



Global Member Care Network (GMCN) August 2016

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This month's Sponsor - [WITS \(Walking In Their Shoes\) International](#)

WITS (Walking In Their Shoes) INTERNATIONAL <http://www.witsinternational.com/> is a service to missionaries providing on-site emergency, active, and pro-active psychological and spiritual counseling and encouragement. Support services are provided without cost to missionaries at their center of ministry. Christian psychiatrists, psychologists, and pastors with good counseling skills are encouraged to volunteer their time to assist WITS International with on-site care.

The Birth of WITS

In 1997, a concern by a number of mission leaders challenged a study to see what more could and needed to be done to help missionaries. The increasing uncertainty in the world, the changing face of missions, and a new generation of missionaries, demanded changes in missionary care. After a year of study, an obvious felt need by missionaries was "confidential on-site counseling from individuals who had known and experienced like situations".

Lee Baas, a veteran missionary, psychologist, and life coach, was challenged by the group to resign his missionary position in the Philippines to begin this service. In January 1999, WITS (Walking In Their Shoes) International was organized. Lee Baas, and Carolyn, his wife, are the only long term volunteers. Volunteers are responsible for their own travel expenses.

Since 1999, WITS has provided missionary counseling, retreats, workshops and seminars for the overseas missionary community. Since 2015, in answer to requests from missionaries and mission related organizations, WITS has also assisted the missionary community with mediation and conflict resolution services.

Although WITS is an on-site ministry, we continue to follow-up missionaries via e-mail and provide some counseling services to missionaries who had to leave the field and return to their country of origin. WITS will not turn down an emergency request due to financial considerations involved in our getting to an area of need.

Grand Haven, MI 49417, U.S.A. 616-844-3360 witsinternational@yahoo.com <http://www.witsinternational.com/>



Q&A (Questions and Answers)

WHEN and WHERE is the next Global Member Care Network Conference

Many of you have asked me when and where the next Global Member Care conference will be. It's still going to be 2 more years. Some time in the second part of 2018, either in Costa Rica or Panama, with the focus on Latin America and the Spanish speaking national Mission Movements.

We have been able to setup an international working team that has started to look into logistics, theme and content.

Please keep on praying for this working team, as we prepare for this next strategic Global Member Care conference, after Asia-focused Thailand2012 and Middle-East-focused Turkey2015.

Any suggestions or questions, please contact me at harry@globalmembercare.com (Harry Hoffmann)

Editorial:What is the purpose of Member Care

Brent Lindquist, Ph.D.

President, Link Care Center, Mission Advisor, Missio Nexus, Global Learning Architect, Crosswired

It is interesting to observe the explosion of programs, resources and services in the Member Care arena. Everybody has something to offer, and all of our marketing strategies aim to convince missionaries and their organizations of the strategic benefit of our "stuff." I am heartened to see a number of trending changes, one of which I will note below.

When I started out, member care was more narrow than it is today. Mostly it was about counseling. In my role as Mission Advisor to Missio Nexus, I would, and still do, conduct audits of missions' MC programs. The audits usually start out with one question: "What is the primary purpose of Member Care?" Everyone in the room would immediately call out "Counseling!" And when I would say "And?", they would respond with "Helping people when they are hurting!" I would usually say, "Well, that sounds a lot like counseling..." Most people were pretty much out of ideas. I would then ask if the primary purpose of Member Care should be "Effectiveness." Effectiveness in Living, witnessing, and working... Light bulbs would go on, and then people would start asking questions: "Is training part of member care? What about coaching? and soon a lot of different tasks and activities were part of member care.

Then I spend the rest of my consult helping the different departments understand and develop their roles as carers. It is a lot of fun (OK, HR? Legal? financial? yes, absolutely).

I would hope you would see that everything that is done to/with/and for missionaries and their organizations should be purpose driven to help people become more effective in living (the work that it takes to live), witnessing (the work it takes to tell), and working (uh, you get the picture!).

We do not come alongside the mission and organization to make them dependent on us. We come alongside to help them become more effective so that they can do better whether we are there or not. It is not about us.

