



If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast. Psalms 139:9-10

Dedicated to Providing Services for Missionaries & Their Families

Fall 2008

From Cradle to Grave

A number of years ago I was involved in a discussion regarding the needs of missionaries, and one of my colleagues in the discussion group said (paraphrased), "I think missionaries need Member Care from the cradle to the grave." What did he mean? Why is Member Care needed, and how is Member Care going to be provided? Let's look at what Member Care involves and why it is needed.

Why is Member Care needed?

Member Care is in a very real sense the fulfillment of the second greatest commandment to "love your neighbor as yourself", and the process of providing Member Care for missionaries fulfills many of the Scriptural "one anothering" mandates.

One misconception is that missionaries are members of the Super Spiritual Saints club and should be above all the petty needs that the world seems to have. Many people have the belief that "those missionaries are at the very top of the Spiritual Totem Pole and are always and totally dependent on God to meet their needs. Unfortunately, when people hold to this view, the missionaries who are in a concerted and hard-fought battle against spiritual enemies often end up returning home tired, defeated, worn out, depressed, discouraged and often burned out. People, especially in highly developed countries, are often not aware of the intensity of the battle going on and the accompanying stresses faced by missionaries. The military would not even think of sending soldiers into battle without a good support team behind them, without strong supply lines and without the logistical support needed to feed, clothe, and arm those soldiers. In addition, soldiers in the field need medical care, times of rest, times of recreation, times away from the battle front, where they can regain their strength, be encouraged, and get resupplied. The same is true of missionaries. Missionaries are just people who are called by God to serve Him on the front lines of a hard-fought spiritual battle.

How is Member Care going to be provided?

Paul recognized that his needs were taken care of and provided for by God, but God used PEOPLE to do it!! That is what Member Care is about! Missionary Member Care at a core level is the Body of Christ coming alongside the Christian soldier to be the supply line through prayer, through practical needs being met, such as medical care, times of rest, times of recreation, food-physical and spiritual, and encouragement from fellow believers. A missionary will then be equipped to return to the trenches of battle.

-excerpts from Dr. Dave Wickstrom on Missionary Member Care: From Cradle to Grave—part 1 of a 4 part series



It's Never Too Late

I remember feeling nervous when I first drove into Bethel Christian Camp for the MK Re-entry Retreat. From behind my steering wheel, I could spot other TCKs (Third Culture Kids) saying goodbye to their parents, or arriving from the airport after a long flight. Already I felt out of place, knowing that they were probably showing up from interesting places scattered all across the globe, while I had just finished a two-hour drive from Greenville, South Carolina. Could I still even be counted as one of them? After all, I had been back in the States for about ten years now. Why was I even here? I was supposed to be well adjusted, so what more could I get out of this? The drive back home didn't seem

too onerous in the face of this.

But then I tried to remind myself why I had applied to come, or even why the idea had crossed my mind. My mum had been a counselor for a few of the retreats, and she had told me about how the past TCKs had formed strong bonds with each other and as a group. They had all been different in personality and background, but there was that instinctive understanding between them. They had all been asked to leave loved ones behind, they all dreaded the infamous "Where do you come from?" question, and they all faced culture shock to some degree. So, I told myself to relax and stepped out of the car.

The following week flew by faster than I would've liked. The group almost immediately came together for the team-building games. I was worried at first that a couple of personalities would clash, but the campers were willing to work around them and we had a general respect for each other. I tried a few things that I never thought I would do, one of them being the ropes course. Surprisingly, though I had lived in the States for ten years, the other TCKs accepted me in as if I had just returned from Pakistan. There were even a few personal issues that I was able to share in the small groups, some of which I had never talked about before. Now I think back to that week, and I know what I would've missed if I hadn't gone. It didn't matter how long I had been back in the States, I was still a TCK. -Laura Van Dalen



PRAISE REPORTS:
Both MK Re-Entry retreats went well
Many Missionaries in transition were helped
A new Office Manager was hired.

PRAYER REQUESTS:
Annual Board Meeting
Upcoming Events
Identifying MK's & new Missionaries in the area

Ongoing Events
Weekly Women's Bible Study Mondays 9:30 am—noon

Upcoming Events
Women's Luncheon Monday, September 29th —noon
Family Fun Night Saturday, October 18th
Annual Banquet Friday, November 14th

Call the office for details

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