



Global Member Care Network (GMCN) November 2016

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Content:

- This month's Sponsor - Thrive Ministry for women
 - Editorial: The Future of Member Care
 - Global Member Care Resources
 - GLOBAL MEMBER CARE EVENTS
 - GMCN Facebook group - now 1683 members
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This month's Sponsor - Thrive Ministry online magazine & retreats for women



Thrive Ministry offers online magazine and retreats for women

Do your global women feel safe sharing their struggles? Do they feel connected to others who get their unique lives? For nearly 20 years, Thrive has worked alongside 650+ sending agencies & churches to provide holistic care—spiritual, physical, & emotional—to women on the field. In [Connection Magazine](#), their voices are valued. At [retreats](#), they are known, understood, and prayed for in a beautiful setting away from ministry responsibilities.

2017 retreats, available to North American women serving cross-culturally, are in:

- Penang, Malaysia in **February**
- Dubrovnik, Croatia in **April**
- Beaver Creek, CO (for women on furlough or transitioning off the field) in **July**
- Papua New Guinea in **October**.

Register at thriveministry.org/retreats or subscribe to the magazine at thriveconnection.com.

Editorial: Member Care and Mission Theology

In September this year, I attended a four day seminar on “transforming mission theology”, at the Overseas Mission Study Centre (OMSC) New Haven, led by Dr. Charles Van Engen. As we engaged in conversation about various dimensions of mission theology, we identified several “issues” in mission theology. Also this month, as a member care facilitator, I have had long conversations with cross cultural mission workers on challenging situations faced by them on the field. The question that I am currently exploring is whether some “presenting problems” of member care are related to our understanding, or lack of engagement with local mission theology, which is dynamic, developing and deeply rooted in the context, worldview and culture of the host nation.

Some of the issues in mission theology are:

- Partnership, Cross-cultural competence, Conflict resolution
 - Holistic mission, Love in action, Division of evangelization and social gospel
 - Contextualization, syncretism
 - Using technology, Pluralism, Evangelization in hostile contexts
 - Networking, Reconciliation across denominations
 - Ecclesiology, Post-denominational church structures
 - Islam, Interfaith dialogue
 - Social Justice, Ministry among the poor, consumerism
 - Mobilization, Bible translation, Ecological mission
 - Growth of wealthy people, Business as mission, Leadership development
 - Migration, immigration and the diaspora.
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- Spiritual formation, conscientization of Scripture
 - Post-modern clustering, Re-categorization of “the mission field”, Re-formation of “church”
 - Re-visioning of mission strategies and structures, Release of paradigms and power, Redefinition of partnership, rethinking the role of money in missions.
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- Re-telling the gospel in ways that communicate to all people, Multicultural Christian community, Gospel in action/service, Gospel to the poor
 - Revival of intimacy with Jesus and dependence on the Holy Spirit for spiritual authority and power to deal with demonic opposition of the gospel, Spiritual warfare
 - Rendering suffering and persecution to be part of the gospel; preparing future generation of Church to stand firm through suffering.

What then would be the member care implications for engaging with these issues in Mission theology? Does our current member care discourse and rhetoric include these issues which cannot be resolved when categorised as mere “administrative” or “member care” issues. We need constant conversations between mission administrators, member care providers and mission theologians who engage in doing local theologising.

Integration of member care, mission theology issues and on-going spiritual formation is essential as real life does not happen in neatly constructed silos.

Dr Ravi David is a member of the GMCN board and is currently on sabbatical at the Overseas Ministries Study Centre (OMSC) at New Haven, Connecticut.

RESOURCES

New Book

Spiritual growth in a time of change: Following God in midlife

By Tony Horsfall. BRF, 2016, £7.99. A couple of years ago, someone asked if I could recommend some good reading material on midlife. At the time I didn't know of any, so I am grateful that Tony Horsfall has now provided an excellent book on this topic.

When I hear the word ‘midlife’, I expect it to be followed by ‘crisis’. This book is a refreshing change, focusing instead on the spiritual growth which can take place between the ages of forty and sixty. Tony provides useful reflection questions at the end of each chapter which help promote this growth.

Within days of starting this book, I was already recommending it to mission workers. This book helps us make the most of our forties and fifties, and prepares us for entering future years well so that the ‘second half can be the best half’.

