

## **Member Care-Asia Task Force and Historical Notes**

### Description and Guidelines update 10/01

[Note from Kelly O'Donnell June 2005: This Task Force is not longer functioning and hopefully something similar will be reorganised.]

The Member Care-Asia Task Force (MCA) is an affiliation of colleagues committed to further develop supportive resources within Asian missions. The Task Force is part of the Evangelical Fellowship of Asia's Missions Commission. Members are from different organizations, have diverse cross-cultural and member care experience, and work together on strategic joint projects. The special focus of the Task Force is to help organize additional resources—e.g., training, writing, consultations, counseling, research—on behalf of mission personnel and their children.

#### **Membership Criteria**

The Task Force seeks to be as inclusive as possible. Basically this means having a good representation of people from different nations and organizations; who have diverse cross-cultural and member care experience; and who have the time and organizational backing to actively participate. We endeavor to have at least 75% of the members to be Asian. The Task Force includes both members and consultants. Membership is by invitation of the three convenors: Dr. Met Castillo (The Philippines), Ms. Polly Chan (Hong Kong), and Dr. Kelly O'Donnell (UK). Other members include Ruth Insook Baek (Korea), Liberty Belares (Thailand), Mr. Philip Chang (Malaysia), Mr. Harry Hoffmann (Thailand), Dr. Terina Khoo (Hong Kong), Dr. Thomas Lee (Singapore), Miss Ah Kie Lim (India), Rev. Michael Littlefield (Singapore), Mr. Toshio Nagai (Japan), and Ms. Katherine Tan (Singapore).

- wSpiritually and emotionally mature, with good family life if married and a support group.
- wActively involved in missionary care and have specific missionary care skills, networks.
- wBroad international experience and are respected leaders (via position and/or influence).
- wEndorses the WEF Statement of Faith.
- wHas a call/desire to further develop missionary care within Asia.
- wOne's organization supports his/her involvement in this Task Force--part of job description.
- wUses email to communicate regularly with other members.
- wMeets at least once every two years with the Task Force.
- wTerm of service is three years; works on at least one Task Force project at any given time.
- wHas adequate clerical and financial support to participate.
- wIs a team player, committed to working together in unity.
- wUnderstands and agrees with these guidelines.
- wAverage time involvement is about two hours per week or eight hours a month.

#### **Working Together**

The Task Force identifies a number of projects which members will 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 the Task Force's purpose. There is no remuneration for work on the Task Force, as we work as volunteers. Nonetheless, funds may be available periodically to cover some of our expenses. Direction and evaluation of the Task Force are ultimately the responsibility of the three convenors, in consultation with the other Task Force Members.

#### **Projects**

1. Help develop national interagency affiliations/task forces in Asia.
2. Help organize missionary care and MK care consultations.
3. Develop a network of trainers that can give workshops at key locations.
4. Research and Writing
  - a. Maintain and distribute an Asian data base on member care resources, including service providers, an annotated list of key MC-related materials that have been written in English and/or Asian languages, and a list of seminaries/Bible Schools that offer MC-related courses.
  - b. Encourage member care materials to be written/translated by Asians.
5. Maintain an email forum to exchange news/ideas with member care/mission colleagues.
6. Resource national and Asian mission conferences and Partnerships with "missionary care teams" that can provide workshops and consultation/counseling to participants.

7. Help develop MC interest, training, networking in key seminaries/Christian institutions.
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## **SOME DEVELOPMENTS OF ASIA MCMK CARE**

**Compiled by Polly Chan**

### **Asia Missions Congress II, Thailand, September 29 – October 3, 1997**

A track on MC and MK Care during the conference. With the initiation of Kelly O'Donnell, a group of like-minded Asian MC and MK Care people met. Met Castillo and Andrew De Winnie are the key colleagues at EFA to bring the needs to awareness.

### **Formation of Asian MCMK Care Task Force, Thailand May 3-4, 1998**

A small group of eight of both Asians and Westerners met. They were from different mission organizations. The task force was launched with the support of OMF and YMAM.

## **SINGAPORE**

- An MK advisory committee is composed of a family therapist, missionary mothers, church staff and an educator was formed in OMF SG. December 1995
- February 1997 several missions personnel met to discuss how to care for SG MKs.
- *SG MCAA*
- *\*Missionary Care consultation: November 23-24, 1998.* Dr. Thomas Lee and Katherine Tan were invited to join the TF.
- MC seminar August 29 – September 30, 2000.

## **MALAYSIA**

*\*MC Consultation "Caring for Our Own" October 1-3, 1999.* Mission and church leaders were invited. Dr. Thomas Lee was the keynote speaker. Polly spoke on MK Care. Philip Chang, Sarah Yap, Burmar Kemar were there. *MY MC Network* with Burmar heading the team. NECF published a handbook on MC.

## **KOREA**

- Formation of MKNEST at Global Missionary Fellowship in 1993. It has a bifocal ministry. The first focus is to provide care for the more than 260 MKs in GMF, while the other focus is to provide inter-mission MK Care for the whole body of Korean MKs. The ministry includes Networking, Educating, Supporting and Training.
- In 1998, Ruth Baek has moved full-time from missionary training to MK Care.
- *\*MCOS, Korea November 1999*
- Missionary Counseling Center was set up in 1999.
- Pre-MCOS consultation for Korean educators

## **HONG KONG**

- In 1993, a full-time psychologist was recruited by HKACM to provide screening and counseling services for all missionaries sent out from HK.
- In May 1995, an MK Care Group was set up under HKACM.
- Attrition Report on HK missionaries 2000
- Year of MC 2000: seminars, training, consultation, books

## **PHILIPPINES**

- Mini-consultation on MK Care and Education organized by Jojo Mazano was held on September 1995. Key people of several local mission organizations in the PH were present. After the meeting, an ad hoc MK task force was set up in November. They have produced a guidebook on MK education, entitled *Filipino MKs: Which Schooling Option?*

- YWAM-PH had a training conference on MC
- PH Council of Evangelical Churches has a new department on MC (emphasis on prayer counseling)

## **JAPAN**

- Carol Miyake and several other MC personnel presented the need of MC at the JEMA Leaders Consultation in November 1997. In the same year, Toshio Nagai has been appointed by WBT JP to be the Coordinator for MK Care
- In 2000, Toshio is responsible for the MC at WBT JP

## **TAIWAN**

A workshop on MK Care at a mission conference September 1998. Dr. Bonnie Chen provides screening and counseling for missionaries.

## **Asia Forum, April 19-23 1999**

The goal of the forum is to prepare recommendations, guidelines and strategies for better serving Asian students in MK and ICS in Europe and Africa.