



Global Member Care Network (GMCN) October 2015

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Editorial: Member Care Pragmatics

Brent Lindquist, Ph.D.
Link Care Center
October 2015

Of the many (!) things that are said about me, one title I would cherish is that I am a "Ruthless Pragmatic." By that I mean, I would hope that people would see me as constantly striving on getting the needed care to the needing people whenever and wherever they needed it and by whoever is available.

Less this idea be seen as ill considered; let's think for a minute about the kind of care that is out there. In broad strokes, people who provide care could be seen as professionals, peers, or amateurs.

Professionals are those who most often have training and even licensure in the mental health fields. They have experience in understanding difficulties, illness, and diagnoses. They can do other things, but they often feel most comfortable within a counseling or clinical arena.

Peers may be coworkers, and often are, who may have had some specific skill-based training. They have been "embedded" in the missionary task and are often very good at understanding crosscultural issues, and team dynamics. Coaches often come from the peer ranks because of their experience.

And then there are the amateurs... Such a label! What does it say to you? Untrained? Reckless? Misguided? A threat? Yes, those could be some labels for some people, but before we dismiss them, let's look at another definition of amateur: someone who does something for the love of it...

My favorite amateurs are the Pastors and other religious workers. Many of them may not have had a lot of training in the finer therapeutic arts, but what they lack for in licensure, they more than make up for in heart.

Our Pastoral Member Care workers are often the front line of care. They are the first to hear of or see the potential that someone's bad day may be more than that. When working hand to glove with professionals, (ugh, I hate to distinguish like this, for I see "amateurs" like pastors as professional as well as co-equals...), these awesome resource people can save time, hurt and money in missions.

I have trained many pastoral care folk at Link Care. I would drop all my degrees, licenses, and titles to walk along side them in their on-the-ground caring.

Missions need all kinds of people in caring roles. But let's not neglect probably the most important carers of all, those who care for the love of it! May God richly bless you today, my pastoral care brothers and sisters.

GLOBAL MAP

NAMIBIA

GODSPEED RESOURCES CONNECTION

MEMBER CARE AFRICA (NAMIBIA)

Dr Willie Van Der Merwe DMin, MA, MTh

Clinical/Pastoral/Consulting Psychologist

Email: drwillievandermerwe@gmail.com

Websites: www.namibpsychologist.com

www.godspeedresources.org

Focus Areas of Ministry:

Crisis response training;
Critical incident stress debriefing;
Crisis management consulting;
Assessment of missionaries before deployment;
Team assessments and building;
Marriage/family counseling;
Short-term individual counseling

RESOURCES

Resources from the recent CAME MCN

The Central Asia/Middle East Member Care Newsletter (CAME MCN) Vol.3 No.8, October 2015

BI STAFF BOOK PICKS FOR FOLKS FACING EARLY-RETIREMENT

1. **"31 Days of Encouragement"** by Ruth Myers. It's especially for us older folks but very valuable in times of transition, no matter what the age. Quote from the publisher (NavPress): "Lonely? Exhausted? Overwhelmed? Whether we're young, old or in between, these feelings can flood our hearts. As we face our limitations, our most urgent need is to know God better and experience His love, power, and sufficiency."
2. **Returning Well, Your Guide to Thriving Back 'Home' After Serving Cross-Culturally** by Melissa Chaplin, who herself is a credentialed life coach. The book just came out this summer 2015. While not specifically aimed at early retirement folks, it could be very helpful for them also. It's written in a workbook style and is meant to be used either alone, with an adjustment companion or a group. We bought several copies and have been giving it away.
3. **Transitions**, by William Bridges – a fabulous book based on the transitions in Moses' life. However, Bridges is not a Christ-follower. Probably the best general book on transitions out there
4. **Toward Holy Ground**, by Margaret Guenther. She is an Episcopalian priest, writing from decades of experience as a priest and spiritual director, helping people age and die well. She writes about the temptations and pitfalls of the second half of life, transitioning to old age. She describes the aim of her book: "First, to explore how we can minister, befriend, and accompany one another in the second half of life, and second, how we can shape our lives and discern the unique insights, griefs, and opportunities of that part of life."
5. **Healthy, Resilient, and Effective in Cross-Cultural Ministry: A Comprehensive Member Care Plan**, by Laura Mae Gardner, **"Retirement" chapter 17, p.251-263**. Especially check-out page 260 which is a bibliography of 18 more books suggested by Dr. Gardner.
6. **Sacred Rhythms** by Ruth Haley Barton. "This book has helped me a great deal in walking through the transitional stages of "what's next." It has taken me back to the roots of my faith in finding time to allow God to speak. **She** provides insight into taking time away from ministry so that we can hear the voice of Jesus. It is easy to talk to people and get their input for future ministry; but for me, this book is giving me peace as I take the next steps in my ministry focus. I realize that the majority of my time is best spent in times of solitude and silence. My time of inner spiritual transformation overflows into ministry. God will place me right where he needs me to speak, work, minister and give. All of ministry must flow from these precious times alone with our Master. So often during times of transition we can find our hearts filled with worry, fear or feeling marginalized. Ruth Barton takes me back to where my focus should be, and this distinguishes the darts of the evil one and fills me with excitement that God is not through with me yet. I just need to be still to hear where He wants me to join Him in His Kingdom ministry.'