Available from <http://www.brfoonline.org.uk/9780857464354/> (Reviewed by Dr Debbie Hawker, Clinical Psychologist)

Newsletter

Member Care Center Chiangmai Mai - The Well

November 2016

<http://us2.campaign-archive1.com/?u=93ed99d9b6c8479d135b01b96&id=9426ec133d&e=25f63328eb>

Book

Crossing Cultures in Scripture: Biblical Principles for Mission Practice

From Genesis to Revelation, the Bible is a crosscultural book. Scripture is full of narratives of God's people crossing cultures in pursuit of God's mission. Biblical texts shed light on mission dynamics: Sarah and Hagar functioning in an honor-shame culture, Moses as a multicultural leader, Ruth as a crosscultural conversion, David and Uriah illustrating power distance, the queen of Sheba as an international truth-seeker, Daniel as a transnational student, Paul in Athens as a model of contextualization, and much more.

https://www.amazon.com/dp/0830844732/ref=cm_sw_su_dp

Member Care Netherlands - Newsletter

In deze nieuwsbrief leest u over de Toerustingsdag van Member Care Nederland, over de veranderde situatie van MCNL en over verschillende member care activiteiten die georganiseerd werden en worden door het netwerk.

<https://membercare.nl>

GLOBAL MEMBER CARE EVENTS

Kenya, Turkey, NZ, Morocco, Tunisia, UK, Thailand

Coaching Workshop for Christian Leaders

Coaching Workshop for Christian Leaders – November 2016- May 2017

Dates:

November 28-30, 2016 with Curtis Love, ACC, in Kijabe, Kenya
December 8-10, 2016 with D. D., ACC, in Nevsehir, Turkey
January 12-14, 2017 with Christine Harding, ACC, in Auckland, New Zealand
February 1-3, 2017 with Katie, PCC, in Morocco
March 21-23, 2017 with Sean Callaghan, ACC, in Nairobi, Kenya
March 30 - April 1, 2017 with Katie, PCC, in Tunisia
April 25-27, 2017 with Sean Callaghan, ACC, in London, UK
May 10-12, 2017 with Kevin Stebbings, ACC, in Bangkok, Thailand

A 3-day intensive coaching workshop based on the book, The COACH Model for Christian Leaders. This workshop is for those experienced as well as those who are not-so-experienced in coaching skills. Upgrade to receive 21 International Coach Federation-approved training hours, plus bonus material to help you take your coaching to a professional level!

Training Organization: Creative Results Management

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

Africa: Conakry, Guinea and Ougadougou, Burkina Faso

SYIS

The Mobile Member Care Team of West Africa will be leading a few Sharpening Your Interpersonal Skills workshops. If possible, please advertise them in the Global Member Care News.

The workshops will be:

SYIS in English, Conakry, Guinea: Nov. 27 - Dec. 2, 2016

SYIS in French, Conakry, Guinea: Feb. 5 - 10, 2017

SYIS in English, Ougadougou, Burkina Faso: March 19 - 24, 2017

Contact person for registration and more information: Mrs. Sue Schmidt, sue.schmidt@mmct.org

Penang, Malaysia

5th Asia Member Care Network Conference

Member Care in a Disorderly Word

5th Asia Member Care Network Conference

April 24-28, 2017

Penang, Malaysia

Speakers & Workshop Leaders: Perry Bradford, Dr Lois Dodds, Dr Mark Toh, and many others

RM\$1040 (after January 30 2017)

RM\$960 (before January 30 2017)

Register here: <http://lifejourneycentre.com/index.html>

For more information please contact: Dr David Tan or Warren Lawrence asiamembercarenetwork@gmail.com

http://www.globalmembercare.com/fileadmin/user_upload/2016/AMCN2017.pdf

the Netherlands

Individually Guided Retreats 2016 & 2017

- 17 oktober tot 28 oktober 2016 - 20 februari tot 3 maart 2017 - 19 juni tot 30 juni 2017 - 21 augustus tot 1 september 2017 - 23 oktober tot 3 november 2017

Would you like to enjoy some time of rest and prayer, time to simply enjoy “being” in God’s presence? Then this might be just what you are looking for! In 2016 and 2017 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.

For more info check out [this link](#) or contact annieke.vandijk@solcon.nl

Australia

2017 South Pacific Member Care Conference

Sep 3-8, 2017

Find more info here:

<http://us13.campaign-archive2.com/?u=59a3515496d2e1301da9baed4&id=327606dbb7&e=950aebd8e2>

Spain

Family Education Conference 2016 -

Spain 25 Nov 2016 - 27 Nov 2016

SHARE Education Services helps expatriate families living in Europe, Russia, and Central Asia with their children’s education needs. With a caring, compassionate staff of educators and years of international experience, we understand the joys and challenges of raising a family in a cross-cultural environment. We offer help in a variety of areas, including:

- Choosing a schooling option
- Deciding what curriculum to use
- Support through transitions
- Determining learning issues and challenges
- Resource help

And so much more! Whatever your concern is regarding your child's education, SHARE Education Services is here for you.

<http://www.shareeducation.org/>

GMCN Facebook group

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

We just reached 1683 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>