

Newsletter
Global Member Care Network (GMCN)
March 2011
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Welcome to the Global Member Care Network Newsletter.

Editorial - Masters Degree in Member Care

Have we been waiting for this?

Yes, absolutely. After Columbia University in South Carolina USA, now Redcliffe College in the UK: MA in Member Care. And it gets even better. There are plans to develop a global network of Colleges, offering postgraduate level trainings in Member Care.

But for now, let's just celebrate this exciting news:

Postgraduate MA in Member Care

Member Care is a relatively new discipline which trains and equips workers to prepare better for cross-cultural life and ministry and to cope with adjustment pre-, during and post- assignment. Until now, specialists in the discipline have not had the opportunity to train and research these issues intensively.

Taught by experts in the field, Redcliffe's new MA in Member Care recognises the need to have a Biblical basis underpinning practice, as well as understanding cross-cultural perspectives and their effect on individuals and groups. Challenges such as crisis response and trauma debriefing will be addressed, and there is the opportunity to focus on a specific context or Member Care issue through an optional module.

The MA will be available in flexible learning mode from May 2011, subject to validation by the University of Gloucestershire. Course structure: You will complete three compulsory modules* and a fourth optional module. Your dissertation will be focused on an issue relevant to member care. For more information, please download the module information opposite.

- * Method and content in missiological study*
- * The mission worker as a person: Building life-skills and interpersonal skills*
- * The member care worker: Equipping self and others*
- * The Mission of the Church in the Context of Postcolonialism and Globalisation
- * Prosperity Theology and Suffering: Perspectives and Problems
- * Crucial Issues in European Christian Mission and Theology
- * An Introduction to Global Leadership
- * Crucial Issues in Asian Mission and Theology

This months topics:

- Editorial
- Reports/News/Requests
- Q&A
- Global Map
- Resources
- Global Member Care Events

Reports/News/Requests

Global Member Care Network - Conference April 2012 in Chiangmai, Thailand

Facilities are booked, program is being developed, and the first registrations are coming in already.

We will post full information on Theme and speakers and how to register... in our April edition of the GMCN newsletter.

Tragedy in Kenya

At around 1am on Friday, 25th February, armed robbers broke into an orphanage operated by a YWAM team in Athi River, Kenya, 50 km outside of Nairobi. A Dutch couple, Ebel and Lora Kremer, managed the orphanage. In the attack, Ebel was shot and killed in front of his wife and their two small children. A night watchman was also injured in the shooting. The orphanage shares a property with a YWAM community which is preparing to host a Discipleship Training School graduation this evening and has recently received students for a new DTS. Member care professionals from YWAM Africa's trauma team and other YWAM leaders are on the scene to provide support and care. Your prayers are requested for the family, staff and students of YWAM Athi River.

See <http://www.ywam.org/fr/News-Stories/news/Tragedy-in-Kenya>

OSCARactive reaches 300

OSCAR is a web based mission support service. After nearly a decade of resourcing mission workers through their main website, two years ago they launched a mission-focused social network, called OSCARactive. In the last month, this network passed the 300 member mark. Mike Frith, OSCAR's Founding Director, says 'With the growth of social networking, the Internet has changed from primarily being an information source to being an everyday communication tool. We are reflecting this trend in OSCAR's services by going from a centralised resource to a peer-to-peer support network. OSCARactive provides a dedicated space where mission workers, senders and supporters from all denominations and organisations can connect with, encourage and support each other.' Whatever your role in mission, this is a great membercare tool. See www.oscaractive.net

Mike Frith - Founding Director - OSCAR

Email: mike@oscar.org.uk

Website: www.oscar.org.uk

OSCAR - the UK Information Service for World Mission

Care and Counsel as Mission - Lausanne Congress declaration

- The following declaration emerged out of conversations among concerned colleagues from different countries, languages and generations in the Care and Counsel as Mission Track of the Third International Lausanne Congress held October 16-25, 2010 in Cape Town, South Africa. Our hope is that this statement will stimulate discussion among practitioners and educators and will lead to a greater engagement with the tremendous needs worldwide. We invite your participation in the dialogue. [http://www.globalmembercare.org/index.php?id=15&tx_weddiscussion\[single\]=397](http://www.globalmembercare.org/index.php?id=15&tx_weddiscussion[single]=397)

Looking for a book

- I am looking for a book covering the topic how longterm fieldworkers who have been resident in certain country can possibly work together with international humanitarian aid organizations or the United Nations when a catastrophe hits that particular country. For example when the tsunami hit southeast Asia there were many expats, even family members involved in helping the locals. They often did that in cooperation with the Aid organizations. Family members have in such a scenario a lot to offer, since they know the language, the culture, the country and much more. js@brueckenbauen.com

member care training being run in South America

- Do any of you know of member care training being run in South America by any mission organization? I have a friend in Brazil who is looking for training to develop her member care skills. I'd appreciate any suggestions. Jane Rhoades, jane4mc@gmail.com

Q&A (Questions and Answers)

