

ReSOURCES

MISSION RESOURCE NETWORK

NEWSLETTER

God of Compassion!

Are't you in awe of our amazing God?!

It's exciting and awe-inspiring to witness God's faithfulness to those he calls and his deep commitment and constant activity to draw all nations, tribes, languages, and people to the feet of his son, Jesus. Whether you have been part of MRN's journey from the start 25 years ago or have linked arms with us more recently, you'll want to celebrate God's goodness and work with all of us in leading his mission.

Kingdom workers' unmet needs and pain were the driving forces behind the first conversations to develop a new ministry that would become MRN. In the early 1990s, **Royce Money** (then ACU President) and his wife, Pam, were invited to Brazil by Gary Sorrells

and Bob Waldron to meet and speak to global workers at their annual conference. At that time, both men were working with the ministry formerly known as Continent of Great Cities. Early in the conference, they split into separate sessions. Royce met with the husbands, and Pam met with the wives. Although they initially planned to present helpful materials, they were both Spirit-led to ask these cross-cultural workers to share things their sending churches could do to help them.

And share they did! The stress, pain, and even trauma that Royce and Pam heard left them with a burning desire to find ways to help improve care for workers broadly, despite the challenges of achieving that with our fellowship's commitment to congregational autonomy.

This passion for providing better care for workers was a major focus that resulted in worker care as an essential part of our ministry from the beginning. At a time when there was little attention given to supporting workers holistically, God



Royce and Pam Money



Bob Waldron



Dottie Schulz

led a vision to improve the understanding and care senders could provide their workers so they could serve his mission better, longer, and come back whole.

It was no mistake that God chose **Dr. Bob Waldron**, who had served as a cross-cultural worker before his time with Great Cities Missions, to lead MRN from its birth. And it was no mistake that one of our first trustees, **Dr. Dottie Schulz**,

was also a Kingdom worker who came back from her years on the field with a desire to understand and help address some of the major issues in a worker's "life cycle." On her return to the States, she entered university,

where she studied marriage and family therapy with an emphasis on developmental psychology and cross-cultural studies, eventually getting a doctorate with her dissertation on the stresses of workers re-entering and adjusting to their "home" culture. God led and shaped Dottie for the role he knew she needed to fill as MRN's first full-time director of worker care, and her leadership in worker care has had a huge impact on churches and those they send.

In all of this, it's easy to see that this isn't about MRN. It's **about God – his love, faithfulness, and vision to restore shalom for his creation.**



Read about what God has done to grow our understanding of worker care.





Note from
the President

Dan Bouchelle

The Original Cry

Ministry organizations generally start because there is a need, a hurt, or a cry in the world going unmet. Someone hears that cry and feels a burden to respond with meaningful help. Healthy organizations remember that original cry. They may expand to serve additional needs, but to understand the ministry, you need to understand the cry that brought it about.



At MRN, our original cry was hearing from kingdom workers in the field who were serving with honor but great difficulty because they did not have many of the things they needed – from preparation to support, strategy, care, and connection. Not only did they hurt, but the mission of God also suffered.

As you'll read in this issue of **Resources**, MRN is constantly listening to that original cry. We aim to bring the good news of great joy and practical help to serve kingdom workers worldwide who are sacrificially serving to honor God and expand the reign of our great King Jesus.

His Faithfulness on the Journey

You probably know that the intentional ministry of worker care was a new concept among churches of Christ when Dr. Dottie Schulz began her work with MRN in the 90s. Dr. Clyde Austin, also one of MRN's original Trustees, had been an early pioneer in worker care and had begun building awareness and understanding of reentry stress among churches. As Dottie stepped into her role at MRN, she was committed to helping churches and workers better understand the compounding challenges facing workers throughout the worker's life cycle. With the support of Dale Hawley and her Advisory Board, she was uniquely prepared to develop insights and understanding of the significant difficulties a worker faces during leaving, staying, and returning. As they learned more about workers' needs, churches began to provide more proactive and meaningful care.



