



Global Member Care Network (GMCN) March 2017

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This month's Sponsor - [Traction](#)



Traction is a 6-day renewal experience **September 20-26, 2017** for men working cross-culturally. This week of restoration is all about helping guys navigate their roles as leaders in order to gain spiritual footing and momentum to move forward.

It focuses on issues like:

1. - Managing stress, isolation and opposition
2. - Reconnecting with God
3. - Cultivating the character of authentic leadership
4. - Honoring God with our sexuality
5. - Persevering with courage and trust in the face of challenges

The week includes worship, teaching, counseling, medical consultation, outdoor activities, and personal reflection in one of the most spectacular natural settings on earth! Individuals and teams are welcome. Register at catalystintl.org

Contact Daniel Hahn info@catalystintl.org

Check out this less than 2 min clip about Traction <https://vimeo.com/catalystintlorg>

Editorial: MEMBER CARE AS A WAY OF REDUCING PREVENTABLE MISSIONARY ATTRITION IN AFRICA

In 2014, I graduated from Asbury Theological Seminary in Wilmore, Kentucky with a Ph. D. in Intercultural Studies. As part of my dissertation, I researched and wrote on missionary attrition among African missionaries. The passion to research on missionary attrition was spurred by my personal experience as having spent 10 years serving as a missionary to the Maasai people of Kenya. Though I am a Kenyan by nationality, I quickly realized that my Kipsigis culture and the Maasai culture were completely different. I had to take time to learn the language, the gestures, the food, and all the nuances of their culture.

In my research I sought to find out the factors that cause missionary attrition in Africa. I interviewed the missionaries and the sending agencies/churches among others. I found out that there is a strong correlation between missionary care and retention of missionaries; missionary/member care helps to reduce or prevent missionary attrition. Overall, there needs to be a better way to care for missionaries because the work they do is demanding and more so because there are times when they go through emotional, mental and spiritual challenges yet feel as though they have no one to share their struggles with.

During the research, a number of missionaries shared with me that they were not free to share their spiritual challenges with their church or agency administrators for the fear that what they share might be used against them. Therefore, the need for care provided by people who are not perceived to be administrators is needed so that the missionaries can open up for help. Missionaries reported that most often the sending agency/church acts as a “fire brigade” that responds when a problem arises. Usually, by the time they step in to help, it might be too late to solve the issue. It is crucial that the missionaries know during pre-field preparation that the sending agency/church cares for them and will continue to show care by providing missionary care services while they are serving in their fields and even after their missionary service is done. As Africa is now sending out many missionaries to the least reached people groups, there is a need to make sure that the missionaries are cared for.

Reuben Langat, Ph.D., Associate Director, Heart of Africa

next Global Member Care Network Conference: 2018

WHEN and WHERE is the next Global Member Care Network Conference

Where: Quito, Ecuador

When: September 10-14, 2018 (next year)

Please keep on praying for our conference working team, as we prepare for this next strategic Global Member Care conference in 2018. After Asia-focused Thailand 2012 and Middle-East-focused Turkey 2015, we will focus now on Member Care in the Latin American Mission Movement. The conference will be held at least bilingually in Spanish and English.

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

RESOURCES

Free Download: “Memories and Musings about Missionary Member Care”

"Memories and Musings about Missionary Member Care," tells how the author (Ron Koteskey) was called into missions, and specifically into member care. It also includes many experiences he and Bonnie had doing member care as well as the story of their websites. <http://www.missionarycare.com> and <http://www.crossculturalworkers.com>.

It is now available to download free of charge as .doc, .pdf, or .zip files for your computer and as .mobi or .epub files for your Kindle or Nook. You can't beat the price. Find it at....

