

mmct communiqué

The MMCT COMMUNIQUE is a periodic digest of member care resources and events delivered to your agency or personal e-mail. We welcome your comments and suggestions. Click [here](#) to subscribe or unsubscribe.



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Member Care During and After Crisis



READER RESPONSE

Member Care Resources for French speakers, New Zealanders and Children

This Month's Communiqué Focus: CRISIS CARE

Dear Friends,

It's a rare missionary who hasn't experienced a crisis of some kind, whether it's an auto accident, severe illness, a sudden death, car jacking, armed robbery, rape, theft, assault, civil war, evacuation, kidnapping or some other crisis.

Compassionate member care can help missionaries remain in effective service even after going through situations like these. It's not about protecting them from the inevitable difficulties of missionary life or pampering them when a crisis comes calling; it's about turning the crucible of a crisis into an opportunity for growth. A missionary who can say, "The God of all comfort comforted me in all my troubles" is better able to identify with the people he or she serves during their times of trouble -- and better able "to comfort them with the comfort they themselves received from God" (2 Cor 1:3,4).

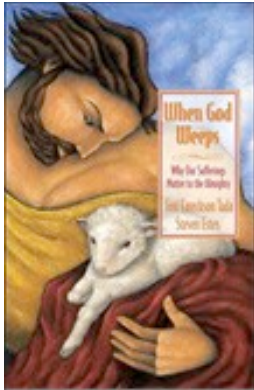
- There are many excellent **books** on crisis care for those who've been through a crisis and for those who want to help others in a time of need.
- **The MMCT website** contains several valuable articles on Trauma and Crisis Response and **Member Care by Radio** offers streaming audio programs about crises and loss.
- As a mission administrator, you might want to offer a **Peer Debriefing** to personnel who have been through a traumatic, stressful or significant experience.
- And two **MMCT workshops** prepare mission administrators and missionary peers to respond to crises in ways which reflect God's care and encourage resiliency.

Many blessings to you and your teams. It's a privilege to be alongside you, serving our God who comforts us in all our troubles.

The Mobile Member Care Team

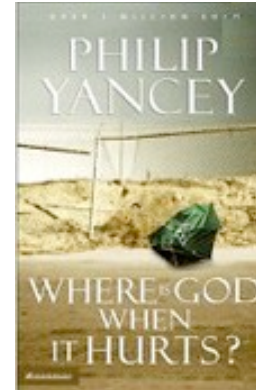
Accra, Ghana

Books about crisis care



For those trying to make sense of a crisis or loss:

When God Weeps by Joni Erikson Tada offers a biblical theology of suffering as does ***Where is God When it Hurts?*** by Philip Yancey, ***The Healing Path*** by Dan Allender and Walter Wangerin's ***Mourning Into Dancing***. Dan Allender's point of view is representative of all these authors: "Healing is not the resolution of our past; it is the use of our past to draw us deeper into relationship with God and his purposes for our lives."



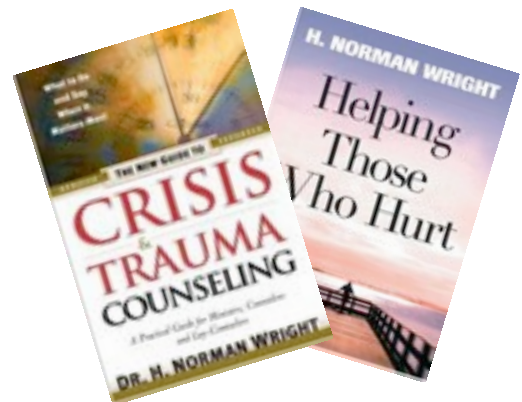
When I Lay My Isaac Down by Carol Kent ponders the possibility of "an unshakeable faith in unthinkable

circumstances" while ***Recovering from the Losses of Life*** by H. Norman Wright and the companion volume ***Will Life Ever be the Same?*** help readers to "find a way out of the despair of trauma." All of these books can be borrowed from the [MMCT Library](#) (see below).

For administrators, pastors and caregivers:

H. Norman Wright also authored ***Helping Those Who Hurt*** and ***Crisis & Trauma Counseling***. The first offers practical ways to help family, friends and coworkers through times of grief, while the second covers the same ground for administrators and professional care givers. It includes helpful appendices on confidentiality and crisis assessment.

All Our Losses, All Our Grievs by Kenneth Mitchell and Herbert Anderson is a book for pastors, counselors and other caregivers "who want to understand loss and grief." ***Failure to Scream*** by Robert Hicks explains why crises sometimes lead to Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.



About the MMCT Library

MMCT's library contains hundreds of titles on a variety of member care topics which are available for borrowing. A **complete list of titles by topic** is just a click away on the MMCT website. To borrow a book, send **an email to MMCT** with your request; be sure to tell us where you are and how to get the book to you from Accra.

