends of the Earth, To The End of the Age.

[Doing Member Care Well: Perspectives and Practices from Around the World](#) (2002)

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*“Hello dear Kelly and Michèle, Just want to send a quick hello and tell you what a gift you both are to the body of Christ. All you do for the Lord is deeply appreciated. I pray for you regularly and today just wanted to say thank you and let you know what a blessing you are to me...I am so grateful for you two and often contemplate the vast number of us you have helped over the years. The information you provide on multiple sectors is a go-to and keeps us all well-informed. I also know you have helped so many with research and dissertations (myself included) and have advanced member care initiatives in significant ways... You may never see this side of eternity the significant ways you have blessed others, perhaps the unsolicited words of encouragement provide just enough fuel to keep you going. On that day He will reveal it all. Continued blessings as you sojourn with the King.”* From a member care colleague (2025)

## MC Updates—Words of Appreciation 2

*“So grateful for your newsletter. Thanks for sending it!”-- [Global Pearl 12—Living Forever with Jesus Christ](#)—USA Member Care Update (December 2025)*

*“You guys are making a huge difference as support ministry to those on the front lines. Keep up the great work!” USA [Commending Our Colleagues](#)--Member Care Update (May 2024)*

*“Your current edition does hit on a need that is often overlooked. While we need to be like Jesus and pay attention to the needs of the marginalized, I also know some with disabilities who have served in missions. . . May your current edition and recommended resources help others see ways they can make an impact among the disabled.” USA [One Billion+ Strong: Persons with Disabilities](#)--Member Care Update (April 2024)*

*“Wow! Wonderful presentation on missio Dei! Profound presentation. Peace.” USA [New and Old Treasures](#)--Member Care Update (February 2023)*

*“In spite of all the new and valuable works coming out now in member care, it is always refreshing to review the foundations you laid or gathered.” USA [Missionary Care \(1992-2022\)](#)--Member Care Update (September 2022)*

*“Thanks so much! Really good stuff here and really important. Thanks for leaning into this! I pray the Lord will bless the work of your hands.” USA [Healing Moral Injury](#)--Member Care Update (March 2022)*

*“You have consistently blessed all of us in member care. Thanks for your continued efforts.” USA [Soul Care](#)--Member Care Update (February 2022)*

*“As always, an excellent focus on extreme member care...May God have mercy on us!” USA [Martyr Care](#)--Member Care Update (January 2022)*

*“Thanks for a great issue. You have pulled together significant resources. And congratulations on the coming 50th anniversary of Doing Member Care Well. In spite of the growing number of great member care resources [this book] continues to be a major contributor to any member care advocate's toolbox.” USA [Martyr Care](#)--Member Care Update (January 2022)*

*“Thank you so much for sending the member care updates regularly. It's very much useful to me.” Asia [Tough People/Teams for Tough Places/Times](#)--Member Care Update (August 2021)*

*“This is a very welcome and needed addition to global member care service. Thank you.” USA [Supporting Arabic-Speaking Workers](#)--Member Care Update (July 2021)*

*“Greetings from Kenya! Brilliant! Thank you for sharing! Blessings and kind regards! Praying!” Africa [OCD: Hope and Healing](#)--Member Care Update (April 2021)*

*“What an amazing and useful newsletter! I have already forwarded to four individuals...I will definitely be using the resources in this letter for a while. Especially useful was the United Nations report on the three issues coming together. I have rethought my own habits and look at changing those of our family and Community as well.” USA [Global Trends with Applications to MC and Mission](#)--Member Care Update (March 2021)*

*“Thanks for a timely and loaded update.” USA [Persecution Pandemics: What Is Jesus Worth?](#)--Member Care Update (December 2020)*

### MC Updates—Words of Appreciation 3

*“Always good to hear from you and the vast amount you are doing. Well done indeed.”* **Europe** [Doing Good: Positive Stories in the Pandemic](#)--Member Care Update (**August 2020**)

*“This is an excellent clear summary informing us and calling us to appropriate actions based on kindness and wisdom. Thank you.”* **Europe** Confronting [COVID-19: "Don't be afraid"](#)--Member Care Update (**April 2020**) [note our perspectives on global pandemics and health emergencies in the [Covid Care](#) section of our MCA website]

*“This is fantastic! Well done!”* **Europe** [MC and Unreached Peoples](#)--Member Care Update (**April 2019**)

*“Such helpful information and resources. Thank you so much! You are in our prayers.”* **USA** [Confronting the Trauma Pandemic](#)--Member Care Update (**March 2019**)

