



## Global Member Care Network (GMCN) October 2012

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### Content:

- This months Sponsor - Member Care Media (MCM)
- Editorial: My Journey Beyond Member Care
- Open Positions - Member Care Coordinator
- Q&A (Questions and Answers)
- GLOBAL MAP
- Resources
- GLOBAL MEMBER CARE EVENTS

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### This months Sponsor - Member Care Media (MCM)

Member Care Media (MCM) - a media ministry of Trans World Radio



MCM is a media ministry of TWR specially prepared for cross-cultural workers around the globe whose obedience to the Great Commission has taken them to difficult places.

It is our goal to enhance, encourage and enable these workers in their places of calling so that they will stay effective and fulfilled.

On the website [www.membercaremedia.com](http://www.membercaremedia.com) you can find **over 500 audio files** addressing issues from recruitment to retirement and all life phases.

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## **Editorial: My Journey Beyond Member Care**

**by Brent Lindquist, Ph.D., President, Link Care Center**

Many who know me well have heard me talk about my discomfort with the current arena within which Member Care operates. There are times when I feel like a total misfit, considering all the directions that Member Care is currently going. Instead of cheering it on, I find myself holding back a bit, and wishing there could be some minor (from my perspective) adjustments. I have decided that I do not hold that kind of authority or power, so I instead will talk here about where my journey is taking me. I invite any to walk along with me, and many to ignore my thoughts as those of an elder baby boomer who may be on a different path...

### **The professionalization of Member care**

As I write, there are numerous academic programs in development and already operating that are bringing the discipline of member care into a new level of professionalism. How can I be concerned about that? I can be quite supportive of that because these efforts are bringing more practice to the art of doing member care. That is, they are categorizing care such that it can better be transmitted to new or next generations of carers.< That is a good thing. No, that is a great thing!

But,... standardization can develop into uniformity, which can glide into conformity. Is member care merely a collection of techniques to be memorized and applied like a prescription? I don't believe it is. Or should be. As we attempt to quantify, explain and teach what we do, I hope we don't extinguish the art of Member Care. That is, knowing how to understand what and where; and apply what based on where; and with how much. We cannot lose sight of the multicultural distinctive of modern mission, which allows all appropriate types of discerning and solutions in unique ways. I used to say – "I can help you figure that out." I am now working on saying "How do you typically figure that out here? What about that isn't working? Do you have any ideas about why it isn't working? Ok, now that I have heard and understand you, we can see if I know anything to help here."

### **The compartmentalization of mission**

As mission grows up, so do its components. Missiology, Human Resources, Crisis Management, Strategic Planning, Language and Culture Learning, Finance, Evangelism, Relief, Coaching, Disciplemaking, Children's Education, and Member Care are just a few of the domains I can think of which have developed into interest arenas, hierarchies, disciplines, departments, and turf, carving up the mission of the mission into separate and not always equal parts. One result of this is the different components don't know of the other, or have distorted understanding of the other, and they cannot work together wholistically. I see this in large and small missions.

So, my journey takes me into neighboring camps in the mission. I am in a running dialogue with Missiologists about what they think member care needs to know about Missiology. I am relearning my Member Care scope in the new light of the Disciplemaking movements. What can they teach me? How does "reproducibility" and "contextualization" speak to Member Care? When "they" see me as interested in learning (which I naturally am), they respond by becoming more interested in learning from me too. It goes both ways.

### **The clinicalization of Member Care**

There is a saying in the United States: "When all you have is a hammer, everything looks like a nail..." If everything IS a nail, pound away! Alas, everything isn't. Member Care has fortunately greatly benefitted from a counselor viewpoint, but also, not so much. Too many issues in the interpersonal arena have been diagnosed, and when diagnosed, have become dysfunctions or illness, and have been therefore placed under the secret dome of confidentiality. Secrets are venerated, victims are valued. While some of this is necessary, the end result has been that problems are often clinicalized, when maybe clear and open communication might have cleared things up. People are sent for counseling as opposed to being trained how to manage hurts together. And victims maybe aren't coached as to how to become survivors.

