



Beloved, you do faithfully whatever you do for the friends, even though they are strangers to you;...we ought to support such people so that we may become co-workers with the truth. 3 John 5, 8

## From Cradle to Grave

*Dedicated to Providing Services for Missionaries & Their Families*

Spring 2009

We have been discussing what Missionary Member Care involves and why it is needed in our past couple of newsletters. In this edition we take a look at the second of six stages of a missionary's career.

### *Stage Two: Orientation to the Mission and Support Raising*

Stage two can be an exciting and also exhausting time of opportunities and challenges for new missionary appointees. After the excitement and affirmation which accompanies being appointed as a missionary, the new appointee has to learn more about the mission, its policies and procedures, potential countries of service and ministry opportunities, and expectations for fund-raising if the missionary is to be financial supported overseas. Orientation typically can be a one to three day time of learning about the sending agency with either very little specific information being learned or being "flooded by a fire hose of information" with little time to process that information. Or the orientation time can be as much as a three-week intensive time of learning about the agency, its core values, its insurance plan, resources available for the missionary, educational provision for children of missionaries, a special children's orientation so that children can also learn about the mission and the country to which the family is going, and further exposure to the needs, opportunities and challenges of working in certain countries. It is usually during the orientation program that missionaries learn about support-raising and the mission's expectations, provision for, and methods of raising support for overseas service. For some missions—usually denomination-based groups—once someone is appointed, all the financial needs and expenses of the missionary are covered, and the missionary may be asked to visit some churches to tell of the work and to ask for prayer and challenge people to serve. For most missionaries, however, specific strategies are laid out as to how to raise money and prayer and relational support, accompanied with the expectation that the new missionary appointee will visit many churches, tell about the work and ask for prayer and financial support. The new appointee is also encouraged to talk to friends and relatives to describe the work and to lay out the financial needs. Then, after orientation is completed, the new appointee is released to do support raising, a process that on average takes about two years and involves miles and miles of travel, endless presentations about the work, visiting churches, contacting friends and relatives, making hundreds of phone calls, and eventually reaching a point of having enough funds to make the trip to the country of service.

The third stage will be discussed in the fall newsletter.

-Dr. Dave Wickstrom on Missionary Member Care:  
From Cradle to Grave—part 2, stage 2



Liz Stuart helped with her first MK Re-entry Retreat in 2002 and took on the role of MRC's MK Re-entry Retreat coordinator in 2005, a position she held through 2008. She has passed that responsibility on to Renee Durben this year in order to spend time in her new occupation (see picture). She will be greatly missed, but we are glad for this new high calling on her life. Eliana Grace came into the world on April 11, 2009, joining her proud papa and momma. The family is doing well. Liz will continue to be a part of MRC's Board of Directors. We thank God for her and this new phase in her life.

MRC has blessed me in so many ways since we arrived in Columbia. On May 4 they found yet another way to bless my soul - a "coffee" with a different flavor including a book exchange. I was impressed by the line up of books, the length of the room. I shouldn't have been surprised. Once again MRC gave us not only quality but quantity. Like many of the thirty women with missionary connections who came, I have lived in a foreign land where literature in English was rare. As a result I maybe have the little known PTLDS (post traumatic "literary deprivation" syndrome - a new one for the DSM classification?) but not seriously as I did have a Bible. I browsed happily through the books along with fellow book lovers, renewing fellowship as well as making new friends. The morning was too short. -Liz J.



MRC is gearing up for our summer MK Re-entry retreats. We are hosting two retreats this summer; the first is July 20-29<sup>th</sup> at Camp Kinard and the second is August 5-14<sup>th</sup> at Bethel Christian Camp. I, Renée Durben have begun the role of MK Re-entry Retreat Coordinator. I am an MK from Côte d'Ivoire and a graduating senior at CIU. I love working with MKs and am excited about this opportunity to serve missionaries and their families as they walk through times of transition. We are expecting up to 40 MKs from Africa, South America, Europe, the Middle East, and Asia. Each year we have seen God use these retreats to encourage and equip MKs in transition through fellowship, sharing our experiences, and studying the Word together. We would appreciate your prayers for the retreats:

- For health and safety traveling to and from the retreats and during the retreats
- For wisdom and provision in the continued planning of the retreats
- For unity, wisdom, strength and grace for the staff as they connect with the MKs
- For a safe trusting environment for the MKs to share their hearts and hurts and learn from one another
- For the MKs to come with moldable hearts for the Holy Spirit to work in their lives and deepen their relationship with Christ.

### **PRAISE REPORTS:**

- \*Women's Bible Study providing a safe haven for missionary women
- \*Women's Coffee a success
- \*Participants coming for both MK Re-entry Retreats
- \*New missionaries coming to the area for Spring and/or Summer

### **PRAYER REQUESTS:**

- \*MK Re-entry
- \*Still needed-housing for missionaries arriving this summer
- \*Stamina for the staff during the busy summer schedule

### *Upcoming Events*

MK Re-entry Retreat 1  
MK Re-entry Retreat 2

July 20-29, 2009  
August 5-14, 2009

**Note: If you would prefer to receive the newsletter by email, please let us know.**

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