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Pro-active member care differs from reactive member care in the same way an HMO differs from a hospital emergency room. So, in a pro-active approach, we look to keep our people healthy on an on-going basis rather than waiting for a crisis to arise.

Member Care... What a Funny Name!

By Bruce Ernst

Member Care may sound odd, but it perfectly describes what it represents – the care of missionaries working in the field.

The term member care was used first in the late 1980s by a group of psychologists to represent the support care of missionaries in the field. In the 1990s, interest grew among mission agencies for the concept of Member Care, and in 1994, a program aimed at reducing missionary attrition was developed. Named ReMAP, its official name is Reducing Missionary Attrition Project of the WEF.

After working in this ministry for eight years, we've discovered the call of Member Care is to provide a mix of pastoral care, counseling, coaching, friendship and practical helps. We have come to love the ministry. It connects us with individual missionaries and their families – and it works! The average attrition rate for preventable reasons for most mission agencies is around 3.6%. The same preventable attrition rate for MUP is under 2%! Good training and member care play a big part in this lower rate.

We've learned through the years that there are many ways to do member care. We use a pro-active approach. Pro-active member care differs from reactive member care in the same way an HMO differs from a hospital emergency room. So, in a pro-active approach, we look to keep our people healthy on an on-going basis rather than waiting for a crisis to arise.

We believe on-going member care that promotes physical, spiritual and emotional health in our missionaries will reduce the likelihood of an issue or event that may negatively impact their lives and ministry.

Building relationships is an important part of member care. We build those relationships by visiting our people and communicating with them throughout the year. During our visits we offer resources and counseling or coaching, as well as training in self-care. During a typical visit, we spend time with the family in fellowship, playing games, talking, laughing and praying.

All of our Member Care providers are gifted in hospitality and compassion. We often open our homes for guests for a couple of days to several months. We also try to be available for hospital visits, whether for childbirth, surgery or illness. On the home front, we have Member Care providers who connect with our people on furlough to see how they are doing and to offer assistance, if needed.

Missionaries are told in orientation that they will receive two visits a year, plus regular communication by e-mail or phone. That certainly is our goal as a ministry. We are pleased with the quality of member care services provided in some countries, but a lack of manpower prevents us from providing that level of service to all missionaries.

Anticipated growth makes this manpower deficit even more critical. We believe we need 10 more member care providers to meet the needs within the next two years. We are therefore in the process of actively recruiting for this ministry throughout the United States.

The Unreached Peoples' ADVOCATE

www.mup.org/advocatemain.htm
July 2008

A newsletter on activities of Mission to Unreached Peoples and other mission efforts.

Mission to Unreached Peoples

P.O. Box 30947
Seattle, WA 98113-0947
Tel: (206) 781-3151
Fax: (206) 781-3182

Email: mupinfo@mup.org
Web Page: www.mup.org

Canada:

35669 Hawksview Place
Abbotsford, BC V3G 2Y1

Mission to Unreached Peoples (MUP) is an interdenominational agency helping people fulfill God's call in evangelism and church planting often through holistic, creative strategies such as tentmaking and community development. We would like to hear from you. If you desire more information or any articles, please contact the editor at the address or email above.

Editor: Keith Hook

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OUR MISSION

is to obey the Great Commission of Jesus Christ by investing our lives, gifts, resources, and vocational skills in God's work throughout Asia and Europe.



MISSION TO Unreached Peoples

ECFA Member
WEA EFMA AFMA

MISSION INSIGHTS



What is Perspectives?

Edited by Keith Hook

"If I had my way, every believer in America would take this course!"

- Dr. Don Finto, Senior Pastor, Belmont Church, Nashville, TN

Perspectives on the World Christian Movement is a dynamic 15-week discipleship course taught by a variety of veteran missionaries, influential strategists and professors, each an expert in their respective area. You'll get the opportunity to discover what God is doing around the world and consider your part in His purposes. Give Him a chance to grip your heart with the things so close to His. Perspectives will help you understand God's plan for our world - and possibly for your life - as you explore the following topics:

Biblical - What does God's Word reveal about His plan? Discover God's often overlooked yet unchanging purpose as it's revealed from Genesis to Revelation. You may never read your Bible the same again!

Historical - How has God been working throughout history? You'll be challenged and encouraged as you learn about the unlikely people and surprising events God has used throughout history in the unstoppable spread of the Gospel.

Cultural - How does culture fit in God's global plan? Do missionaries destroy or enhance cultures when they plant churches? Learn the keys for communicating the Gospel to people with different worldviews and cultures.

Strategic - What role could you and your church play? What are unreached people groups and why are they so important in

the completion of God's eternal purpose? Learn how and why the Gospel is making breakthroughs in parts of the world that have been extremely resistant.

More Facts about Perspectives

Over 80,000 people worldwide have now completed the Perspectives study program and as a result have impacted churches and un-reached peoples. The nature of the course is the primary reason of its hard-hitting effect.

Excellent Opportunity for Growth -

Perspectives is not simply an academic course designed to help mission-minded Christians learn more about missions. Rather, this course has helped open the eyes of people of all walks of life to discover the BIG picture of what God is doing globally. It is an informative course that equips you to determine how your

gifts and abilities can be most strategically utilized. Participants will gain form and substance in their understanding of world evangelization and will gain access to tools and resources which will help them design personal strategies to see God's plan for the nations fulfilled through their lives. Many call it the most helpful, LIFE-CHANGING course available.