Brent (brent@brentlindquist.com)

Brent Lindquist is on the executive board of Global Member Care and is the president of Link Care Center. In this role he does a lot of networking and training with organizations and churches globally. As a Mission Advisor of Missio Nexus, he facilitates the Member Care and Development Cohort, and wanders around in some of the other ones.

RESOURCES

Newsletter

Africa Member Care Network August 2016

Book

SENT FORTH: AFRICAN MISSIONARY WORK IN THE WEST: H.C. KWIYANI

Author: Harvey C. Kwiyani, Ph.D.

Director, Missio Africanus

Blog: www.harvmins.com

www.missioafricanus.org

Free E-book: "In Their Own Words: Email to missionarycare.com"

During the last decade people that Ron Koteskey has never met wrote 3000 emails to www.missionarycare.com. After consulting several people about ethical issues, he compiled some of these into a 100-page book available from him at ron@missionarycare.com. This book is for those serving in member care, so he is sending it to those who request a copy rather than posting it on-line for the general public. Please tell him if you would like it as a .pdf or .doc file for your computer or as a .mobi or .epub file for your e-reader. Rather than reading what mental health professionals write about missionaries seeking help, read what missionaries say "in their own words."

New book:

The Curious Incident of a Boy's Transformation: Helping a child on the autistic spectrum

The Curious Incident of a Boy's Transformation: Helping a child on the autistic spectrum by Debbie Lovell (Condeo Press, 2016) Autism is not a rare condition. At one recent camp for TCKs, four of the ten boys who attended were on the autistic spectrum. We meet people with autism in our teams, our work places and our churches. As a member care provider, I have been asked to help in numerous cases where mission workers or their children were on the autistic spectrum. Would you recognise the characteristics and be able to help someone seek a diagnosis?

This book helps us to understand people with this condition better, and by doing so it helps us to provide better support. As well as chapters on basic issues such as eating, sleep, meltdowns and social skills, this book also has chapters on coping with travel, and church and faith – topics very relevant to those in the mission community.

Order from <http://condeopress.com/the-curious-incident-of-a-boy-s-transformation>

Kindle versions are available on amazon, including free sample chapters.

For orders within the UK, email debbie.hawker@interhealth.org.uk

Books & resources for family members that have been left behind in home culture

collated from our Facebook thread

Looking for resources for family members that have been left behind in home culture (think adult children that did not grow up on the field.)

There is a chapter in this book about John and James, sons of Zebedee and Salome. Really powerfully and impactfully written. How life looks like for the parents as their sons follow Jesus.

"Why God Calls Us to Dangerous Places "

<https://www.amazon.com/Why-God-Calls-Dangerous-Places/dp/0802413412>

Two books that come to mind are Parents of Missionaries by Cheryl Savageau

"Parents of Missionaries: How to Thrive and Stay Connected When Your Children and Grandchildren Serve Cross-Culturally"

https://www.amazon.com/dp/0830857303/ref=rdr_ext_tmb

and Diane Stortz and Long Distance Grandma by Janet Teitsort.

"Long Distance Grandma: Staying Connected Across the Miles"

https://www.amazon.com/dp/1582294445/ref=rdr_ext_tmb

Missions Resource Network library

with great member care related resources

<http://www.mrnet.org/library>

article on: The Balancing Act of MK Education

<http://www.alifeoverseas.com/the-balancing-act-of-mk-education/>

Newsletter

The Well Member Care Center Chiangmai

[The Well Newsletter](#)

Australia

Iron Sharpens Iron Member Care Ministry

Iron Sharpens Iron is a no cost short-term counselling and respite ministry in Mackay for missionaries and development workers, serving in and hailing from any country.

They write a great informative Newsletter (3-4 times a year) on Member Care in and from the South Pacific.

Email – ironsharpensiron@mackaybaptist.org.au

Web – ironsharpensiron.mackaybaptist.org.au

GLOBAL MEMBER CARE EVENTS

Northern Ireland.

Counseling & Member Care

Announcing another **Advanced Counseling & leadership Training Series (A.C.T.S.)** Module 1 seminar (see attached flyer and Overview & Information file, as well as faculty credentials and endorsements).