Finding Your Way: Discovering the Truth About You, by Dan Webster and Randy Gravitt. This book should probably also be in the list below to help folks newly facing early retirement. The story used to teach the four main principles is excellent and

engages your attention. To my pleasant surprise, the 2nd half of the book the authors have already provided helpful worksheets and summaries to engage the reader and immediately apply the principles. Do you have graduating TCK's on your team or in your community? Are there folks transitioning back to their passport countries soon? BUY THIS BOOK – it is excellent but takes time to work through.

Helpful article on returning to your passport country: <http://www.rockyreentry.com/letter-returning-missionaries-wish-someone-told-first-moved-back-us/>

Africa Member Care Network

Newsletter October 2015

<http://us2.campaign-archive2.com/?u=895d43ef69926eab7812e0395&id=4d418ec901&e=a3dbaa64df>

The Well Member Care Center Chiang Mai Thailand

September Newsletter

<http://us2.campaign-archive2.com/?u=93ed99d9b6c8479d135b01b96&id=66602727e3&e=25f63328eb>

Member Care Europe

Newsletter

<http://us8.campaign-archive2.com/?u=6bc4a139953bb7b45f6a213f3&id=0416a5acf0&e=1d6c1a05da>

New Website - Member Care Europe www.membercare.eu

check it out:

www.membercare.eu

Christian Mindfulness

article that may be helpful for those involved with Member Care

http://www.mindandsoul.info/Articles/396948/Mind_and_Soul/Resources/Topics/Mindfulness/Christian_Mindfulness_Workshops.aspx

GLOBAL MEMBER CARE EVENTS

Central Asia / Eastern Europe

SHARE EDUCATION FAMILY CONFERENCE

· **Turkey** Family Education Conference, October 13-16, 2015 in Özdere, Turkey (Near Izmir)
Conference: October 13-16, 2015 Testing: October 12-15, 2015

· **Hungary** Family Education Conference, February 21 – 26, 2016
Registration opens on our website on November 1, 2015.

· **Central Asia** Family Education Conference, March 22-24, 2016
Registration opens on our website on February 1, 2016.
Testing Day will be March 21.

· **Turkey** Family Education Conference, October 11-14, 2016
Registration opens on our website on June 1, 2016.
Testing Day will be October 10.

www.shareeducation.org

AMMAN, JORDAN

MIDDLE EAST MEMBER CARE CONFERENCE,

SEPTEMBER 23-25, 2016 Contact Christi Jones at ChristimJones@gmail.com for more information.

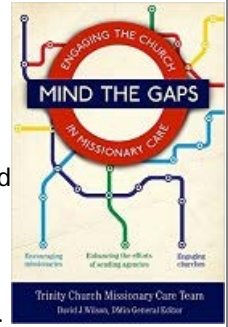
USA, Redlands, California

Mind The Gaps Conference on March 3-5, 2016

Trinity Church's Missionary Care Team has recently published [Mind The Gaps: Engaging The Church In Missionary Care](#). Their book is a valuable resource for local churches and missionary sending agencies who seek to improve the way they do missionary care.

