

**Member Care Resources**  
*January 2012*

MEMBER CARE

**Corbett, Steve and Brian Fikkert. *When Helping Hurts: How to Alleviate Poverty without Hurting the Poor . . . and Yourself*. Chicago, IL: Moody Publishers, 2009.**

Drawing on their own experiences in working with and among the poor, Corbett and Fikkert make a clear case that well intentioned but not well thought through generosity by American Christians can and does do harm to those in poverty. They define the problem, lay out general principles for helping without hurting, and introduce some practical strategies for helping. The book is structured with reflection questions to make it a ready group study project for a church class or small group. This book is a must read for anyone who wants to do ministry among the poor, and that includes all forms of ministry, not only development.

**O'Donnell, Kelly, ed. *Missionary Care: Counting the cost for World Evangelization*. Pasadena, CA: William Carey Library, 1992.**

This is the first of a collection of advice, insights, illustrations from various people involved in the early days of developing missionary care as an intentional part of the missionary enterprise. Described as “a handbook for developing healthy and effective missionary personnel,” the book offers an overview to missionary care, a focus on counseling and clinical care, specific issues related to team development and the responsibilities of mission agencies to member care. The final part looks at future directions in member care around organizing regional support centers, training member care workers, involving sending churches and holding member care consultations.

**O'Donnell, Kelly, ed. *Doing Member Care Well: Perspectives and Practices from Around the World*. Pasadena, CA: William Carey Library, 2002.**

A very helpful resource and introduction to the global field of member care. A basic model of member care is given. Examples and reports from regions of the world and across cultures are given. A comprehensive section covers various aspects of member care based on the following model: master care, self and mutual care, sender care, specialist care and network care. The book includes a good listing of resources and counseling centers in various parts of the world.

**O'Donnell, Kelly. *Global Member Care, vol.1 The Pearls and Pearls of Good Practice*. Pasadena, CA: William Carey Library, 2011.**

This latest book from member care guru, Kelly O'Donnell, brings us up to date with historical developments and recent research in the area of member care. The book has three parts. Part One summarizes the history of the member care field and raises future directions in the mission/aid field in the global context. Part Two discusses challenges to health, both relationally and organizationally. O'Donnell brings to light various kinds of dysfunction and calls for informed and adequately trained

responses, both in regards to persons and organizations. Part Three looks at the ethics of member care practices and, especially, calls for mission/aid workers to take seriously the broader issues and challenges of human rights, not only for workers but also for those persons who are being served.

A challenging book that seeks to take the field further, it requires some background and knowledge of the member care field.

**Steffen, Tom and Lois McKinney Douglas. *Encountering Missionary Life and Work: Preparing for Intercultural Ministry*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2008.**

In light of the changing face of mission, its context, its participants, new opportunities for service, Steffen and McKinney Douglas offer an updated text to guide people who are considering and seeking to discern their role in mission service. It is a very user friendly resource covering a broad range of topics and with interactive sidebars and case studies. The book is divided into four parts. Part 1 discusses the changing scene of mission at the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Part 2 covers topics of preparation for mission service: discerning the will of God, spiritual, personal and ministry formation and readiness, discerning the appropriate avenue for mission service both in terms of sending agency and kinds of witness and service. It is helpful in raising awareness of church and parachurch agencies and varieties of options for mission service including business as mission, tentmaking, offering one's skills as a retired person. Part 3 deals with preparations at the beginning of field service such as culture and language learning. Part 4 considers various practical issues and needs related to missionary life and service in family, education, women, singles, re-entry.

It is a good and relatively comprehensive introduction for those considering cross-cultural life and witness.

***Tender Care: The Heart and Soul of Caring for God's Scattered Servants*. Rockford, IL: Barnabas Books, 2010.**

A collaborative book, seven co-workers with Barnabas International share biblically and practically how to care for those who are working cross-culturally sharing the good news of God's love to the nations. All the contributors have years of experience in pastoral care with cross-cultural servants. Drawing upon a deep sea diving picture of "the tender" who is responsible for the line and life of the diver below the boat, they talk about the privileges and responsibilities of being "the tender" for those on the frontlines of the gospel. Three sections in the book cover the qualities and character of caregivers, the practicalities of care that is given throughout the life cycle of the cross-cultural servant, and the responsibilities of the community of care. The book is not only for "pastors to missionaries," but includes "all who care for missionaries, whether they live at home or abroad, whether ordained or lay, whether for them pastoral care is a primary or secondary task. The common denominator that brings us together is the desire to care for the hearts and souls of those who live out the Great Commission cross-culturally" (p. 7).

## PREPARATION FOR SERVICE: SUPPORT RAISING

**Barnett, Betty.** *Friend Raising: Building a Missionary Support Team That Lasts.* Seattle, WA: YWAM Publishing, 2003, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition.