The Impact - The main test of this

course's impact is the lasting effect it has on the participants' lives. The following reveals the exciting results of a survey sent to 200 randomly selected alumni to evaluate the impact and effectiveness of the Perspectives course:

Increased Understanding - Of those surveyed, 53% began Perspectives with a 'minimal understanding' of missions or 'no understanding' at all. 90% of these people left the class with a 'good or exceptional



See the big picture of what God is doing.

continued on page 3.

OPENINGS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Call 888-847-6950 if interested in any of these openings:

PIONEER CHURCH PLANTERS

Japan

MEDICAL WORKERS

Mongolia

INTERIM PASTOR

Vietnam

UNIVERSITY STUDENTS IN EVANGELISM AND DISCIPLESHIP

Thailand

HOME SCHOOL TEACHER

Cambodia

SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER AND LIBRARIAN

FOR HIGH SCHOOL

Turkey

CERTIFIED TEACHERS

Multiple Locations

TEFL/TESL TEACHERS

Multiple Locations

MEMBER CARE PROVIDERS

Asia, Eastern Europe

FINANCE DIRECTOR

Seattle

PRAYER PARTNERS

Everywhere

Member Care... What a Funny Name!, continued from page 1

We are looking for people who are mature believers, with a shepherding heart, and a listening ear. They should be people who are interested in building relationships and friendships over a period of years. We are asking for a minimum commitment of three years. Do you know of anyone you could

recommend? Additionally, we are looking to expand member care to singles and the children of missionaries.

Member Care has come a long way over the last 20 years and we look forward to providing even better services for our growing organization.

What is Perspectives?, continued from page 2

understanding'. 21% of all respondents felt they had a good understanding of missions 'before' the class but 96% left with a good or exceptional understanding 'after' the class.

New Commitment from New

Understanding - Of the 53% who began Perspectives class with a 'minimal or non-existent' understanding of missions, 80% are now 'strongly or 100%' committed to world missions. Of the 21% starting with a fair or better understanding of missions, 91% are now strongly or 100% committed.

Influenced Careers from New

Understanding - Overall, 64% were at least partially influenced by the course in later career decisions while the rest were 'substantially or very strongly' affected.

Long-Term Plans - 66% plan on long-term (2 years or more) cross-cultural missions involvement.

Current Mission Involvement - Of the 172 respondents to the survey, 165

alumni classified their current missions involvement as follows:

- 88% support missions work financially.
- 74% read missions periodicals or books.
- 73% have a regular prayer time for missionaries.
- 42% are currently involved in cross-cultural outreach.
- 36% are preparing for cross-cultural work.
- 29% serve on a church missions committee.
- 28% are involved with a mission agency.
- 27% find frequent opportunity to share about frontier missions.
- 25% are part of a mission prayer group.
- 11% have signed the Caleb pledge to commit their lives to the Great Commission.

Learn more and find a class near you: www.perspectives.org

The Director's View: The Power of End Vision Thinking, continued from page 4

water, thus "saving" thousands of starfish all at once.

The essential end vision question: "What needs to be done to see a movement to Christ among this UPG?" The question to be avoided is "What can we do?" because it limits the results to the abilities of the church or the individual. "What needs to be done?" requires exponential thinking

and complete dependence on God. As an organization, we are looking for people willing to lay down their lives – in order that millions of people from thousands of Unreached Peoples and cities will live. We are looking for the "missio-innovators" and "missio-preneurs" that will pay whatever end vision price necessary. Thank you for joining us in the journey of new thinking about reaching the least evangelized.

Mission to Unreached Peoples

P.O. Box 30947
Seattle, WA 98113-0947

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The Unreached Peoples' **ADVOCATE**

NEWS ON GLOBAL EFFORTS TO REACH THE LEAST REACHED

Director's View

The Power of End Vision Thinking

by S. Kent Parks, Ph.D.

Mission efforts are often done with no real understanding of the long term results. Believers do "good things" in missions out of a sense of God's call but too rarely analyze the effectiveness.



27.9% of the world still has almost no access to the Gospel. Only 2-3% of long term cross-cultural witnesses and less than 0.5% of mission money serve among this one-fourth. Projections are that in 25 years, 23-24% will still lack access but consist of more people due to population growth.

"Too big, too impossible" God-given end vision thinking will help change this trend. To put a 1000 piece puzzle together effectively, one needs to have seen what the final picture will look like. Working that puzzle without a clue to what the final product will look like makes the job massively difficult -- and usually unfinished.

What if each mission team had an end vision of a) a reproducing, holistic church planting movement which results in b) mission sending from that people group? Such a vision would change how we do missions!

The story of a boy saving starfish is often celebrated as a model for missions: On a beach littered with thou-

sands of stranded starfish, he throws one starfish at a time back into the ocean. A passing cynic tells him that the need is so great that what he is

doing will not matter in the long run. The boy throws another starfish back in the water and says, "It matters to this one." Much mission effort is done with this "addition" thinking and so the missionary and the sending church feel "fulfilled."

"End vision" thinking would have the boy and

the bystander think exponentially. They would find rope for a net, and at least 100 volunteers. All of them would then weave the net, stretch the net, and "scoop" thousands of starfish into the net and into the

The question to be avoided is "What can we do?" because it limits the results to the abilities of the church or the individual. "What needs to be done?" requires exponential thinking and complete dependence on God.

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