

WEF Missions Commission Consultation, April 1996 **(Informal) Europe Working Group**

Meeting: Thursday, 11 April 1996 [All Nations Christian College, UK]

Purpose: To explore possibilities for future cooperation in Europe, for the purpose of improving missionary member care.

Present:

Arie Baak	OMF/EEMA	The Netherlands
Detlef Blocher	DMG	Germany
Len Cernv	MCI	USA
Dorothy Haile	AEF	U K
Brent Lindquist	Link Care	USA
Colin Nicholas	WEC	UK
Silvano Perotti	TEMA	Switzerland
David Pollock	Interaction	USA
Kelly O'Donnell	YWAM	UK
Jan Stafford	ANCC	UK
Roy Stafford	ANCC	UK
Mike Wheate	OM	UK

Apology for absence:
Stanley Davies, EMA UK

Matters to be noted:

1. Missionary pastoral care issues in Europe could include consideration of member care for both missionaries (of both 'western' and 'non-western' origin) working in Europe, missionaries sent from Europe to other parts of the world, and also missionaries sent from one country in Europe to another.
2. 'Partnership' of various types is a current issue, and the "Eurocomet 92" meeting is an earlier example of an event working towards improvements in member care for missionaries, in Europe. At that meeting, the participants recommended that further steps be taken.
3. The linguistic and cultural diversity of Europe is an important factor which will affect future actions. It is evident in differences in ways of publicising what is being done, cultural approaches to counselling and responses to counselling, and types of needs. We noted that Anglo-Saxon initiatives are often neither welcome nor appropriate, and that cultural sensitivity on the part of those from the UK and USA is vital.
4. The growing missionary member care programmes in both UK and also Francophone areas of Europe (through FMEF) are starting to meet important needs.
5. Both sending and receiving churches in European countries could provide valuable resources for member care of missionaries, both on the informal level and in some cases in more specialised ways. The group believes these resources should be encouraged as much as possible, especially because in many parts of continental Europe evangelical leaders are few in number, therefore often over-committed; we should therefore be cautious in asking them to take on additional responsibilities.

Future action:

1. Compile a list of current resources.

Group members are asked to send Kelly O'Donnell a list of people/groups which they know to be active in cross-cultural counselling or other aspects of missionary member care, with comments as to whether they are 'recommended' by the person who sends in the name(s). This list will be confidential. In due course a profile of appropriate resources will be developed, so that later on a database of recommended groups/people can be made available to mission agencies and others involved in member care.

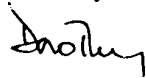
2. June 1996 Member Care Consultation, in UK.

This meeting will be the next step. The group suggested that lastair Kennedy of FMEF could be invited to attend this Consultation, or to contribute by fax/e-mail if unavailable to attend personally.

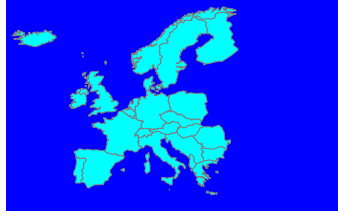
3. The group recommends that from the 2 June Consultation a recommendation should go to EEMA regarding **next steps**, and that every effort should be made to make use of 'Mission 99' to bring together appropriate people and resources for meetings at which further steps could be taken.

4. **A small working group** was proposed to continue with this matter: Arie Baak, Kelly O'Donnell, Silvano Perotti. Other members thanked these people for being willing to serve in this way.

Notes by



DOROTHY HAILE
Recording Secretary



Working together on behalf of the missions community
European Member Care Coalition (June 1997)

What are some practical ways to further develop member care both within and from Europe? This question was explored during the recent European Member Care Consultation held by Geneva in June, 1997. This gathering enabled the 55 participants to meet each other, attend workshops, and identify some projects to pursue together. One practical outcome was the formation of a seven-person Coalition to help guide the development of member care in Europe. Some initial goals are: a) strengthen national member care networks (e.g., in Holland, the UK, the French and German-speaking worlds, Scandinavia; b) possibly organize a member care track for the "Mission 99" youth conference in Holland; and c) plan a future Consultation.

Member care in Europe was also discussed by a working group at the WEF Consultation on missionary attrition in England in April, 1996. It was briefly brought up subsequently at the June 1996 European EMA leaders meeting, held in England. The need to develop member care was likewise voiced in the recommendation by the 1992 Euro-COMET gathering in The Netherlands in which the European Evangelical Mission Association was requested to consider forming a "European Missionary Health Association".

Much has been happening in the member care field in Europe. Consider these highlights: the week-long member care course which has been taught three times in Germany (sponsored by IGNIS twice and the AEM once); the growing number of groups and individuals which provide member care resources (over 40 listings in a recent resource guide); and the various workshops and gatherings that deal with member care topics, (e.g., Care For Mission's day conferences in the UK, the meetings of the EMA Personnel Secretaries in the UK, and the annual retreat for French-speaking missionaries sponsored by the Swiss-based IEM).

There is a growing commitment then, to find viable ways to help mission personnel stay healthy and effective in their work. In addition to the Coalition mentioned above, we believe it is timely to develop some simple structures which can further stimulate and help coordinate member care in Europe, and work alongside mission agencies and the European EMA. Two such structures would be: a) a European Member Care Consortium (a network of member care groups and individuals whose members pursue mutual support, mutual consultation, and some joint projects; and b) a European Member Care Center, staffed by an inter-agency member care team, that could provide services like training and workshops; residential care for short-term counseling, consultation, debriefing, and crisis recovery; member care teams to minister in field settings/mission conferences; and research, writing, an updated referral guide, and a library of member care materials.