<http://www.missionarycare.com/memories.html>

Debriefing Resource

Returning Well Groups Registration Now Open

For those desiring a debriefing experience in the context of a group, but constraints such as finances or inability to travel are limiting factors, consider joining one of four different Returning Well groups starting in April for women and couples. Groups meet 6 times over 3 months via video conferencing and utilize *Returning Well: Your Guide to Thriving Back "Home" After Serving Cross-Culturally*. More details and registration is at www.ReturningWell.com/Groups

Africa Member Care Network

Febr/March 2017

<http://us2.campaign-archive2.com/?u=895d43ef69926eab7812e0395&id=6a537b63e5&e=a3dbaa64df>

Should Newlyweds Go to the Mission Field?' (oscar.org.uk)

Article by Wesley Mills

<http://www.oscar.org.uk/oscaractive/articles/mills.htm>

GLOBAL MEMBER CARE EVENTS

Victoria, Australia

Missionary transition and reentry retreat

Missionary transition and reentry retreat for singles, couples and families will be held 5-8 October, 2017 in Victoria, Australia.

For further details contact Dawn on dgtaylor@swissmail.org. Book early as places are limited

www.globalmembercare.com/fileadmin/user_upload/2017/ReEntryRetreatBrochure2017.pdf

Victoria, Australia

South Pacific Member Care Conference 2017



Date: 4 - 8 September 2017

Find more info here: <https://www.trybooking.com/book/event?eid=231866>

Australia, Road Mulgoa, NSW

MISSIONS INTERLINK MEMBER CARE Re-Entry Retreat

Friday May 19 to Sunday May 21

For further enquiries see pdf flyer or contact Sandy Wade by email iamhischild@psmail.net

http://www.globalmembercare.com/fileadmin/user_upload/2017/Reentrybrochure2017.pdf

Chiang Mai Thailand

Debriefing Workshop

Our Debriefing workshop is a structured four day event designed to facilitate understanding and closure in the midst of transition. Individuals process what they have experienced in a myriad of ways. This includes constructing timelines, education, and verbal processing. We have found taking time to debrief helps enable individuals to move forward. Whether you have just come onto the field, or are preparing for a new adventure, we invite you to join us for four days of Christ focused reflecting, debriefing, and group activities.

Dates: Monday, May 1 to Thursday, May 4

<http://www.thewellintl.org/eventlog/2015/10/6/debriefing-transition-retreat>

Canada

ReBoot retreats for the summer of 2017<http://www.canadianmk.net/ReBoot>

ReBoot Vision: To provide a safe place for Canadian MKs to review their life stories, be refreshed through worship and peer relationships in order to re-enter and navigate the transition to Canadian life and culture with God's grace.

June 12-18, 2017 -Hosted at Blue Bronna Wilderness Camp (Kananaskis, AB)

A retreat for MK's aged 21-35 looking to be challenged, deepen their relationship with God and seek His direction.

<http://www.canadianmk.net/reboot/videos/ArticleId/1478>

July 22-29, 2017 Ontario

A transition retreat for MK's aged 17-20 who are currently or have recently returned to Canada. Hosted by Emmanuel Bible College (Kitchener, ON).

<http://www.canadianmk.net/reboot/videos/ArticleId/1477>

AUGUST 5-12, 2017 Alberta

A transition retreat for MK's aged 17-20 who are currently or have recently returned to Canada. Hosted by Ambrose University (Calgary, AB)

<http://www.canadianmk.net/reboot/videos/ArticleId/268>

Toronto, Canada:

OM People Care Course, Level 1

Upcoming Member Care Training Event: OM People Care Course, Level 1

Date: 15-22 October 2017

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.

This 6-day course is designed to be an introduction to basic member care skills. It prepares the participant to care for and support community members, team members, colleagues, and friends facing the regular ups and downs of life prevalent in any environment and intensified in cross-cultural living and service.

Session topics include:

- Model of Good Practice in People Care
- Qualities of a People Care provider
- Listening and Empathy Training
- Personal Debriefing
- Conflict Management
- Cross-Cultural People Care
- Transition and Change
- Maintaining Healthy Boundaries

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

Course cost: €370. Early registration discount of €20 when applying by 15 July 2017.

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

GMCN Facebook group

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

We just reached 1876 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>