I am not against counseling. I am against its wholesale application over a broad swath of normal life where it should be more

coach than conqueror. So, my journey is attempting to understand which are our burdens, which need help, and which are our load, which we should be carrying ourselves (Galatians 6). And, how I can help people therapeutically, without being a therapist all the time.

### **The isolation of Member Care**

When I was starting out as a clinical Psychologist, the cultural wars raging at that time in the church resulted in me being often asked what kind of a Psychologist I was. I knew the “right” answer: “a biblical Psychologist.” I always answered with what I wanted the correct answer to be: “I am a Christian who is trained as a Psychologist, and I seek to integrate my faith into all areas of my professional practice.” So, then they knew I was not their kind of psychologist, and stayed away. (I also did not speak in tongues, so lost out on that one too. And, any answer like the above usually got me weird looks from my secular colleagues, which still happens). While the Christian culture wars have mostly subsided, I can honestly understand how some people got so upset with us professionals. In addition to any issues about “biblical,” we operate in isolating circumstances. We insist on privacy, confidentiality, appropriately so, but then we miss our incredible role as liaison, as the one who can help bring about not only personal restoration, but also interpersonal and organizational restoration. I think that is the one thing that has made Link Care so effective over these years. We see our role as including attempting at all levels to bring the missionary back into relationship with their leaders and their organizations.

So, in my journey, I keep trying to have a mediating influence between people and their organizations. Sometimes I get push back from both clinicians and clients who see this as some sort of ethical violation. I must disagree. I see it as a calling to bring people back into relationship through empowering them to state their case, as well as understanding what the organization can't do.

### **Some options**

How can we make some sense out of all of this? Is this to be my role alone, to walk down paths little traveled, speaking to a hope that many see as impossible? I don't think so. First, because this cause I follow makes biblical sense. It raises the level of everyone in an organization to the same cared-for place. It recognizes that people and their organizations play different roles, which sometimes may not always blend, but in the proper relationship, things can be discussed and disagreed with, and still end up with grace. Is this too optimistic? Too unreasonable? Yes, perhaps. But it is worth pursuing. And for me, this is obedience, and I can do that.

Here are three brief ideas to get you thinking about your journey with me.

### **Know who we are in context**

It is imperative that we, as carers know who we are, what we are, where we are, and why we are.

1. We are servants of the living God, called to serve others as caregivers.
2. We are caregivers of many stripes and professions, who seek to bring restoration and effectiveness into the lives of the people and organizations they and we serve.
3. We serve people and organizations in their places of service to help them be effective in their callings and relationships.
4. We serve to help present God's glory to the nations that many may hear, and respond.

### **Value the organization for what it is doing, and what it might still do**

If we operate from the contexts above, it is just a small jump in thinking to see the organization as our ally, and not our adversary. And then we might help the people to see this in a similar way. Where there has been harm, we attempt to help rectify. But we also walk the fine line of helping the individual understand the realities of organizational membership. The fact is, organizations have a dual responsibility to care for the members, as well as protect the organization. Sometimes, those two responsibilities are not in agreement, and sometimes one side “wins” over the other. This may be due to regulatory or legal issues. As an executive leader, I have had to make those painful decisions. I will make them again. We need balance in understanding this tension. It will be with us always.

### **Understand the full meaning of suffering in the Christian life**

The western church, speaking in totality, does not have a good understanding of the reality of the chronic states of limited good, pain, suffering, and probably regular trauma. Our western theology of crisis is that it comes and goes away before coming again. We have multiple resources to bring to bear on it, and all it takes is our efforts to make things better. It is the same way with Member Care, except that added to this is the idea that if a wrong has occurred, or trauma, something or somebody always has to pay in some way. And yet, scripture is filled with the perspective that we are to be the minority, persecuted, and strained. Indeed, problems are what draw us closer to God (2 Corinthians 1). We need a Member Care that understands that there is collateral damage in everyday life. Not all things can be rectified, except for the leaving of the consequences to the Lord. Contrary to all

that our culture teaches, peace can come through infirmity, wrong, or trauma. I have no easy answer for this. I may not be saying we should avoid seeking redress. But I think we have a distorted sense of that through our cultural mindset.

