

# Korean Member Care

Introduction

SESSION ONE

## INTRODUCTION

- “Isn’t anybody listening?”
- “Doesn’t anybody care?”
- These are the words of Gracia Burnham midway through her kidnapping experience.

You are saying ‘yes’ to these questions!

- An overview of the coming ten sessions

- Sessions 1, 2, and 3 are foundational.
- Sessions 4, 5, and 6 are practical
- Sessions 7, 8, and 9 have to do with specific situations or challenges
- Session 10 wraps up with tools for the member care worker

## Three foundational sessions

- 1. Vision for Member Care
- 2. Scope of Member Care
- 3. Policies and Procedures

## Four practical ideas

- 4. A Member Care Plan, a model for member care
- 5. A Job Description for a member care worker
- 6. What did Wycliffe do? A case study and an action plan

### Three Specific Situations or Challenges

- 7. Unusual situations or surprises
- 8. Singles and singleness
- 9. Retirement

### Tools for the Member Care worker

- Session ten discusses the person of the member care worker, some of the tools he or she needs, and some suggested training that would be helpful.

### By the end,

- We hope you will have a good idea of what your organizational needs are,
- a plan to meet those needs,
- a person in mind to lead member care, and
- a job description for that person.

### SESSION I - Vision

- Definition:
- Member Care is doing whatever it takes, within reason, to insure that our workers are cared for and supported by their agency, field leadership, and sending church.

- This care is to the end that each person thrives in ministry, has resources needed for effective service, and cares well for his family, to the end that God is honored by this person's life and service.

### Another definition:

- Member Care is the ongoing preparation, equipping, and empowering of missionaries for effective and sustainable life, ministry, and work.

## Why is such care necessary?

- 1. Mission work is a spiritual battle carried on in foreign territory where Satan reigns.
- 2. Many mission leaders and administrators, while they may be caring people, simply do not have time to extend necessary help to hurting members. Sometimes they don't know how to help, even after they have listened.

- 3. The Bible is filled with commands to help one another, which assumes that we need help from one another, sometimes specialized help.

- 4. More wounded people are entering missions and may not have basic life skills—how to build good marriages, be good parents, or how to maintain their spiritual life without a pastor.

- Some people are from broken homes and they were not parented well, or don't know how to make and maintain relationships, and they may need some specialized help and care.
- All of us need good models of godly health from spiritual mentors.

- 5. Cross-cultural relationships are hard to make; they are often the cause of much pain. Friction and conflict caused by cultural misunderstandings is hard to resolve.

- 6. There is more political instability, danger and uncertainty than ever. Stress levels are higher than they have ever been. Many are afraid. It is hard to be productive in a context of fear.

- 7. Temptations are stronger than ever—to frustration and anger, perhaps family abuse and violence, accessing pornography on the internet, and possibly other forms of immorality, or discouragement and depression.

- 8. Everyone needs attention and encouragement. There is an epidemic of loneliness in missions because of isolation, distance from home and family, and because everyone is so busy.

What has your experience been?

- What would you add to this list?

In small groups, think about this case study

- An Asian family just arrived in Africa with their four children. They are settling in to a house in the town where they will do language study. They are the only Asians in this group of language learners, so are very lonely. They cannot find food in the market to make the meals they like. The children cry at night, and the older two

- are having great difficulty finding their way to school, and trying to learn English, as all the classes are in English. The two younger children are unhappy with the house helper who was hired to care for them while their mother and father were in language classes all morning. And then the wife gets malaria.

- What kind of care do they need?
- Who will provide this care for them?
- What would you do if this family were from your agency? Your church?

## A philosophy statement

- 1. God is ultimately responsible for the care of His children.
- 2. Members have a responsibility to care for, encourage, and build up one another.
- 3. The sending church should share in the responsibility for member care..

- 4. The individual member must take personal responsibility for himself and the family.
- 5. Administration and mission leadership also bear responsibility for caring for their workers.

## We need...

- We need member care.
- We need a member care person, a skilled and caring, mature person to develop and lead member care within each of our organizations. Someone who is compassionate, patient, a good listener, and a good problem-solver. Someone with basic counseling skills.

## These should be...

- People of Character
- ...approved by leadership and members;
- ...have a heart for people, wise, mature
- ...self-controlled, trustworthy,
- ...uses Scriptures wisely
- ...warm, approachable, communicative
- ...have courage, hope, faith, good judgment

- People who are Competent
- ...have some training in crisis, change, children's education, marriage enrichment, life planning, problem solving, conflict management, etc.
- ...a good communicator
- ...understands diversity
- ...understands pressure and stress

- People who are compatible.
- They know the organization well;
- ...understand the vision, personnel, policies and strategies of their organization
- ..they aim to be helpful to all
- ...they understand administrative principles and know how to work with administration and leaders

Where will we find a person like  
this?

- Think together about this  
matter