Find a book review here: <http://www.oscar.org.uk/oscaractive/reviews/mtg.htm>

We invite you to join this forum where you can hear from missionary care veterans and other experts in the field of missions. **We plan for open dialogue regarding the marriage of the agency and the church to improve missionary care.** We not only desire to keep our missionaries on the field, but also to strengthen them to be the very best they can be. [Neal Pirollo](#) will be our Plenary Speaker. He is the author of the well known book *Serving As Senders* as well as the founder and director of Emmaus Road International. Breakout sessions and roundtable discussions with over ten other speakers in the field of missionary care will be included.



If you are eager to join the growing conversation of Missionary Care through the networking of churches and sending agencies, go to MindtheGaps.org or mindthegaps.eventzilla.net to register.

Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

The Emmaus Journey: Honouring your personal story of cross-cultural ministry through debriefing and retreat.

February 1-4, 2016. Calgary, Alberta, Canada. \$325 Cdn.

This 4 day non-residential retreat is for cross-cultural workers who are back in North America for furlough or for the longer term. This is an opportunity for you to process your experiences in the context of individual reflection, group activities and individual debriefing.

Retreat leaders are Hazel Mayhew, a counsellor specializing in working with missionaries and formerly a member of Wycliffe Bible Translators, and Terry and Nancy Todd, staff with Barnabas International and in partnership with The Well International Chiang Mai, Thailand.

For more information: Hazel@beracah.ca, nancy@thewellcm.com, terry@thewellcm.com

Thailand

Wellspring: a resting place

Contemplating a change? Need spiritual refreshment? Are you weary? Nearing burnout? burned out? Join us at the 6th bi-annual Wellspring Retreat, designed and led by The Well staff, for couples and singles engaged in cross-cultural ministry. Wellspring is a safe, supportive, peaceful place to rest, renew, share your journey in a small group and reconnect with God. Wellspring is held at Horizon Village and Resort, a luxurious accommodation situated in an expansive botanical garden several kilometers east of Chiang Mai.

When: Begins Sunday, November 8th, 2015 with dinner at 6:00 p.m.
Ends Saturday, November 14th, 2015 with lunch

Cost: 12,500 Baht per person (double occupancy)
17,000 Baht per person (single occupancy)

Where: Horizon Village and Resort www.horizonvillage.net

More Information: Karen Block karen.b@thewellcm.com

Registration: <http://www.thewellintl.org/events>

Germany, Johannesburg, Siem Reap, Cambodia

Coaching Workshop for Christian Leaders

- Oct, Nov, 2015 and February 2016 Dates: October 21-23 2015 with Sean Callaghan, ACC in Kandern, Germany
November 17-19 2015 with Curtis Love, ACC in Randpark Ridge, Johannesburg
February 17-19, 2016 with Kevin Stebbings, ACC in Siem Reap, Cambodia

Training Organization: Creative Results Management

Contact: <http://creativeresultsmanagement.com/workshop>

the Netherlands

Individually Guided Retreats in 2016

In 2016 I can offer you several possibilities for individually guided retreats in the Netherlands. During the following periods the community called "Gemeenschap De Hooge Berkt" in Bergeijk will reserve four rooms at their retreat center especially for cross-cultural workers:

- 29 February - 4 March
- 20 June - 1 July
- 22 August - 2 September
- 17 October - 28 October

What is an individually guided retreat?

An individually guided retreat is a "tailor-made" retreat. We will be meeting for a daily chat of about 45 minutes. Listening to where you are at in your relationship with God suggestions for prayer and Scripture passages will be chosen according to your particular situation and needs. The rest of the time will be spent in silence, including meal times.

for more info please contact Annieke van Dijk at annieke.vandijk@solcon.nl

and check this pdf link

http://www.globalmembercare.com/fileadmin/user_upload/2015/Individually%20Guided%20Retreats2016.pdf

USA

Equipping Local Churches for Missionary Care

Equipping Local Churches for Missionary Care is a new workshop track at ICOM (International Conference on Missions) and will launch in just a few weeks.