Tim Johnson, MRN's Director of Development, gives us a glimpse of a worker's life before we understood some of these challenges.



"My wife and I were called to serve in Ukraine in the late 1980s and were able to move there in 1992 with our three young daughters. Our work was rewarding, and we felt loved and supported by our church and family in the States. We had spent years making a life and a home for our family in Ukraine. When it was time to return, none of

us – neither our family nor our loving community in the States – understood the pain we would experience. We grieved the many deep and loving relationships we were leaving. We grieved the loss of amazingly meaningful kingdom work. We grieved the loss of our identities as global workers. We also didn't understand the impact on our kids, who had become third-culture kids. We returned with unresolved, barely-understood grief and stress to a place and people that no longer seemed the same because we were so different."

You and your church may have seen families like Tim's whose pain we didn't understand well and who needed support most of us didn't know how to give. Gratefully, many churches now have more insight and better language to help workers process complexities like "culture shock," "third-culture kids," and "reentry."

As you continually seek to improve your understanding and care for workers, you can be confident in God's leading us all in new ways to care for those he sends into the harvest fields.

Where is worker care heading now? Let's explore some new ways God is leading us to care for workers.

Where Will He Lead Us Next?!

Daniel and Hana were called to missions to an (undisclosed) Asian country. They went through MRN's assessment and training and have a wonderful sending church that loves them. They now struggle with heavy strains on their relationship. They know they need to talk through these issues with someone, but they are worried that this might damage their church's trust and support of them.



Most workers have felt this tension. MRN's care team, Andy Johnson and Missy Gray, makes a significant contribution by offering direct care to workers on behalf of their sending churches. MRN provides a neutral space with these expert caregivers, so workers can bring the dark moments they face to the healing Light.

There is also a growing awareness of the trauma to workers who are in a place hostile to Jesus-followers. Because of this, we have identified and are partnering with experts who can provide training in safety and resilience, so workers are better prepared for these challenges.

God is now leading us in a new pathway of care for "inside" workers. You have seen the value of partnership with indigenous disciples whose work in disciple-making flows out of their deep cultural alignment. These kingdom workers who constantly pour themselves out also need worker care. Andy and Missy are now **equipping and empowering churches** (both domestic and global) to identify the care needs of their indigenous kingdom partners.

We praise God for leading us to places where worker care is needed and to new ways to care that we are only beginning to imagine!

Find resources on worker care by scanning here.



SCAN ME

You are part of making these things happen.
Scan here to make a gift.



SCAN ME



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Estellene Allen	Natalie Fortenberry	Bryan Moss
Jovan Barrington	Ron Holland	Barry Packer
Justin Chamblee	Rhonda Houk	Tebogo Ramatsui
Winston Chong	Van Kimbro	Lori Reed
Brad Crisp	Carol Manley	Michelle Tucker
Darla deSteiguer	Tyson Moore	Eric West

STAFF

David Allen, <i>Bengal Initiative Director</i>	Jay Jarboe, <i>ELI Director, Church Equipping Coordinator</i>
Pamela Anderson, <i>Administration Director</i>	Andy Johnson, <i>Care Director, Prayer Coordinator</i>
Dan Bouchelle, <i>President</i>	Tim Johnson, <i>Development Director</i>
Amy Cecil, <i>Financial Specialist (PT)</i>	Helen Mahone, <i>Office Assistant (PT)</i>
Missy Gray, <i>Care Specialist</i>	Caleb Southerland, <i>Vice President</i>
Mark Hooper, <i>Recruiting and Training Director</i>	Team Member A, <i>MedRim Field Coordinator</i>
Evertt Huffard, <i>Church Equipping Facilitator (PT)</i>	Marti Van Roy, <i>Communications Director</i>

WE'VE MOVED!
Please note new address



1901 Central Dr. | Ste 120 | Bedford, TX 76021

mrnet.org | missions@mrnet.org | 888.641.2229



GOD DOES IMMEASURABLY MORE

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

Ephesians 3:20-21