Smaller satellite libraries are being planned for several other West African cities. Write to **Marion Dicke** for more information about them.

Trauma and Crisis Care Articles on the MMCT website

You can't predict when those under your care might pass through a traumatic event, but you can know where to go for resources when they do. Here are links to some of the articles available at mmct.org:

Resilience in Ministry Despite Trauma by Dr. Ron Brown observes that "People associated with... missionary organizations will likely experience personal trauma during their time overseas" and asks "What are the factors that contribute to resiliency and worker retention despite trauma?"

Missionaries know that missionary service may involve suffering and trial. But does that prepare them for its impact? Dr. Karen Carr explores this question in **Crisis Intervention for Missionaries**.

Another article by Dr. Carr, **Trauma and PTSD Among Missionaries** holds out the hope that mission field casualties can be reduced "if missionary administrators learn to recognize the early symptoms of trauma related stress..." A **research paper** by Frauke Schaefer, M.D. explores the kinds of traumas experienced by missionaries working in West Africa and how they cope with them.

For a list of other articles and useful handouts, click [here](#).

Trauma and Crisis Care Audio Programs from Member Care by Radio



Trans World Radio broadcasts an excellent member care program for expatriate workers and they're available online in four different streaming audio formats. Their aim is to "offer a reassuring touch and hallmark discussions on current issues" such as Marriage & Family, Spiritual Growth and Cross Cultural Living. A five-part series called "Dealing with Crisis" by Dr. Brent Lindquist can be accessed by going to the **MemCare by Radio website** and typing the word "crisis" in the search window.

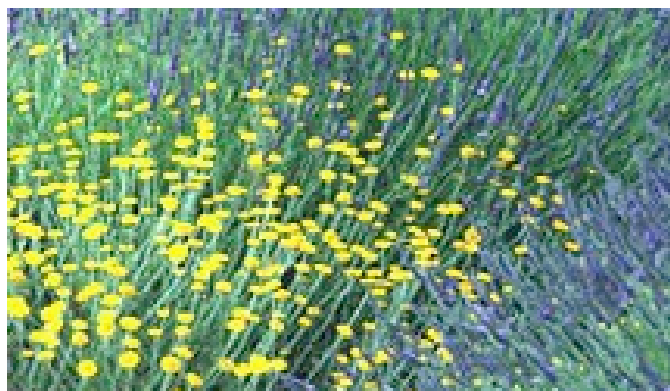
About Peer Debriefings

One recommended part of crisis care is the **peer debriefing** -- a structured time for telling the story of a traumatic incident, learning about common reactions to trauma and exploring how the incident can be integrated into everyday life. Find out more by reading these **Frequently Asked Questions**.

How to Arrange for a Peer Debriefing: Missionaries from agencies spread throughout West Africa have been trained by MMCT in **the peer debriefing process** and may be available to debrief your personnel when they experience a traumatic, stressful or significant event. **Contact MMCT by phone or email** to discuss the availability of peer debriefers in your area.



Peer helpers provide immediate on site care for coworkers who have experienced a crisis and make referrals to counselors when appropriate.



MMCT Workshops

“An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.”
MMCT offers two Crisis Care Workshops:

Member Care while Managing Crises is a five-day workshop for mission leaders who want to learn about the strategic role they play in member care while managing crisis situations. Topics include: Normal response to a crisis; helpful policies, procedures and protocols; confidentiality and communication; assessment of vulnerable members and the “When? Why? and How?” of debriefings.

Peer Response Training prepares missionaries to serve as peer responders within their own mission through an intensive six-day workshop. Participants learn how to come alongside someone in crisis, how to assess someone who has been through a traumatic event and how to conduct individual and group peer debriefings. The workshop is very “hands-on” and includes lots of practice time.

Our 2008 schedule for these workshops will be soon be posted online. Send an email to **Darlene Jerome**, MMCT’s Personnel and Training Director, if you want to be notified about workshops as they’re scheduled.

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French Member Care

If French is your first language or if you’re looking for resources for French speakers, check out **Relation d’aide** for an excellent collection of member care resources.

Member care for New Zealanders

Heartstream Resources New Zealand is a non-denominational Christian organization that facilitates and provides holistic care for people in cross-cultural ministry. Visit their [website](#) for New Zealand based resources and events.

C.A.R.E. Waitekere Trust (Coming Alongside to Restore and Empower) offers counseling services, parenting courses and personal development programs. Details are available on their [website](#).

For children and adolescents who have experienced violence

The National Institute of Mental Health offers three articles on working with children and adolescents who have experienced violence and disasters: What their **parents** can do, what **rescue workers** can do, and the role of **community members**.

*Many thanks to the readers who told us about these resources. If you know of services, web-pages, seminars and the like which have been helpful to you, **pass them on to us**. Thanks!*

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