

MATT 11:28 NETWORK

Dear Friends

We would like to introduce the Matt 11:28 Network to you:

Who are we?

Jesus says in Matt 11:28 the following: "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest". We are an interdenominational group of Christians that have the care of missionaries on our hearts.

We would like to give missionaries the opportunity for rest and restoration and to experience the love of Christ in a tangible manner through the care given by the body of Christ – hence our name – Matt 11:28 Network.

What do we do?

We regularly meet to identify missionaries' needs and to look at possible resources that could be used for caring and supporting these missionaries accordingly.

How do we function?

We function as a network in collaboration with Member Care Southern Africa, a non-profit mission support organisation, that focuses on the care of missionaries (www.memcare.co.za), as well as Beulah Christian Retreat (<https://www.beulahretreat.co.za/>) and other role players of different mission organisations and/or churches.

Missionaries are strategic in reaching the less reached, but their effectiveness is often hindered because of insufficient member care. Many missionaries have to leave the field prematurely and permanently, because they are not cared for effectively by their organisations or sending churches.

Apart from former and current missionaries, we also have a retired pastor, mission coordinators and other professional people as part of our team. Most important is that we all share a passion to care for missionaries.

Focus areas:

We currently focus on the following four areas of Member Care:

1. ***Rest and restoration:*** Providing missionaries the opportunity to have a time of rest and restoration, so that they can live out their calling to serve God with renewed energy. We would like to make accommodation available to them so that they can rest during home visit or when returning to South Africa permanently.

We want to care for them holistically: body, soul and spirit by making services provided by medical doctors, dentists, physiotherapists, psychologists, counsellors and other specialists available for them, as well as other practical services such as vehicle and computer repairs.

2. ***Re-entry care:*** Multiple challenges, like reverse culture shock and several other adjustments await missionaries who return from the field for a short period of time or permanently.

Appropriate and adequate care can play a huge role in supporting them during these stressful times.

3. ***Involvement of churches in the care of missionaries:*** To make churches aware of the necessity and scope of Member Care and to support them with the process to implement care in a practical way.
4. ***Field visits:*** In future, we would like to visit missionaries on the field to serve them.

We would like to extend an invitation to each one of you to become involve in one of the following ways:

1. To guest house owners, we would like to ask if you would be willing to make space available for missionaries to rest for a weekend or longer. Or if you own a holiday home that is not used during certain times of the year, it will be wonderful if you would be willing to make it available to missionaries.
2. Please contact us if you would be willing to make your professional services available at a reduced rate or for free to missionaries. We would like to involve medical doctors, dentists, physiotherapists, psychologists, counsellors and other specialists, as well as people who can assist on a practical level with repairs to vehicles and computers.
3. Praying for missionaries.
4. Financial contribution: once off or monthly (funds are administered by Member Care Southern Africa that is registered as a non-profit company).

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