*“Thank you so much for this newest edition- excellent articles.”* **USA** [Frontline Mental Health](#)-- Member Care Update (**December 2018**)

*“Thank you for your continuing sharing information in this forum. Your September sharing on ‘the hurting counselor’ is really true of most of us. We hardly acknowledge our own struggles with life challenges just like other people...Keep up the good work, God bless you!”* **Europe** [The Hurting Counselor](#)-- Member Care Update (**September 2018**)

*“...I also appreciate your well-organized way you blend your networking and disciplines of keeping track of resources. It's a blessings to all of us in member care. I also had reason yesterday to look back at your Missionary Care: Counting the Cost... I think you may have been one the first among missionary care writers to blend the care from a wide perspective of various disciplines. I love to see the big picture of things. It helps me place what I do as a specific spot within that big picture. Through the years I think your fuller picture of all that is happening has allowed you to see the trends and future directions that others could not see while focusing in only on their own expertise. It has even lead you to lead out in giving voice to the possibilities others may miss. Blessings!”* **USA** [The Resource Highway!](#)--Member Care Update (**September 2017**)

*“Thanks for your very extensive and resourceful update! You guys are amazing in regards to resources...”* **Middle East** [The Resource Highway!](#)--Member Care Update (**September 2017**)

*“Thanks for this list. What a wonderful compilation!”* **USA** [Special Journal and Magazine Issues on MC-](#)Member Care Update (**January 2017**)

*“Thank you for your ministry!”* **USA** [Skill Sets and Tool Kits](#)---Member Care Update (**May 2016**)

*“It was wonderful to get your update...You are bringing important and much needed messages through your seminars... Today more than ever, it is true that mental health and psychosocial support need to be integrated into all humanitarian response to help people affected by [the many disasters and conflicts] so these individuals can restore day-to-day functioning and recovery...keep up the important and significant work you are doing for society...My warmest wishes always and appreciation for the important work that you two do together.”* **USA** [Global Mental Health as Mission](#)--Member Care Update (**April 2016**)

*“Just a short note to let you know how much I appreciated the material on ‘global integrators’...[as I work to include relational values and human rights approaches in the Sustainable Development Goals]... Blessings!”* **Europe** [Making Your Mark as Global Integrators](#)--Member Care Update (**January 2016**)

## MC Updates—Words of Appreciation 4

*“This is definitely the best email list I am on!! Encouraging, Supportive, Practical, Filled with new insights, and Useful!! May you be encouraged throughout 2016! Thank you!”* **USA** [Making Your Mark as Global Integrators](#)--Member Care Update (**January 2016**)

*“It occurred to me while reading this that I have never personally thanked you for all the resources you make available. I don't think we have ever met; I am the Member Care Consultant for [the USA section of our international organization]. I...do all the psych. assessments for new candidates, several training sessions as well as work with folks on the field. Your writings and other materials you have collected/shared have been really good resources for me over the years. Thank you for your work, and for listening to the voice that nudged you to begin.”* **USA** [Doing Field Consults Well](#)--Member Care Update (**December 2015**)

*“Hi wonderful Member Care Associates team... Just wanted to thank you for all the wonderful resources, encouragement and challenges you send to me regularly. I and those God lets me touch appreciate you very much!”* **Asia** [Doing Field Consults Well](#)--Member Care Update (**December 2015**)

*“We love receiving your Member Care updates, thank you for continuing to include us...We believe so entirely in what you are doing and we do pray for you in all the stresses you face continually. You write ‘... at the core of partnerships are relationships--solid relationships, healthy relationships, resilient relationships, love-based relationships. Such relationships last through thick and thin...’ Although we worked with you for such a very little time we felt this is what we had with you - and still have; this sort of love lasts for all eternity.”* **Europe** [Resiliency Toolkit for Strengthening Ourselves and Others](#)--Member Care Update (**November 2015**)

*“Sometimes Kelly O'Donnell is seen as the man who can help us look back and see where we have come from, but that is really because you have since your earliest writings been speaking of issues where we should focus. Your Global Integration [framework] is certainly one of those areas. None of us today can move effectively in any field by relying only on what we have studied in the past, the ever-changing complexities of the world require ever increasing integration for all of us. Your comments along with your daughter's graduation do illustrate a real difference today than in our past. I recently took a look at my former major at [m university]. It has transformed so much that what is studied today makes my early 70's studies in the same field look naive, out of date, narrow, and very elementary. Staying up with the breadth of member care I have had to constantly increase my knowledge in fields which years ago I could not have even imagined. For those of us on the equipping side of kingdom workers it is a greater responsibility we carry to help those we influence fit into the broader world outside of our evangelical bubble. Thanks for the stuff you share. Blessings”* **USA** [Peace in a Perilous Age](#)--Member Care Update (**June 2015**)

