

PASTORCARE TRAINING FOR THE The National Clergy Support Network by Dr. Bert Moore

1:10 INTRODUCTION

I am reminded this morning of the first couple of verses of the twenty-seventh Psalm that says, “The Lord is my light and my salvation. Of whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life. Of whom (or of what) shall I be afraid?” Psalm 27:1

This has been a great verse for me and encouragement to me, and it has helped to keep me in the joy of the Lord. The Psalmist has talked to us that, “The joy of the Lord is our strength.” We know that a lot of the pastors and spouses who call us at PastorCare need that. They need the encouragement; they need to experience the joy of the Lord, who is their strength.

I am doing today on this video a repeat of a seminar that I did at Branson, Missouri, at the annual Care Giver’s Forum. It is basically designed for regional coordinators of PastorCare throughout the country and their staffs both paid and volunteer. For the information of people who may be seeing this video as of this year, 2005, we have ten regional coordinators throughout the nation that are caring for pastors and helping to connect hurting pastors and their families to support ministries and support people in their regions across America.

I can name them all--they are on our website, www.pastorcare.org. We started with the earliest one in Michigan and now there are two guys in Michigan, one who is retiring, but PastorCare: **Michigan, the Great Lakes**, now. PastorCare at of course, the headquarters, in **North Carolina**; PastorCare-**Northwest Arkansas**; PastorCare-**Great Plains**; PastorCare-**Illinois**; PastorCare-**Gulf Coast**; out of Pensacola, Florida; PastorCare-**Texas Panhandle** for thirty-two counties on that piece that sticks up from Texas, PastorCare-**Far West Texas and Southern New Mexico**, a long name that is hard to remember; and PastorCare-**Pacific Northwest**, and Gary Pinion up in that area; and our tenth one, if I haven’t missed any of them, and oh yes, PastorCare-Great Plainses-John Gifford, covering three states, a dynamic man; PastorCare-**US Virgin Islands**, with Wes Shally-Gromes, I had the pleasure of being with his seventeen pastors down there in the Virgin Islands as they began to form that region of care giving with Pastors of small churches down in the Islands.

Since we care for hurting pastors in this ministry, I thought I might lighten it up a little bit as we begin. I did this in Branson, I think, and you can help refresh me. But, to see the needs, some of these cartoons come out of *Leadership Magazine*, which is a magazine directed mostly for pastors. And we know that at the things for which we laugh and also spur us on a little, have an element of real truth in them. A number of these identify with seven key categories of need to which PastorCare responds. This one shows a man in a helicopter. Under the cartoon is this phrase, as he speaks from his helicopter microphone, “We’ve spotted the Pastors white bronco going along US-53 in the left lane. He’s trying to get away on a vacation, but we’ll keep you abreast of his whereabouts,” Which reminds me of a pastor in the western part of North Carolina, whose wife said to me, “We’ve been trying to get away on seven vacations, and he’s been called back to a funeral or a crisis from every single one of them.” She was really frustrated. She said, “I need a place to go where there are no phones, and nobody knows where we are, so my husband can get a decent getaway.”

Talking about manipulating church staffs, there’s this one right here. Around the table, the pastor is seated at the end of the table, with a group of people around the table saying in short, “We’ve traded you to First Presbyterian for their associate pastor, choir director and a seminary student to be named later.

The pressures of a pastor: the pastor is coming home, back to his house and the wife is greeting him at the door with all kinds of parishioners standing behind him, and she says to him, “How many times have I told you not to bring your work home with you?”

Another one shows a lovely pulpit, but the seats are out in the open air and the deacon reports, “We ran out of money right after we built the pulpit.” How many churches we have known that are really struggling financially and it really impacts the pastor’s lifestyle.

There are a number I could share. Here’s one that deals with the pastor who has been force terminated, and he is at the local employment agency. “Pastor Lindberg, this just came in, ‘Waterfront community needs a pastor to do a sermon on commitment, at 10:30, and lose the collar.’”

These are just a few of the illustrations that we laugh at that illustrate some of the stresses upon pastors today.

As I look at the training manual, and this is a manual that is the PastorCare Training Manual for staff callers. We opened it up and it basically said the materials are constantly expanding. The present compilation is the result of the experience that we are having in this unique ministry in this nation where as far as we know, PastorCare is the only ministry that reaches out to call forth the church, to call forth laypeople, and use their gifts and talents as God has given them to help hurting spiritual leaders in their communities. And so the materials are constantly expanding and growing.

The verse that really became the dynamic verse for the calling and training of callers is 2 Corinthians 1: 3-4, “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of all mercies, the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all of our afflictions so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort wherein which we have been comforted with by God.”