The seminar will **focus** on the establishment of a foundation of understanding, guiding principles, skills and tools that are indispensable to equipping you to carry out your professional, ministry, mission, or calling, effectively and efficiently.

This seminar is **intended** for those who are serving, or have the calling and passion to serve, in

**Counseling & Member Care
Leadership, Mentoring and Discipleship
Debriefing and Restoration Work
Trauma & Crisis
Addiction Recovery
Working with the Victims of Human Trafficking
Conflict Resolution
Marriage and Family Restoration**

SPACE IS LIMITED: We emphasize the development and refinement of skill and tools application. Limiting the number of participants allows us to provide supervised hands-on training for every participant.

Dates: April 16-29, 2017

Location: Northern Ireland, YWAM Rostrevoer (www.ywamrostrevor.org)

Cost (includes room and board for the 13 nights and days of the seminar): **£438** (British pounds)

To Apply Contact: pcrod71@gmail.com

Antalya, Turkey

NCF Counseling & Member Care Seminar

9-21 October 2016

A few openings remain. **The deadline to submit your application is August 20!** As a cross-cultural worker, you support a great variety of people, yet perhaps you lack adequate academic or field training to equip you to deal with the many issues you encounter. Our instructors emphasize a strong integration of biblical truth with practical psychological insights and counseling techniques. Join over 2,000 others who have gained valuable counseling and member care skills by attending this intensive training.

What have past participants said? "Thank you all for the work you put into this seminar. And that includes all the years of study, struggle, and effort to grow in your understanding of the love of Jesus and the marvelous intricacies of the human body, mind, soul and spirit." Another wrote, "I thought it was so well done! I deeply appreciated the integration of psychology and theology. I felt stirred by individual testimonies and your commitment to honesty and vulnerability. I thought staff sharing their stories set a great tone. So appreciate all your hearts for the Lord and for people (us!)"

Write Cindy Hibma at ncf.seminars@gmail.com to receive an application form or seminar brochure, or check http://ncfliving.org/what_we_do/counseling-member-care-seminar.html.

Next South Pacific Member Care Conference

The next conference will be held in Melbourne 4-8 September 2017.

More info will follow

Hungary (near Budapest)

OM People Care Course, Level 2

Location: Érd, Hungary (near Budapest)

Date: 4-10 December 2016

The People Care Courses provide people with new skills to fulfill their God given roles in people care and leadership while positively impacting their personal lives. The training is practical and relevant for individuals that serve in all facets of mission. The ministry skills that the participant acquires also helps build a strong foundation in the local church.

The People Care Course Level 2 (PCC L2) is a 5-day course which builds on level 1 topics as well as adding more complex topics that People Care providers encounter in their ministries Such as: the ethical foundations of People Care (PC); Advanced Listening skills; Advanced Debriefing; Psychological First Aid; Supporting Teams, Families, Marriages, and Singles; Supporting Trauma Survivors; Supporting Good Emotional and Mental Health on the field - including recognizing disorders and addictions.

Course cost: 350 Euro when applying before 4 October 2016, 370 Euro after 4 October.

This course is useful for people in official member care roles and informal support, discipleship, and mentoring roles.

For more information and an application form of the course please email the People Care Administrator at people.care@om.org or marlieske.smilde@om.org

Jerash, Jordan

Middle East Member Care Conference & Risk Assessment and Management Training

There are still spaces available for participants at the Middle East Member Care Conference in Jerash, Jordan September 22-25! Contact Keith at me.membercare@gmail.com for registration and info.

ALSO, there are still spaces available for the Risk Assessment and Management Training (RAM)!
Wednesday and Thursday, September 21-22, 2016
8:45am – 5pm (Both Days)
Jerash, Jordan contact nealhampton@pobox.com for registration and information!!!!

Germany

EUROTCK 2018

EUROTCK 2018 “Window on the TCK world” May 11-15, 2017 in Frieolzheim, Germany.

Information on the conference will be available soon on the website: <http://www.eurotck.net>; or you can email: <mailto:eurotck@gmail.com>

GMCN Facebook group

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

We just reached 1525 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>