



Member Care Update

Ethnê-MC Facilitation Team

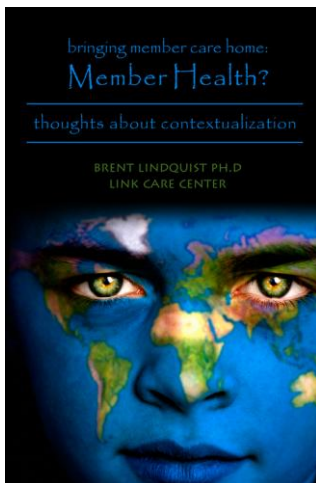
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Ethnê-MC Update Issue 4: April 2009

An Introduction

Dr. Brent Lindquist and I, Linda Swanson, have been tasked by the Ethne leadership to edit and produce the Ethne Member Care Newsletter. We are excited to begin this task and we ask for your help. This newsletter will be as successful as its readers make it with your input and information. Please write about the Member Care challenges and solutions you are finding in your arena. What needs are going unmet that we should address together to find answers? What innovations are helping workers be effective and able to live the good news in their setting? What resources are you using that you could share with your peers around the world? Do you know of articles, books, seminars, retreats, classes or other helps you could share?

Your articles should be about 500 words long. Links to web sites, articles, resources and events would be wonderful. You may write to me at: LindaSwanson@Linkcare.org. I look forward to hearing from you. Your lives are full of daily challenges and it will take your time and energy to contribute. May I say in advance, "Thank you for making our community stronger and more able to serve those who serve!"



To help you get to know Brent and me a bit better, this month's newsletter will contain a brief introduction to one of Brent's new books, [Member Health](#). As you read the book's introduction, please understand that the thoughts expressed are for this newsletter, too. We hope to be able to build on the past successes of the Member Care community and grow in our ability to come along side our brothers and sisters who are serving on the front lines.

This book was first presented in Thailand at when the network met last fall. It was written out of a concern for how Member care is perceived and the need for a wellness, not an illness model. In his introduction Brent wrote:

"This is a first attempt to get our hearts and minds around the current state of Membercare and what is both right and wrong about it. Membercare is coming of age, and we need to ask, what now? And ,where next?"

I have been in this arena for 25 years as a care provider—a licensed psychologist, capable of diagnosing and treating mental illness. In addition, I am privileged to be leading the oldest and largest mental health based Membercare agency in the world with over 44 years of existence – [Link Care Center](#). With thanks to God, I can report we have treated close to 9000 missionaries, pastors and dependents and seen approximately 75% of them returned to service. I have strong feelings about the appropriateness of competent professional diagnosis and care, where it occurs and for what purpose and length.

Because of problems I have seen develop, I have been pushing the edges of Membercare for the last 10 to 15 years. I have been wandering around in the "other" camps -- the arenas of pastoral care, language learning, missiology, training, human resources, and I've been listening to what they are saying, particularly about people like me and about Membercare. In the larger, global context, I have mentored majority-world Membercare leaders and have been mentored by them, as well. I have walked alongside grass roots Membercare resource people in India, Africa, Latin America, and Asia and dialogued, learned, and grown. And recently, I have been getting additional seasoning from UPG people attempting to define Membercare for groups with minimal "resources" as we know them. This is the first draft of a book. I am hoping this limited first printing will elicit good dialogue, so that we all can continue to flesh out the continuing development of Membercare, or whatever it may become.

In conclusion, I do not desire to throw the baby out with the bathwater, as we say in the US. In other words, much good progress has been made, and many good programs have been established. It is my hope that we can broaden the arenas of influence and involvement so that we can become even more effective in telling His story."

Now comes the exciting part—hearing from you. Please write and share your thoughts and observations about Member Care. Together we can learn and grow and become the servants God is asking us to be.

Educare: An Important Resource for MK/TCKs

Educare was launched in the mid-1990s by Jean Barnicoat who was the WEC International Education Consultant. When Steve and Gill Bryant took over from her in 2001, Educare was relaunched in a different format and almost all of the distribution is now by e-mail or via the internet. It was established as a newsletter to share information, ideas and useful articles on MK/TCK issues and also to provide a forum for discussion amongst families working with WEC. This is still our purpose, but we are excited that many families working with other organisations benefit from it and that it is now much more widely circulated.

Educare produces editions based on different levels of security around the world, as one of our goals is to serve the third culture families wherever they live and work. Over the years they have covered issues such as home education, study in national schools, preparing children for cross-cultural living, re-entry, multilingualism, mentoring, host culture integration and many more. They try to cover as many issues of relevance as possible and would welcome ideas or actual possible articles anyone has for future editions. Their goal is to mix more specialist issues with ones of more general interest and to keep Educare accessible and readable to as many third culture families as possible. Quite a few of their articles have been produced as a result of suggestions from readers, others are based on what they see as important issues that need to be raised or reviewed from another perspective. Last, but not least, they always welcome feedback and possible future articles as we continue to be an open forum.



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Membercare Training on Interpersonal Skills Feb 9th - 14th Feb 09

South Asia Institute of Christian Studies at Bangalore.

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Next month, we'll hear from a member care leader and provider working in Central Asia. He writes about the challenges and responsibilities leaders of organizations face to provide an ethos of membercare. We look forward to your feedback and input!