Premature departure - Resources needed

- I debriefed a family last week who have not long returned from the field. It was their first term and they had intended staying considerably longer. Their own cultural and language learning was going extremely well and their ministry was beginning to take off, but their children, had major cultural shock so they had to return quite unexpectedly which has been a source of extreme disappointment. One of the children is still quite traumatised and emotionally fragile. I have worked through re-entry stuff with them but I don't have anything that addresses the problem of premature departure from the field, and am wondering if any of you have something appropriate that I could pass on to them? Please post any responses to globalmembercare@gmail.com

Re: Premature departure - Resources needed

- It sounds like these parents might be working through grief, loss (of dreams etc) and disappointment, and probably guilt too. As well as working out what to do now. And their children may need on-going support, possibly professional help if one is indeed 'traumatised and emotionally fragile',. It's great that you are working with them. It's worth remembering that it will take quite some time for the family to work through this (at least 2 years probably), and difficulties at the moment would be quite normal. Premature departure for any reason tends to lead to more problems than planned departure. Rather than just passing resources on to them, they will need on-going support - e.g. from family/ church/ friends. People who can love them and help them talk and pray about what has happened, and see that this is not 'failure'. (See Marjory's book - they are 'Honourably Wounded'). It can be all part of God's plan. Someone to help them make sense of this spiritually would be helpful as they may have questions about why they felt this was God's 'call' and then it 'all went wrong'. Spiritual mentoring of some sort could be very helpful.

GLOBAL MAP

1. Africa

North Africa

- Contact for North Africa: V Berry, email address - desertcare@sent.as

2. ASIA

Southeastern Asia

Alpha Omega International College, Malaysia

- Alpha Omega International College , AOIC (Formerly known as TCA) is an ATA-accredited Bible college located in Petaling Jaya, Malaysia; they run various courses in Counselling, Crisis Intervention, Pastoral Care for Caregivers

<http://www.aoic.org.my/>

3. EUROPE

Northern Europe

Postgraduate MA in Member Care, UK

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Go here to find more infos: <http://www.redcliffe.org/Study/Postgraduatecourses/MemberCare>

Western Europe

mkCare Germany

- mkCare

Hindenburgstr. 36

70825 Korntal

Germany

www.mk-care.org

RESOURCES

2. TOPICS

resiliency

- find pdf article on [Resilience_in_Ministry_despite_Trauma](#)

Couple Communication materials

- These Couple Communication materials are available in different languages. And a network of missionaries has been trained to facilitate the material. <http://www.couplecommunication.com/>

4. NEWSLETTERS

Link Care _ How can we Avoid and Resolve Conflict?

- pdf download here http://www.globalmembercare.org/uploads/tx_wecdiscussion/201103_Link_Care.pdf

Chiangmai Thailand THE WELL - Member Care center March 2011

- text [http://www.globalmembercare.org/index.php?id=15&tx_wecdiscussion\[single\]=391](http://www.globalmembercare.org/index.php?id=15&tx_wecdiscussion[single]=391)

5. LINKS

broadcast on debriefing of humanitarian workers

- In case this is of interest, here is information about a radio broadcast today on debriefing of humanitarian workers (including mission personnel). It can be downloaded. If you would like a copy of the paper which is discussed on the

programme, please let me know. All in the Mind on ABC Radio National, Australian Broadcasting Corporation
The mind in crisis: to debrief or not to debrief?

Floods, fires, cyclones and the anniversary of Black Saturday. Psychological debriefing is a technique aimed at helping us process traumatic events, so the emotional scars can heal not harm. To some the approach is discredited, ineffective and may even do damage - to others it can still have important role in some settings. Beyond the controversy, where does the field stand today? <http://www.abc.net.au/rn/allinthemind/stories/2011/3134456.htm>

GLOBAL MEMBER CARE EVENTS

2. ASIA

NCF Counseling and Member Care Seminar Thailand

WHEN: 9-21 October 2011

WHERE: Chiang Mai, Thailand

This is an intensive counseling seminar designed to increase one's counseling and member care skills. The instructors will emphasize a strong integration of biblical and theological truth with practical psychological insights and counseling techniques. It is particularly designed for leaders, member care providers, and those in cross-cultural settings called to counsel a great variety of people, but who feel that their education has not adequately equipped them to deal with the many problems they encounter in their ministries.

To receive an application, write Cindy Hibma at cindyh@cornerstonecounseling.in.th

Enrollment is limited to 35 participants, so it is wise to apply early. Singles, married couples who attend together, and those who stay in residence are given priority acceptance. http://www.globalmembercare.org/uploads/tx_wecdiscussion/NCF_Counseling_Member_Care_Seminar_2011.pdf

http://www.ncfliving.org/seminar_thailand01.php

<http://cornerstonecounseling.in.th/seminars.htm>

7. NORTH AMERICA

BARNABAS INTERNATIONAL and ELIM RETREAT MINISTRIES 2011

- BARNABAS INTERNATIONAL and ELIM RETREAT MINISTRIES will sponsor 8 renewal retreats for global workers in 2011.

6 day Retreats for adults only; spiritual debriefing, renewal, and encouragement. Low key schedule; beautiful settings State-side. With deep appreciation for the value of quiet, rest, technology fasting, the Spirit and the Word.

State-side personnel as well as overseas expats welcome.

Low cost.

For video clip, testimonies, pics and registration, see www.elimretreats.org or contact Henry Stewart at huroncity@gmail.org