And so I come to the end of my story, so far. While I do fully affirm Member Care, I have come to conclude that it is too narrow, and if this is not corrected, I am worried that it, itself will become a force to prevent us from sensing God in the impossible, taking outrageous chances, and looking for the miraculous. So I am doing what I can. I raise issues, somewhat like a broken record. I preach wholism, restoration, forgiveness, gratitude and love for our leaders and the organizations they lead. And in this end, I am actually quite optimistic. I see change and movement. And for this I am glad. In my next editorial I will put forward some suggestions about how to practice some of these principles.

“What if trials in this life are your mercies in disguise?”

Blessings, by Laura Story

ADMG

Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam

For God’s Greatest Glory

## Open Positions - Member Care Coordinator

### Member Care Coordinator - Trans World Radio (TWR)- European Region

**Job Purpose and Scope:** To facilitate Member Care for staff in TWR Europe as well as staff sent from Europe into other TWR regions. Additional responsibilities include the coordination of TWR Europe’s support raising training & coaching program. Please contact Dirk Mueller at [dmueller@twr.org](mailto:dmueller@twr.org)

Find complete JOB DESCRIPTION here:

[http://www.globalmembercare.com/fileadmin/user\\_upload/2012-06%20JD%20Member%20Care%20Coordinator\\_final.pdf](http://www.globalmembercare.com/fileadmin/user_upload/2012-06%20JD%20Member%20Care%20Coordinator_final.pdf)

## Q&A (Questions and Answers)

### single person in cross-cultural ministry

**We are writing a book on the challenges and joys of being a single person in cross-cultural ministry.**

What do you think it should say? Do you have any advice you would like to offer single people in ministry?

What is it like to be a single person in YOUR culture?

If you are single, are you willing to share something which you have found helpful?

We would be grateful for any ideas you might like to share.

Please email them to [doctors\\_hakwer@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:doctors_hakwer@yahoo.co.uk). Thank you. Debbie Hawker

## GLOBAL MAP

## **Europe, Bulgaria, Sofia**

### **Eirene Counselling and Life Coaching**

Eirene Counselling and Life Coaching is located in Sofia, Bulgaria and its purpose is to help and support people. Therapy allows us as individuals to deal with specific life challenges, enabling us to develop a clearer understanding of our concerns and helping us to acquire new skills to better manage our lives.

Sometimes we try to think our way out of a problem, at other times we are overwhelmed with negative feelings and fears. We often don't know why we feel, behave or respond the way we do but we seem powerless to change.

Counselling facilitates and supports us as individuals, to explore what is going on in our lives. Our personality and self image has been formed in relationship, counselling is based on working through issues in relationship. The counsellor provides a safe, confidential and supportive environment for individuals and families to grow in self awareness, overcome challenges and develop new skills to reach their full potential. Counselling often connects past experiences with the present. Counselling believes in the potential of us as individuals to grow and develop our ability to change and heal.

Life coaching seeks to be holistic and integrative, and focuses on areas such as work, family, relationships, health, spirituality, recreation and finances. It supports the individual in setting appropriate goals and then provides methods of assessing progress. Coaching is a fresh and inspiring way of helping people address practical concerns relating to lifestyle and relationships.

<http://www.eirenecounselling.com/>

## **RESOURCES**

### **Book**

#### **'Insights from Outside: Reflections from Mongolia , China & Siberian Russia'**

To see what's inside 'Insights from Outside' open the document attached.

In it you will discover the complete foreword, which will explain the background and purpose of the book.

Following the foreword you will also find an extract from one of the reflections as well as a list of the reflection titles, associated bible references and the area/country featured in each.

For individuals, apart from bringing personal spiritual benefit, the book will give useful fresh perspectives for relating to people of other cultures. It can also make a very meaningful Christmas gift.

For churches and organisations that provide cross-cultural training and orientation, support people working cross-culturally or more simply encourage their people to relate across cultures, this book could be a very helpful resource, especially if issued to individuals as part of a program or package.

To order copies just email me: [TransculturalPeople@gmail.com](mailto:TransculturalPeople@gmail.com)

[http://www.globalmembercare.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/LookInside.doc](http://www.globalmembercare.org/fileadmin/user_upload/LookInside.doc)

### **Book**

#### **Sorrow & Blood - Christian Mission in Contexts of Suffering, Persecution, and Martyrdom**

Receive this brief information on the book, now in second print run.