We would greatly appreciate your suggestions and involvement as we all work together to develop member care within and from Europe. Kelly and Michele O'Donnell, June 1997

Member Care—Europe

Overview and Guidelines

Included in the EMCC III packets Budapest May, 2001

Member Care Europe (MC--Europe) is an affiliation of international mission colleagues primarily residing in Europe. We are committed to working together on behalf of the mission community by helping to provide and develop member care resources within/from Europe. Members are part of their own specific mission organization, and work together and with other colleagues on joint projects. They are also committed to provide personal/professional support for each other as needed. Our friendship and Christian fellowship provide the foundation for our work.

We define member care as the ongoing investment of resources by mission organizations and sending churches to help nurture and develop mission personnel. It involves care for the whole person (physical, psychological, spiritual) throughout the entire mission life cycle (recruitment through retirement) and for everyone (e.g., home office staff, children, field personnel). Examples of resources include pre-field orientation, crisis care, team building, MK education opportunities, training, and career development.

MEMBERS

MC--Europe seeks to be as inclusive as possible in its membership. Basically this means having a good representation of people from different countries and mission organizations, who have diverse member care experience, and who have the time, skills, and organizational backing to actively participate. Our group usually has between 15-20 members, with the majority coming from European countries. We embrace the WEF Statement of Faith.

Current members include: Arie Baak (EEMA, The Netherlands), Dr. David and Mary Ann Brooks (SHARE, Hungary), Harry Hoffmann (YWAM, Thailand), Rev. David Huggett (Interserve, UK), Drs. Solveig and Bjorn Lande (consulting psychiatrists, Norway), Rev. Nik and Dr. Grace Nedelchev (European Evangelical Alliance, Bulgaria--adjuncts), Drs. Kelly and Michèle O'Donnell (YWAM, France), Erik and Jeltje Spruyt (Le Rucher, France), Hartmut and Friedhilde Stricker (German Member Care Partners, Germany), Dr. Walt Stuart (International Family/Church Growth Institute, France), Charles Warner (Barnabas International, Austria), and Siny Widmer (TWR, Switzerland).

Coordinator--Kelly O'Donnell; email--102172.170@compuserve.com

WORKING TOGETHER

The affiliation identifies a number of projects which members and colleagues can work on together. Each joint project has a coordinator, a written plan with an estimate of costs and funding sources, and an evaluation at the end. Projects are chosen which are of a highly strategic nature, in keeping with our goals. There is no remuneration for our MC--Europe work, as we serve as volunteers. However funds may be periodically available to cover some expenses. Here are some of the types of projects which we are doing:

- Help establish and strengthen national member care affiliations.
- Organize future EMCCs, offer workshops at mission conferences.
- Develop a network of trainers that can give workshops on: crisis/contingency management, interpersonal/team building skills, spiritual life/retreats, family life/MK education, member care overview course, and special topics--grief, depression, transition, child safety, addictions.
- Maintain/distribute a list of member care resources within Europe; maintain an email forum to interact on member care issues and share updates on past/future member care events..
- Form short-term member care teams to resource field locations with workshops/consultation.
- Write and translate member care material.

Member Care-Europe (April 2004 based on Rehe Retreat)

Working together within/from Europe on behalf of the Christian cross-cultural community

PURPOSE STATEMENT

Member Care Europe (MC_Europe) is a Christian affiliation of cross-cultural workers primarily residing in Europe. We are committed to working together on behalf of our community by helping to provide and develop member care resources within/from Europe. Members are recognised member care workers in their sending bodies and are also committed to provide personal/professional support for each other. Our Christian commitment and fellowship provide the foundation for our work.

DEFINITION OF MEMBER CARE

We define member care as the ongoing investment of resources in order to nurture and develop mission personnel. It involves care for the whole person (physical, psychological, spiritual) throughout the entire mission life cycle (recruitment through to retirement) and for everyone (home office staff, children overseas personnel). Examples of resources include pre-field orientation, crisis care, team building, MK services and career development. Sending organisations (churches/agencies), service groups, cross-cultural personnel themselves and nationals/locals are main sources of member care.

MEMBERS

MC-Europe is inclusive in its membership. This primarily means having a good representation of member care leaders from different countries who have different Christian affiliations and diverse member care specialities and network connections. They must meet the criteria specified in the guidelines and embrace the World Evangelical Alliance '*Statement of Faith*'.

MEMBERSHIP CRITERIA

- Spiritually and emotionally mature
- Endorsed by the national missions community
- Actively involved in cross-cultural care and have specific member care skills and networks
- Endorses the WEA Statement of Faith
- Meets at least once every two years with the MC-Europe Affiliation
- Term of service is 4 years
- Is a team player, committed to working in unity
- Actively contributes to and communicates with the MC-Europe Affiliation

MEMBERSHIP RECOMMENDATIONS

- Has broad international experience and is a respected leader (via position and/or influence)
- Is committed to further develop cross-cultural care within and from Europe
- Must recognise there is a time commitment involved
- Has adequate funding to support one's involvement
- One's organisation supports and endorses the involvement with the MC-Europe affiliation

WORKING TOGETHER

The affiliation has two primary services: the bi-annual European Member Care Consultation and the bi-monthly European email forum for member care. When possible, we endeavour to do other projects together. Each joint project has a coordinator, a written plan with an estimate of costs and funding sources and an evaluation at the end. Projects are chosen in keeping with our broad goals. There is no remuneration for our MC-Europe work; we serve as volunteers. However, funds may be periodically available to cover some expenses. Possible projects include:

- Help establish and strengthen national member care affiliations
- Offer workshops at mission conferences
- Develop a network of specialist trainers that can give workshops
- Maintain a website on member care issues, updates, organisations and resources
- Form short-term member care teams to resource field locations with workshops/consultation
- Write and translate member care material