*“Good news...Our Personnel Director asked me if I was ardent follower of Kelly? as I had all your books. I was so proud to tell him and others in member care consultation that you mentored me and what I am today I member care is because of you.”* **Asia** [Peace in a Perilous Age](#)—Member Care Update (**June 2015**)

*“Thank you for so many useful and important resources.”* **Latin America** [Peace in a Perilous Age](#)—Member Care Update (**June 2015**)

*“Thanks for all the great resources in your e-mail addressing issues specifically to this area of the world. Well done!”* [Planet Middle East](#) **Middle East**--Member Care Update (**May 2015**)

## MC Updates—Words of Appreciation 5

*"I am so glad to see how great you have developed this service to humanity, Member Care. The huge amount of resources, links, shared experiences it is wonderful to see your dream fulfilled...now the Lord has put the important things in their place...And you have set in movement this needy and key service to our suffering world. Just wanted to encourage you to keep on. Yes it is a great truth: 'No hay tan buen tesoro como el bien hacer; ni tan precioso oro, ni tan dulce placer.' [Doing good is the greatest treasure—it's better than gold and better than pleasure] Blessings" Latin America [Lessons from the Humanitarian Trenches](#)--Member Care/Global Integration (March 2015)*

*"I just wanted to say thank you for providing the information for all these resources. You care! And it makes my job of helping leaders in [our organisation] so much easier when I can point them to places where they can grow in the area of member care. God bless you!" Asia [Training Opportunities--Member Care/Global Integration](#) (April 2014)*

*"I appreciate your faithful and comprehensive dissemination of information regarding member care world wide. Thank you." Asia [Doing Mental Health Well](#)--Member Care Update (May 2014)*

*"Congrats on your 100<sup>th</sup> issue and many thanks for all your work over the years furthering the development of member care." Asia [Strategies for Crossing Sectors](#)—Member Care Update (February 2014) [note—100 issues include the previous MemCa Updates and Ethne Updates]*

*"Congratulations on your 100th global member care update! This is no small feat! You have persevered and God has been faithful! The tremendous contribution that you[both] have made to the global missions member care sector is not quantifiable. May God who sees in secret, reward you openly. When all is said and done, the Kingdom has been expanded and untold lives enriched and blessed because of the torch you carry for quality member care! Thank you and bless you for being faithful to His calling in your life! Yay, God! Yay, Kelly and Michele!" USA [Strategies for Crossing Sectors](#)—Member Care Update (February 2014) [note—100 issues include the previous MemCa Updates and Ethne Updates]*

*"Thanks for pressing on the good work that you have started a couple of decades ago!" Asia Member Care Updates ([2013 issues](#))*

*"Your recent posting with history brings a lot of memories. Although my wife and I are really late comers in the big picture of member care, we have somehow had connections with some of the people for years before we even recognized that we were doing "member care". We are excited to be in this field at a time when the momentum is truly building. We do however owe a debt of gratitude to those of you who have pushed on for years before it became a popular subject...It seems that good memories of the people we touched or who touched us helps us, especially as we age, to keep pushing on with the things God has put before us. Thanks for being a catalyst to good memories." USA [Making History Better](#)--Member Care Update USA (June 2013)*

*"This was a meaningful email update for me personally and so I thought I would send a quick acknowledgement. This particular newsletter had significance because of my personal journey in member care. When I first felt a call to member care, you were an inspiration and a great mentor. Meeting you in Europe and in Asia were significant times for me and your encouragement helped me take my first steps in member care. I now...train leaders how to use coaching skills. So the newsletter was a combination of my two worlds into one. It was an encouraging reminder of the journey I have been on. Thanks again for the monthly resources and updates". Asia [Coaching for Mission/Aid Organizations](#)—Member Care Update (October 2012)*

## MC Updates—Words of Appreciation 6

*“As an encouragement to you, just to let you know the book (and others in the past) was very helpful in preparing training sessions for our field mission leaders last week: my husband and I were able to lead a day of training in member care global perspectives and issues.”* **Asia** [Global Letters for a Global Community](#)--Member Care Update (**May 2012**)

**2011--TBA**

*“I have just recently started working with a mission organisation and will be using your material even more. Many thanks and God bless you both and the work.”* [Case Studies in MC USA](#) Member Care--Member Care Update (**October 2010**)

**2009-TBA**