



MedSend

EXTENDING GOD'S LOVE
THROUGH GLOBAL HEALTHCARE

The

Longevity
Project

Because of the Unique Needs of Healthcare Missionaries – LP 1.0

- MedSend's unusual perspective
- Needs identified on PRISM (2011) and Global Healthcare Worker Needs Assessment Report (2015)
- LP 1.0, For MedSend Grant Recipients Only
- First full implementation: 2022
- Six components offered.

Original Components

Longevity Project 1.0

- Pre-Field
- Coach-Mentor
- Annual Check-up
- MedRefresh Retreat
- Short Debrief

Feedback from MedRefresh 2022

- Wow. Amazing. We are so, so thankful this was lavishly given to us. I think this helped save our marriage.
- I felt seen, heard, and understood. I won't forget for many years.
- Hands down best conference I have ever been too (and I've attended my fair share!) THANK YOU!
- Everything about this conference design was exactly what we needed.

Feedback from other components

- Pre-Field Course – strongly consistently positive
- Coach/Mentor – widely mixed, as expected
- Annual Check up – mostly positive – some “rescue” stories
- Debrief – we were surprised by gratitude of some.

Longevity Project 2.0

- **Subscription Program, Heavily Subsidized**
- **Participant Chooses from Expanded Menu of Items (self-directed care).**

Novel Program

- **Unsure what will be popular**
- **Very Controlled Rollout**
- **First year: 30 units**
- **Second year: 60 units**
- **Third year: 100 units**
- **Short feedback loop**
- **Expect lots of modifications.**

Additional Components

- LP 1.0
- Pre-Field
- Coach-Mentor
- Annual Check-up
- MedRefresh Retreat
- Short Debrief
- Research
- Additions for LP 2.0
- Counseling 'a-la-carte'
- Spiritual Direction
- Dispute Mediation
- Christian Global Health in Perspective Course
- Child Education Consultation
- Extended Debrief

Two Plans, based on Experience

- New Missionary
 - Pre-Field
 - Coach-Mentor
 - Annual Check-up
 - Christian Global Health in Perspective Course
- Experienced Missionary
 - Counseling 'a-la-carte'
 - Spiritual Direction
 - Dispute Mediation
 - Christian Global Health in Perspective Course
 - Child Education Consultation
 - Extended Debrief
 - Annual Check-up

Mission Sending Agency Membership Required



Not to Interfere with Sending Agency Member Care Program

- **Choose from menu**
- **Expecting them to refer their own Healthcare Missionaries**
- **Especially new Healthcare Missionaries.**

First 30 Invitees

- **MedSend current Grant Recipients or Alumni**
- **10 families with kids, 10 couples, 10 singles**
- **Chosen by committee**
- **Timeline:**
 - **May 1 Invitations and registration**
 - **July 1 – start of Grant.**

Uncertainties

1. What will be popular?
2. How can we be “fair”?

Our Questions for You:

1. What do you think will be popular?
2. Where are the ‘holes?’



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Pre-Field Course

Pre-Field Orientation for New Healthcare Missionaries

November 6, 2023 – November 9, 2023

Southeast Christian Church 920 Blankenbaker Pkwy, Louisville, Kentucky 40243-1845, US

[Register Now >](#)



∨ Fees and Costs

∨ Venue Information

∨ Speakers

∨ Schedule

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- **Christian Medical and Dental Association – Center for the Advancement of Healthcare Missions**

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For NEW Grant recipients
MedSend Alumni
Matched by vocation and region of service
CMDA Coaching 501 course (or equivalent)
Meet by zoom monthly for two years.



Annual Check-Up



- **Emotional and spiritual assessment**
- **Instrument developed by Valeo**
- **All adults complete annually**
- **Valeo confidentially assesses**
- **Responds accordingly.**

MedRefresh Retreat

- **Week-long Programmed Retreat**
- **Program by Alongside's MedRetreat Staff**
- **Includes adult-oriented learning sessions on pertinent topics**
- **Debriefing (two sessions or more)**
- **Excellent kids' program**
- **"Fun day"**
- **Orlando and Chiang Mai, Thailand last year.**

Structured Short Debrief

- Upon departure from the field
- Questionnaire
- Interview 1-2 hours
- Recommendations or referrals may follow.



SHORT COMMUNICATION

Why are MedSend grant recipients leaving the mission field? An internal review

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Introduction

Attrition of healthcare missionaries is a significant issue. The Global Health Workers Needs Assessment survey (GHWNA) of current and former MedSend¹ grant recipients found that the average length of service was 4.77 years.² Ending service after five years of experience has been described as particularly disappointing, because at this stage missionaries tend to be perceived as culturally competent and are able to pursue tasks more in line with their skills and interests.³ In the last few years, MedSend has noted that the rate of departures from the field has been increasing.

Some have estimated that the cost of supporting an American missionary family of five for five years is \$395,000 USD.³ A large portion of that cost is incurred in preparation and set-up. The personal cost to the missionaries, their families, their teams, their supporters, their patients and their hosts

instruments.^{4,2} Those studies have proven to be very useful in guiding retention and support efforts.

MedSend has a relatively unique window into this issue because we work with missionaries from many different sending agencies, serving in many different geographic and professional fields. MedSend has initiated a Longevity Project, which is committed to support healthcare missionaries in thriving on the mission field and prevent avoidable attrition. When a MedSend grant recipient leaves the field, we conduct an exit interview and, therefore, have a corpus of potentially useful information to help guide efforts to lessen healthcare missionary attrition. This internal review of those exit interviews was conducted to guide the efforts of the Longevity Project and to assess whether previously-reported issues remained problematic and whether additional issues deserved attention.

Though the information from our exit

Counseling



- Personal, couples, family
- Valeo
- Developing relationships with:
- Barnabas International
- Cornerstone (Chiang Mai, Thailand)
- The Well (Chiang Mai, Thailand)
- Olive Tree (Antalya, Turkiye)
- Others.

Spiritual Direction

- **A need was identified at the Member Care Summit**
- **Meet with trained Spiritual Director as desired**
- **Considering other offerings.**

Dispute Mediation



Christian Global Health in Perspective Course



12 weeks
Online meetings



Section 1: Biblical Foundations

- **Lesson 1** Creation, Health, and Wholeness
- **Lesson 2** The Fall, Disease, Suffering, and Death
- **Lesson 3** Salvation, Healing, and Mission



Section 2: Historical Perspectives

- **Lesson 4** Origins and Infancy: From Jesus' Healing Ministry to the 19th Century
- **Lesson 5** Time of Adolescence: Christian Medical Missions during the 19th and 20th Centuries
- **Lesson 6** Growing into Maturity: Christian Global Healthcare in the 21st Century



Section 3: Culture and Health

- **Lesson 7** Worldview, Culture, and Health
- **Lesson 8** Cultural Factors Impacting Health
- **Lesson 9** Culture and the Unseen World



Section 4: Present and Future Strategies

- **Lesson 10** Health Promotion and Disease Prevention
- **Lesson 11** Churches, Hospitals, and Health Systems
- **Lesson 12** Leadership, Innovation, and Emerging Practices

Child Education Consultation



Extended Debrief and Counseling

- Established, high-quality programs, preferably specializing in HCMs.

