



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

Dedicated to Providing Services

Winter 2009

From Cradle to Grave

In our last MRC newsletter we discussed what Missionary Member Care involves and why it is needed. In this edition we take a look at the first of six stages of a missionary's career.

Stage One—The Call, Initial Application and Appointment

Most missionaries in reflecting back on their missionary career can point to a time when they first developed an interest in overseas work or when they had a sense of call to the mission field. For some it was early in life as a child, maybe shortly after conversion or after growing in the Lord and hearing about missionary work. For others it was in college when they were challenged by a speaker in church or at a missionary conference. For others it was while they were in the midst of their careers that they sensed a growing or perhaps even full-fledged sense that God wanted them to "fulfill the Great Commission and go into all the world to make disciples." This sense of call, however, was then followed by the question of where to go and how to get there. A time of reflection and prayer, of talking with different missionaries and various mission agencies, then making initial application to a mission board or to a sending church can be an intense time of searching, confusion, asking questions and being asked many questions, then filling out mounds and mounds of paper work as application is made. Different sending agencies, whether churches or mission boards, each sending agency has its own personality or ethos, and each has different policies and procedures for making application and joining a mission. For most missions, there are numerous phone calls to be made, many pages of personal information—personal testimony, educational background, family influences, church membership, Bible knowledge, and psychological tests to be filled out. This is followed by travel, interviews with staff of the mission, and hopefully ending with appointment by the sending agency. The appointment procedure usually involves giving the new appointment a list of recommendations or requirements which must be fulfilled prior to departure for the field. It will also typically include an invitation to an orientation time with the mission, the next stage.

The second stage will be discussed in the spring newsletter.

-Dr. Dave Wickstrom on Missionary Member Care:
From Cradle to Grave—part 2, stage 1

We are seeing an increase in requests by many missionaries for different resource needs. We have one family coming home from the Middle East for the birth of their baby that we have found a furnished home from a local church, a doctor, a van, counseling services and supplies for the baby.

We are being contacted by missionaries coming in for only a week, those coming in for a year or until the Lord directs them for their next step. People are now letting us know their plans 2 years in advance.

This is a much needed ministry in the Columbia area and we wonder if there are other parts of the United States that need a resource center for missionaries. Philadelphia has started one and other cities have contacted us about the potential of also starting a resource center.

On November 14th we had the pleasure of hosting retired, relocated, and missionaries in transition at a dinner, held in their honor, in Jackson Hall at First Presbyterian Church. In attendance that evening, were more than **100** men and women representing **1172** years of loving missionary service in **52** different countries! We thank those who acted as table hosts that evening, as well as the individuals and churches who gave generously to cover the costs of the evening.

Dear MRC Staff, We want to especially thank you for the banquet you hosted this past November at the First Presbyterian Church. What a treat it was for us to enjoy, not only the delicious food, but the special program and a chance to meet so many other like-minded people and missionaries. We are also thanking God for the privilege of staying in the home you told us about. May God continue to bless your ministry as you serve the missionary community. Thanking God for you, Missionaries from Japan

Our MK retreat is designed to assist MKs on their journey from one life stage to another as they transition from high school overseas to the next step in the U.S. The retreat gives them an opportunity to look back at where they have been & experience a sense of closure as they begin to look ahead to the next stage of their journey. It is a time for connecting with other MKs at various life stages who can offer encouragement, understanding, and hope for the future. And lots of FUN!



The Family Fun Night on October 18 was filled with children's excited laughter. The hay ride, bonfire/cook-out, being able to get close to, pet the farm animals and being able to pick out their own pumpkin made the evening a success for the youngsters. The adults enjoyed fellowship along with the camaraderie of watching the children's joy. Topping it all off was a time of worship, bringing the evening to a wonderful close.

PRAISE REPORTS:

Women's Bible study going well
Successful Family Fun Night
Encouraging Banquet
New Software allows better networking in office computers

PRAYER REQUESTS:

For upcoming events
Missionaries & organizations in financial difficulties
MK Re-entry Retreats

Ongoing Events

Weekly Women's Bible Study

Mondays 9:30 am—noon

Upcoming Events

Family Fun Night
Women's Luncheon
MK Re-entry Retreat 1
MK Re-entry Retreat 1

March 2009
April 2009
July 2009
August 5-15, 2009

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 11171, Columbia, South Carolina 29211

Street Address: 7520 Monticello Road, Columbia, South Carolina 29203

Telephone: (803) 254-3313 **Fax:** (803) 254-0370

Website: www.mresourcesconnection.org **E-mail:** info@mresourcesconnection.org

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