

MEMC NETWORK Newsletter #29

Winter, 2013

Middle East Member Care Conference

ANAFORA Retreat Centre,
Egypt **OCT. 22-26, 2013**

Theme:

“Building Resilience for Turbulent Times”

Optional workshops, time to refresh your souls, your case studies & book reviews, worship, encouraging and educational talks, networking.

Approximate cost: Euro 190 per person, includes all meals, materials, and bus transport from Cairo.

To register, send attached form (details on form.).

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EXPULSION: when they don't want you anymore!

Many friends and colleagues in our region of the world have been expelled in recent days and months. I am thankful that I don't know from experience how that feels: Excluded, thrown out, evicted, ejected, kicked out, unwanted, exposed as “malicious”.

But I can well imagine some of the feelings that must arise when you receive such notice: Panic, anger, fear for your children and spouse, hyperactive anxiety and planning or else total inability to make any steps toward the departure or make decisions, weeping, frustration, questions, even regrets.

No doubt there are also feelings of great fear for those left behind, especially if they are apt to be targeted for being involved with for-

eigners or part of the Church. We can echo Paul's sad farewell to the Ephesian elders in Acts 20, saying “Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock...now I commit you to God..”

What about those who are dependent on feeding programs or water supplies being handled by your agency? How the innocent suffer when those giving aid are expelled to satisfy the ego or the political aspirations of a country's leader.

We must not confuse the silence of those who watch us pack and go with approval: they may simply fear for their own lives if they communicate their grief or farewells in person.

Like David, we may struggle with deep bitterness over those who laugh at our discomfort

or call down curses on our head.

The last half of Psalm 138 seems to hold a comforting truth for such times: “Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve my life; you stretch out your hand against the anger of my foes, with your right hand you save me. The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me; your love, O Lord, endures forever – do not abandon the works of your hands. (Psa. 138:7-8)

Let us show great compassion and grace toward those colleagues who have been expelled, and do all in our power to assist them.
– SBD

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BOARD

CRITICAL INCIDENT PHASES

There are at least five different phases individuals and groups may experience when they are faced with expulsion or a similar critical incident. The following is a brief summary.

ALARM PHASE: this describes the first awareness of a crisis. The individual will feel shocked, stunned.

MOBILIZATION PHASE: those affected will begin to recover from initial shock, and begin to think of plans or try to recall/find the file of their contingency plans.

ACTION PHASE: high levels of adrenalin allow the individual to begin to make plans, to cooperate with teammates, staying up late to do all they can. High levels of stress at this point.

LET-DOWN PHASES: this may not begin until relocated in a safe country nearby, as the more intense reactions lessen and lead to more normal routines, hunger, sleep patterns, and feelings that had been denied or suppressed begin to now surface.

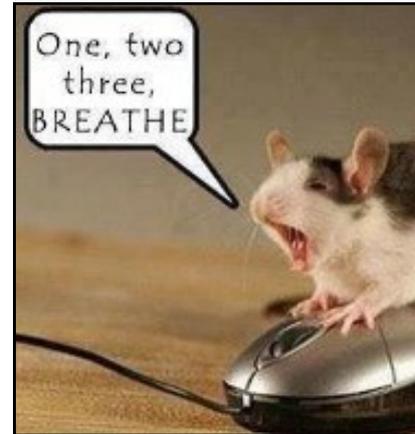
LETTING-GO PHASE: this stage is marked by sadness, depression in-

ability to focus on work, restlessness about the future, and annoyance. It may be when the emotional armor comes off, and feelings of isolation or alienation from those not affected may be present.

When people are sent to their home land, in isolated units, without proper debriefing and processing, serious emotional trauma can result. It is likely they will not return to ministry overseas.

DEBRIEFING is very important, and the sooner after the event, the closer geographically to the place, and the more this can be done as a group or family, the better! It is especially important for children to be with their parents at these times, and to feel their security continues to rest in them.

For further details, read "The Perils of Pioneering: Responsible Logistics for Hostile Places" by Steve and Kitty Holloway, included in the book Doing Member Care Well, Kelly O'Donnell, ed. 2002 William Carey Library. Also, "Guidelines for Crisis and Routine Debriefing" by Debbie Lovell Hawker in the same book as above.



HUMOR FOR THE DAY

SCHOOL DAYS

A little girl had just finished her first week of school. 'I'm just wasting my time,' she said to her mother. 'I can't read, I can't write, and they won't let me talk!'

GENERATIONS

I was visiting my new teammate last night when I asked if I could borrow a newspaper.

"This is the 21st century" he said, "We don't waste money on newspapers. Here, you can borrow my iPad."

I can tell you, that fly never knew what hit him.....

Surprisingly government officials in X were well aware of the missionary intentions of many foreigners working in their area, but they were willing to 'look the other way'.



Christian Counselors available

- In **Kuwait**, Mrs. Melody Driedger, nurse and family or trauma counselor, MA from the University of Calgary. Contact:

driedgercouselling@gmail.com

In Nicosia, **Cyprus**, Rev. Sean Semple. As well as being an Anglican priest he is also a qualified counsellor and has been practising this profession in South Africa.

sajsemple@gmail.com

Mobile: 99393726

Farewell

On March 12, we will say farewell to a long-term Member Care Hub leader. Dr. Annieke van Dijk,, who will be returning to her native land. She will continue to offer consultation help and be of service, but no longer based in Jordan.

Annieke has been a wonderful co-worker and concerned medical doctor, as well as a spiritual retreat leader. She will be greatly missed. The Jordan MC

Hub is now led by Karima, and also served by "MC Elders", Dr. and Mrs. Robin and Anna Fisher, based in Amman 6 months of the year.

If you would like to write a note of encouragement or thanks to Annieke as she leaves the M.E. you may contact susanacyprus@worksmail.net and we will forward your message.

New Resources

Small Conference Center and Lodging

Available in UAE: Contact Arno Apel re. the Apple Tree for gatherings or hospitality in Sharjah.

Arno.Apel@fosanet.org

Finding Strength for the Journey

This well known resource is a series of 30 Bible studies aimed at helping missionaries through the daily struggles of missionary life. It can be used as preparation or as a study guide for those early weeks on the field. While it has

been available in print form for a number of years, it's now available online in PDF format for FREE!

Go to

www.purposepress.net/finding-strength.html

Events Comings Soon

- Trauma Debriefing Workshops with Dr. Debbie Lovell Hawker
In Cairo, Feb. 18-19, Contact: adriennese@gmail.com
In Amman, Feb. 21-22, Contact: karima@klemata.com
- Euro TCK Conference in Germany, 25-29 April, 2013. The topic is *Change - A TCK's Life Story - supporting and equipping TCK's through change* and the main speaker is Ruth Van Reken. [please follow this link](#)

