



March 2017

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Grace and peace to you. We write you today to share some realities we, of the Mobile Member Care Team, are facing and some changes that will be taking place.

The Current Situation

Since 2000, we have served in West Africa. We also had a team in East Africa from 2010-2016. The Lord has blessed our efforts in Africa with good fruit. Surveys and many personal stories indicate that, with your support, MMCT has contributed to ***“resilient communities of cross cultural workers caring for each other, equipped to thrive in the midst of life’s challenges and traumas”***, as we say in MMCT’s vision statement.

The MMCT model was developed for residential teams who are mobile within a region, and God has blessed us with great team members. But in October, when Mike and Gail Koski relocated to the US, we had no one to replace them in East Africa. When Patrick and Sue Schmidt leave at the end of 2017 to serve in Cameroon, the West Africa team will have only one fulltime member, Vivian Ochoa, and Ali Federwitz who serves 20% of her time due to family responsibilities. We have no recruits on the horizon to join them.

Changing Times/Changing Strategies

Over the last ten years we have endeavored to form a team to serve North Africa, Central Asia and the Middle East. We have put major efforts into recruitment for that region as well as East and West Africa. In recent years, our Board has recognized a potential crisis with lack of personnel and has given us much encouragement and advice. Many of you have joined us in prayer for personnel and even referred potential team members, but the Lord has not brought the people needed to join these teams.

After 18 years of leading MMCT with many administrative responsibilities, we of the International Team (Karen Carr and Darlene Jerome), are eager to move into more direct member care roles. We feel God calling us to do more training, coaching, writing and consulting for mission leaders and member care workers around the world.

The Plan for MMCT

In November 2016, we shared with our Board our sense of the Lord’s leading for the two of us and reviewed again the lack of new personnel for our regional teams. After much discussion and prayer with us, the Board has decided that the Lord is leading MMCT to move towards a natural closure. Therefore, as of December 2017, the work of the Mobile Member Care Team ministry will draw to a close.

We know that member care is still needed where we have been serving, but we also realize that there are many more member care resources now than there were when we first envisioned MMCT nearly 20 years ago. We trust that after many years of investing in expatriate and local mission leaders, the Lord will enable them to use what they have learned, network with other ministries and develop strategies to meet the member care needs of their mission communities.

With a sense of anticipation, we who are current MMCT team members will continue to serve in member care under the banners of our sending missions that have shared us with MMCT for many years. And in the spirit of MMCT networking, we expect that we will continue to connect and collaborate with many of you as we care, train, consult and coach. We will still be very active in member care ministry; we simply will not be doing so under the name of Mobile Member Care Team.

More Information to Come

Many of you have supported this ministry since the dream stage and kept us going with your encouragement, prayers and financial gifts. We are grateful for you who have been Friends of MMCT, celebrating our milestones and carrying our burdens with us. We never could have done this without you! In the next few months we'll share specific information about how you can continue to support our member care efforts through our individual sending missions.

2017 Activities

As we wrote our 2016 Annual Report, which we will post to our website next month, we were thrilled to see how the Lord provided funds, protected in travel and blessed our counseling, debriefing, networking and training efforts this past year. Thanks so much for your financial support and prayers that made all this possible! We anticipate a full program of activities this year, including several more workshops and mobile counseling clinics. We appreciate your prayer and financial gifts as we continue to serve, while endeavoring to bring God-honoring closure to MMCT in December.

If you have not yet seen our recently renovated website (www.mmct.org), check it out and note the page called Our Story (<http://www.mmct.org/discover/our-story/>). (**Note:** The MMCT website will continue beyond 2017.) To God be the glory for His provision and kindnesses to us each step of the way!

May He be glorified in this transition,



Darlene Jerome and Karen Carr, MMCT International Team
Mobile Member Care Team
www.mmct.org