Churches are called to be partners in the Gospel with our missionaries and together impact the world. Join us as we answer the practical question: What is the role of the local church in sending and caring for missionaries?

Find more Info here: http://www.globalmembercare.com/fileadmin/user_upload/2015/ICOM%202015%20Equipping.pdf or cccgo.com/equipping

Izmir, Turkey

Crisis Response Training for Leaders

- The "Crisis Response Training for Leaders", also known as the "Member Care While Managing Crisis" workshop, co-facilitated by staff from MMCT (Mobile Member Care Team, www.mmct.org) and Barnabas International.

Izmir, Turkey. January 13-19, 2016. Open to leaders and member care providers in Central Asia, Middle East and North Africa.

The Crisis Response Training for Leaders workshop is a 6-day interactive workshop that equips leaders for the strategic member care roles they play during times of crisis.

Topics covered include:

- normal response to crisis
- the stages of grief after loss or trauma
- clarifying one's personal theology of suffering and risk
- maintaining confidentiality and good communication
- assessing vulnerable members
- the when, why and how of debriefings
- how MMCT and local Peer Response Teams can be of service to the missions community
- crafting helpful policies, procedures and protocols
- leadership style in crisis

You can find a testimonial re: the CRT for Leaders workshop from a field leader: <http://www.mmct.org/media.php?pageID=59> .

Do feel free to forward this to other team, country and regional leaders in your company who may be interested. There is space for only 24 people.

Yalova, TURKEY.

SHARPENING YOUR INTERPERSONAL SKILLS

1. SHARPENING YOUR INTERPERSONAL SKILLS WORKSHOP (SYIS), April 3-8, 2016 in Yalova, TURKEY, hosted by Barnabas International and International Training Partners.

To request more information or inquire about registration, please contact memcare@pobox.com. This is open to any global worker in the CAME region or English speaking national. There is space for only 24 people. Please contact the administrator if childcare would be helpful.

SYIS is designed to help cross-cultural workers hone their interpersonal skills, thereby enabling them to work more effectively together in community.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?: Certain elements of each workshop may vary due to individualized needs assessments. However, some of the many topics that will be considered are:

Loving Listening: Sharpen skills needed to minister more effectively to others through listening well.

Advice and Problem Solving: Learn about the role of advice and examine and practice steps involved in helping others solve problems.

Confronting: Discover biblical guidelines and helpful skills for confronting others and responding effectively when confronted in anger.

Conflict Management: Explore biblical ground rules for effective conflict resolution and practice a step-by-step strategy for managing personal conflict and helping others manage conflict.

Community: Gain awareness about what destroys community and what attitudes and skills can help to build community.

Stress: Recognize the impact that stress has on yourself and others and develop a strategy to manage stress well.

Suffering Loss: Process personal loss and grief and identify ways to help others who are grieving or have suffered loss.

More information available at: www.relationshipskills.com

GMCN Facebook group

GMCN Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/globalmembercare>

We just reached 1095 members!

Thanks you for being part of this Facebook network group. Please continue to make it known among your member care colleagues.

We for now chose this to be a "closed group". The closed privacy setting makes it possible for nonmembers to find the group in Facebook search, but the group page's content is hidden. The process for adding a group member is the same for all privacy levels; all group members can add anyone from his friend list as a group member. When someone requests to join a closed group on Facebook, administrators will receive a notification and can choose to either approve or deny the request.

We want to make the The Global Member Care Network (GMCN) a network community which connects you with resources, updates, links and people working in the realm of member care around the world.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/globalmembercare>

The Global Member Care Network is an independent network of volunteers. Please consider donating to this important network, to keep the running costs covered. We do this, because we believe in it. This Newsletter is a free service and was created to share and connect member care resources around the world. It goes out in the middle of each month. News and resources need to be posted on our website blog, or send to office@globalmembercare.com.

Subscribe: go here: <https://app.mailerlite.com/webforms/landing/k8h5i8>