

EVANGELICAL MISSIOLOGICAL SOCIETY

2013 Call for Papers

The Missionary Family: Witness, Concerns, Care

Through papers and interactive discussions we look forward to exploring the wide-ranging and multifaceted field of **The Missionary Family: Witness, Concerns, Care** in the 2013 regional and annual EMS meetings.

At the broadest level, categories related to missionary families and member care include, but are not limited to, such things as:

- Nurturing spiritually and emotionally healthy missionary families
- The missionary family as model and witness
- Marriage and gender: husband/wife relations, parenting, discipline
- Educating missionary kids: home school, boarding school, public school
- MKs as third culture kids and the development of identity
- Stressors for missionary families; long-distance parenting; intercontinental marriages
- Missionary responsibilities toward aging parents
- Preparing mission families for transitions, re-entry, relocation, retirement
- Financial realities of missionary families: salary, health insurance, pension, vacations, college

Each category contains a wealth of possibilities for research with immediate practical application to the way mission agencies and individual missionaries carry out their work. Our hope is that the papers presented will provoke lively discussion of some of the most pressing issues facing mission agencies, missionary families, and churches supporting and ministering to missionaries.

Examples of some of the types of questions one might profitably explore are:

- What is needed to build and sustain spiritually and emotionally healthy missionary families?
- In what ways has mission agencies' care for missionary families been diverted and weakened or strengthened and extended due to the burgeoning growth of short-term missions?
- What constraints do the educational needs of MKs place on missionary retention? What shifts are evident over time?
- As a group do MKs become robust persons? What is their personal spiritual outlook? Do they contribute as adults to vital church life? How do they fare in school and college, in their careers and as parents?
- Where do MKs feel at home: "passport" country, mission country, somewhere else?

- Raising personal support is a strong tradition within the evangelical mission movement. How do these missionaries cope with the cost of retirement? Are better options available?
- The over/under compensated missionary: so far below the homeland, often so distantly above the field. What are the realities? What entailments follow for missionary effectiveness?
- What “stories” and case-studies indicate best practices in care for missionary families by agencies, by congregations, by fellow mission team members?
- To what generational, cultural, demographic, gender, economic, and worldview distinctions do mission agencies and churches need to be sensitive in order for missionary families to be healthy and effective?
- Are there examples from history and from the missionary experience of other wings of the church that should inform contemporary evangelical care for missionary workers and families?

FAQs Concerning the Submission & Presentation of Papers

1. What will be the theme for the September 19–21, 2013, EMS Annual Meeting?

Papers should deal with some aspect of the theme for the 2013 annual meeting, which is “The Missionary Family: Witness, Concerns, Care.” This will also be the topic for the annual volume to be edited by Dwight Baker (baker@omsc.org) and Robert Priest (rpriest@tiu.edu).

2. Will the regional EMS meetings use this theme, also?

Yes, the regional EMS meetings will incorporate this theme into their meetings. Depending on the region, other topics may also be included.

3. What about a catchier title?

“Missionary Families and Member Care” is a working title. The exact wording used to publicize the annual meeting and to be used as the book’s title will be refined later. Suggestions are welcome.

4. What kind of papers qualify for the program and volume?

We are looking for papers that (1) provide in-depth analysis and missiological reflection on significant issues facing evangelical missionary families and the diverse instrumentalities and agencies involved in mission member care. The siting and focus of the papers can be from around the globe.

5. Could you give some examples of what this theme of The Missionary Family: Witness, Concerns, Care includes?

See the list of examples elsewhere on this page Web page.

6. Can I present a case study?

Case studies are welcome. Especially desirable are studies that build upon field-based research or in-field missionary experience. Presenters are urged to grapple with actual issues faced by missionaries in the field and by mission agencies in carrying out their role.

7. How are presenters and papers for the annual meeting selected?

To be considered for the annual meeting program, papers must first be presented at one of the

regional EMS meetings. Papers presented at the annual meeting will have profited from the feedback and comments of colleagues at the regional meeting.

8. If I present my paper at a regional meeting, will it be included in the national annual meeting program?

Many more papers are presented in the regional meetings than will fit into the national annual meeting program. Papers presented at the regional meetings comprise the pool from which the program committee draws in preparing the roster of topics and presentations at the annual meeting. The program committee strives to provide breadth to the annual meeting program and to achieve a balance among the issues, topics, and approaches included.

8. How do I submit a paper?

The first step is to contact the EMS vice president for your region. See the list of vice presidents at www.emsweb.org for e-mail addresses. Send her or him an e-mail with (1) a working title, (2) a 200-word abstract or a couple of paragraphs describing your proposed topic or issue and the approach you will take, and (3) a brief identification of yourself. Decisions about papers to be included in the regional EMS meetings are made by the regional vice presidents.

9. Which papers are included in the annual EMS volume?

Papers presented at the annual meeting are the primary pool from which a selection is made for inclusion in the annual volume. The editors seek to provide breadth in the issues covered and diversity of approach.

10. Do I submit my paper simultaneously to the regional vice president and to the national program committee?

No. Papers are submitted to the appropriate regional vice president. Following the regional meetings, the vice presidents forward eligible papers to the program committee.

11. What about the length of papers and endnotes?

Papers should be 4,500 to 7,000 words in length, including endnotes. Endnotes should be used to acknowledge intellectual debts and sources used or to point readers to additional resources. Endnotes should not be used for carrying substantive discussion further. If an observation merits inclusion, work it into the body of the paper.

12. What about the format of my paper?

Papers should be submitted to regional vice presidents in the format he or she specifies. Papers forwarded to the national committee will need to be in electronic format, preferably sent as e-mail attachments. They should be formatted for U.S. letter size paper (8.5x11) with one-inch margins. Please use Times New Roman, 12 point, single space, with endnotes rather than footnotes.

13. My paper involves some special formatting questions. To whom do I talk?

The co-editors will be happy to respond to questions about special formatting issues after papers have been accepted by the regional vice presidents.

14. If you give me advice on formatting my paper, does that mean it is accepted for the

national program?

Decisions on the papers to be included in the national program will not be made until all the papers are available next spring.

15. My paper will be presented at a regional EMS meeting. Is anything else needed to be eligible for presenting it at the national meeting?

Check whether your EMS membership and dues are current. Various papers at regional EMS meetings are presented by non-member guests. To be considered for the national program, papers must have been presented at a regional meeting by a registered member of EMS whose dues are current.

16. I want to be sure that I am eligible. How do I become a member and pay my dues?

To become an EMS member, follow the instructions found at www.emsweb.org. To verify that your membership and dues are current, contact Jeff Walter, VP for Membership & Finance (jwalters@sbtc.edu).