



Korean Member Care

Handling Surprises or Unusual Events




We will cover 4 things.


- 1. What kind of surprises have happened in missions?
- 2. How do these impact people?
- 3. Who is vulnerable?
- 4. What can a member care person do to help?




Dr. George Cowan said:

- "Missionaries are not exempt from life-threatening trauma such as revolution, war, rape, armed robbery, murder, kidnapping, shooting, evacuation, looting, bombing, destruction of home and property, natural disaster (earthquake, typhoon, fire, flood,) and medical emergency.

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- Other types of crises include open opposition, false accusation, betrayal by friends, cancellation of a long-term project, expulsion from a country, team conflict, change of role, turning back of spiritual children, immorality of colleagues,

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- divorce or desertion by spouse, death or illness or violence within the family, wayward and/or troubled children, epidemic, sudden death by accident, suicide, and unexpected loss of support."



Go back and read the list again.

- Underline those situations your Korean workers have had to face.
- How do you suppose they felt?

How do these things impact people?

- Please mention from your experience or your observation, some words that describe the impact on those who were involved in any of these situations.

Some words come to my mind...

- Painful surprise, tension, uncertainty, danger, heightened pressure, anger, doubt, stress, questions about God, self, others, questions about our call, grief, sadness, despair.

Who is especially vulnerable?

1. Leaders
2. Mothers with small children
3. People going through another crisis or difficult experience
4. Emotionally fragile people
5. Extreme introverts


6. Isolated people, either by geography, or linguistically or socially
7. First term people
8. Finishers, people who came to the field older, or those finishing a long career

9. People who have been through something like this recently
10. People with hidden trauma in their past
11. Those who have reasons to doubt God's love and care


We might add...

- Those carrying a heavy load and experiencing too much stress to carry.
- All of us can be vulnerable at times.

What can a MC person do to help?



- 1. By word and example encourage people to continue to trust God.
- 2. Seek ways to be helpful to people in need
- 3. Pray for people involved, pray for the situation, for leaders.

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- 4. Be a voice of faith and trust in God...He is still with us. He never promised exemption from trouble.
 - John 16:33; and Paul's many kinds of hardship and danger.

I have seen these...



- As someone involved in counseling missionaries and member care, I have seen and helped with most of the things mentioned in the following list.

In your small groups





- Choose one of the situations from this list and discuss together how you will help the people most involved in this crisis, and how you will help the leader of this group.


Some surprises...





- 1. There was an accident on the field and a Korean mother with small children was killed by a drunken motorist.


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- 2. Word has come back to the home office here in Korea that the field leader just confessed to adultery. He has fathered a child with a national woman and that woman is making demands.


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- 3. An economic crisis has cut funds for Korean missionaries, so all of your field workers have had to take a big reduction in income.

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- 4. Korean missionaries working in Nairobi report a great increase in Armed robbery and break-ins of homes. Many are fearful.

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- 5. Your most outstanding field leader in Latin America just wrote the home office director that he is losing the vision for missionary work, and he doesn't any longer believe in God.

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- 6. Korean workers in Manila suffered loss of homes and vehicles in the recent typhoon. Two of our Korean workers lost their lives.

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- 7. Several of our Korean workers in Brazil have swine flu, and are very ill.

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- 8. One of our highly respected field members just committed suicide.

What kind of help is needed in each of these situations?

- What would you do, if you are the mission leader?

Isn't it obvious...

- That having a member care person present on the field will be very helpful in times like these?