This web page gives a lot of information about the book, so feel free to circulate this to your networks.

<http://www.sorrowandblood.com/index.html>

Also find more Info here: [http://www.globalmembercare.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/SORROW\\_AND\\_BLOOD\\_promotional\\_cover\\_letter\\_07\\_02\\_2012\\_kp.pdf](http://www.globalmembercare.org/fileadmin/user_upload/SORROW_AND_BLOOD_promotional_cover_letter_07_02_2012_kp.pdf)

and

[http://www.globalmembercare.org/uploads/tx\\_wecdiscussion/Sorrow\\_and\\_Blood\\_Sampler\\_1.pdf](http://www.globalmembercare.org/uploads/tx_wecdiscussion/Sorrow_and_Blood_Sampler_1.pdf)

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**Newsletter - MC Netherlands / Nederland**

**MC Netherlands / Nederland**

click here:<http://membercare.nl/>

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**Newsletter - The Well member care center Chiangmai Thailand**

**October 2012**

<http://us2.campaign-archive2.com/?u=93ed99d9b6c8479d135b01b96&id=5d5926d32c&e=25f63328eb>

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**GLOBAL MEMBER CARE EVENTS**

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**Member Care in Northeast Brazil**

**MC in Northeast Brazil**

very first event of MC in Northeast Brazil, 18 - 21 Oct/12, in João Pessoa City.

We are making efforts to spread this vision for Member Care throughout Brazil. All of us will be there presenting seminars. three themes:

- (1) The psychological profile of the Missionary;
- (2) The missionary's lifetime circle; and
- (3) Interventions on crises

Find more info here: [http://www.globalmembercare.com/fileadmin/user\\_upload/encotro%20cim%20fim.jpg](http://www.globalmembercare.com/fileadmin/user_upload/encotro%20cim%20fim.jpg)

Cuidado Integral do Missionário CIM - AMTB

+55 (34) 3227-1948, (34) 9100-7145

Blog: [www.cuidadointegral.info](http://www.cuidadointegral.info)

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**Middle East**

**Middle East Member Care Conference**

ANAFORA Retreat Centre , Egypt

Theme: "Building Resilience for Turbulent Times"

Optional workshops, time to refresh your souls, case studies, worship, encouraging and educational talks, networking.

Approximate cost: Euro 150 per person, plus travel and visa

More information to follow. Save the dates now! 23-26 October, 2013

Middle East Member Care (MEMC)

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**Brazil**

**Member Care Conference in Southeast Brazil October 2013**

Cuidado Integral do Missionário CIM - AMTB

+55 (34) 3227-1948, (34) 9100-7145

Blog: [www.cuidadointegral.info](http://www.cuidadointegral.info)

**Brazil****Conferencia Missionária** Nov 1-4

find more info here: <http://www.missaoantioquia.com/conferencia.html>

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**Europe - Germany****Euro TCK Consultation**

Euro TCK Consultation - 25 to 29 April 2013 in Freizeithem Friolzheim, Germany

The Euro TCK network is holding its third consultation in Germany in April 2013. This is especially for those with TCK responsibility in their mission or church, those providing care for TCKs both formally and informally, and for adult TCKs with a heart for TCK matters.

The topic is Change - A TCK's Life Story – supporting and equipping TCK's through change and the main speaker is Ruth Van Reken. Ruth is a second generation adult TCK and mother of three ATCKs. She is co-founder of Families in Global Transition and author of Letters Never Sent: A Woman's Journey from Hurt to Wholeness and co-author of Third Culture Kids: Growing Up Among Worlds. She speaks nationally and internationally on issues related to TCKs and global family living.

There will also be a variety of workshops related to the main theme covering areas such as orientation, educational options, engaging churches and agencies, the worldviews of ATCKs, Safeguarding children, TCKs in crisis, debriefing and many more. For further information and to book, please follow this link <http://www.globalconnections.co.uk/events/networkevents/currentevents/eurtck2013>

Please do feel free to pass on this information to any friends or colleagues who you feel would benefit in attending, including any adult TCKs that you know. With kind regards, Sandy Morgan

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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](mailto:office@globalmembercare.com).

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