Barnett offers biblical principles for right attitudes and actions and very practical suggestions in building a team for mission support. From the outset she establishes that “friend raising” rather than “fund raising” is the true essence of building a support team. She lays out four pillars on which support is most effectively and truly built: friend raising, generosity, communication and prayer around the promises of God. Clearly support raising involves the issue of trust in God, trusting that God knows what we need and that God is the one to move people to join us in the ministry to which God has called us.

Barnett gives very practical help in how to begin the friend raising outreach. While face to face and personal contact is best, she covers the use of email, newsletters, talks, church communications and others kinds of contact. The back of the book includes some forms to use in keeping track of contacts, giving, communication, expenses and budgets.

She also deals helpfully with some common hindrances to support raising: manipulation, spiritual attack/warfare, neglected commitments such as debt, unmet pledges or commitments, a poverty mentality, disobedience, ingratitude, lack of integrity, a spirit of promotion and unforgiveness.

Written out of her and other’s personal experience, this book offers a helpful perspective to those for whom support raising is a new venture.

## FOR SENDING CHURCHES

**Pirollo, Neal.** *Serving As Senders.* San Diego, CA: Emmaus Road, Int., 1991.

This book has served as a foundation for sending churches. Not all are called to go, but all are called to be involved in God’s mission, and a crucial dimension is the call to serve as senders. Pirollo gives practical help in what it means to serve as senders, namely, how to support, encourage, and assist those people called into cross-cultural mission. The support and help begins before people go, while they are on the field and when they return home, either for home assignments or for good. He suggests ways that congregations can organize support teams for those they are sending in mission. He includes a list of helpful resources on topics covered at the back of his book.

**Prins, Maria and Braam, Willemse.** *Member Care for Missionaries: A Practical Guide for Senders.* Strand, South Africa: Member Care, Southern Africa, 2009 2<sup>nd</sup> printing.

Written particularly for churches in South Africa, this little book is something of a condensation and application of Pirollo’s Serving as Senders. It too is a very accessible book for people in congregations that are sending others out in mission. It offers an introduction to member care, including a biblical basis. It gives helpful insight into the lifecycle of the missionary. It concludes

with very helpful, practical steps for organizing people in the congregation to effectively support their missionaries through all the phases of mission life.

**Telford, Tom. *Today's All-Star Missions Churches*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2001.**

Built around the model of a baseball team, Telford moves around the field to develop a comprehensive mission engagement for the church. Identifying the different positions on the field of mission, he illustrates best practices using churches who are effectively doing these things. He offers practical suggestions for enhancing the mission program and outreach in churches with stories of churches that are doing this, showing us that being a lively, mission- engaged church across the whole congregation is not an impossible ideal.

#### FOR UNDERSTANDING MISSIONARY CARE/LIFE ISSUES

**Foyle, Marjory F. *Overcoming Missionary Stress*. MARC Europe, 1987.**

The predecessor to the following book in this list, Foyle discusses the nature of stress and ways that it is uniquely experienced by those in cross-cultural ministry. Topics include stress and singleness, marriage, children, stress for adolescences, culture shock, interpersonal relationships and the stresses in re-entry. She has written particularly for mission workers to help identify and deal with the wounds that stress and painful emotional experiences can cause, noting that these are not necessarily signs of failure, but rather a sign “of being honourably wounded, hurt by the intensity of the battle rather than because of personal weakness or failure.” This is a helpful insight which she develops further in the following book.

**Foyle, Marjory F. *Honourably Wounded: Stress among Christian Workers*. Grand Rapids, MI: Monarch Books, 2001.**

An updated and expanded version of her 1987 book on missionary stress, this book takes into account the significant changes in the world of mission at the beginning of the twenty-first century. Written out of her mission experience and professional training in counseling, Foyle explores the kinds of stress that people in cross-cultural ministry particularly have to face. While many of these stresses are ‘normal’ to anyone in ministry, there is the unique stress of working in another culture, away from established support networks, on the frontlines of the gospel. She offers helpful insights into the stresses of singleness and marriage and family, loneliness, depression, occupational stress, burnout. She suggests helpful care for missionaries. This book is helpful both to those going in mission as well as those who are sending others out in mission.

**Kraft, Marguerite G., ed. *Frontline Women: Negotiating Cross-cultural Issues in Ministry*. Pasadena, CA: William Carey Library, 2003.**

Negotiating cross-cultural issues, stresses and challenges are part of mission service, but in some unique ways can be especially so for women. Twelve articles written by women with extensive mission experience (two co-authored with men) consider emotional issues, role and ministry

demands, spiritual warfare, marriage, motherhood and singleness as it affects mission, ministry and self image. The book helps raise the awareness of women going in mission to be prepared for a variety of challenges which may come, both because they are on the frontlines of the gospel, and because there has been a lag in awareness of the unique needs and issues facing women in cross-cultural ministry (often under historically male-led agencies and churches). The authors do not offer many answers, but they pose very good questions for the reader to consider.