Now you can see in that a number of prerequisites, that if we hear the words of Chuck Swindoll, the great pastor of Greenbrier Community Church, in Texas today, and the Pastor for *Insight for Living* broadcast everyday on the radio; Chuck said, “You know, what Pastors need is not so much more instruction as more compassion.” Many of them do not feel that they are really truly loved in a deep way, or they wouldn’t be calling us at PastorCare. I like to jokingly say, Pastors are not sitting around like most people just waiting to call their dentist, or waiting to call PastorCare on a Saturday morning just because you have nothing else to do. When they call us at PastorCare, or email us, and even when they say they are asking just for information, we know that there is something inside, and they probably are testing us to see if they can trust us with their deepest secrets and some of their pain. The reality is, in today’s world you can’t be a pastor without being a suffering pastor. There is no such thing as a non-hurting pastor; those who tell you otherwise are in denial, and they are putting up a front. Every pastor who is a worthy pastor in the example of our Lord Jesus we know, experience the sufferings of Christ; the suffering of being in His service. We hear His words time and again to His disciples who follow, “If anyone would come after Me, let him deny himself, take up his cross daily (says Luke) and follow Me.”

When Norm Nelson who’s in charge of *Life At Its Best*, and was on DBN Radio for many years, has his ministry out of California, spoke to me one night after a rally at Greenville, North Carolina; his wife first spoke to me and said, “Bert, you need to come with us to China.” She said, “You stay here with me until he finishes and I want him to talk to you.”

And I said to him, “Norm, why should I go to China?”

He said, “It’s really today the Holy Land. It is where the Holy Spirit is speaking in mighty ways to hurting pastors.” He said, “If you come with me, you will meet pastors who have been in prison for 19, 20, 23, and 25 years in jail in China. Hurting house-church pastors with whom the Holy Spirit, the power of God has infused them, has sustained them and their families through these great trials. And whole congregations and whole villages have come to Christ because of the power of God in these men.”

I have seen this in small ways in America since I have come back, working with PastorCare, with congregations that have been turned around by pastors who have been broken, and then have come to the Lord. And the Lord has used them with great compassion to revitalize their congregations through working with this ministry. I can say straight up, and we have it on the sheets that you all pass out, the many testimonies of the men who say, “If it wasn’t for PastorCare I wouldn’t be in ministry today.” They count on us. “I can’t believe you responded so quickly to me,” as a Pastor who was hurting, man in Cincinnati, Ohio, who came home and found a note from his wife on the kitchen table. She had gone and left with the kids; she just couldn’t take it any more, and he called PastorCare, and we had a caregiver in his kitchen; happened to be a dentist in that city--he called his wife and said, “I won’t be home for a while,” he went over and ministered to that pastor within 30 minutes of the call from our office.

Let’s get into the manual here, and let’s walk through. I hope and pray that just going through this manual a little bit you will be strengthened, those who watch this video, and you will be encouraged, and you’ll have some guidance so you, too, can handle calls that come in from a variety of perspectives; from a variety of tests. When I think of the training that is so important and necessary for PastorCaregivers, our model comes right from scripture. What was the first training exercise that the heavenly Father put His Son through after He affirmed and confirmed His ministry? Do you remember what that was? What was that? The wilderness temptations. And what do the scriptures say about Him being driven by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the Devil to be tested? What Old Testament passage comes to mind, of someone else who was tempted and tested by the Devil? You remember? Job, of course.

The Devil had to get permission to allow that to happen to Job, even as to Jesus in the wilderness. And the testing came for a long period with Job; I mean really a long period of intense testing; losing his family, losing his herds, losing his health--his body full of sores, and wondered how his wife could even stand to look at him. I know some wives who say that about their husbands where they are right now in ministry today.

But here was Jesus, out in the wilderness to experience three tests--a physical test--a test of hunger, “You can turn those stones into bread; those that look like little loaves into bread,” and after 40 days and 40 nights, you are going to be hungry. You can live that long without bread, but you can’t live that long without water. Jesus had to deal with that, too, but He was able to be sustained. That first test was in that physical area.

And many of the pastors with which we speak, as you know, Randy and Keith, those of you who are here today, know that when they call, up front are the physical needs of the pastors, which are not being met by the denominations. What denomination do we know in America today that provides free getaways for pastors who cannot afford them? And many denominations do not have adequate healthcare benefits--many of the independent churches, for their pastors, turn to PastorCare to connect them with a physician or a dentist. So we are going to go through and look at this.

One of the most beautiful revelations of the Lord, which is why the manual is an unfolding manual, and you all will be adding to it as the days, months and years go on, far beyond my life, but that the Lord gave a unique calling to this ministry, which is in the mission statement of the basic brochure of PastorCare. In the center of that brochure is this unique statement mission which the Lord unfolded to this ministry, rooted in scripture, in the promises of our heavenly Father through His Word, that “Wherever a pastor lives and serves, there will be people called by God ready to offer a variety of practical supports to under gird the pastor and family.” I don’t know of another ministry that’s like this that is holistically ministering to pastors in the nation today, or around the world. (16:58)

We have a file at PastorCare now, of letters particularly since Billy Graham’s Crusade in 2000, from pastors in Africa, Asia, Latin America, South America, China, even, that want more about PastorCare. Right now, you know without the funding, all we can do now is point them to the website, and pray that God will help them use possibly, the model for PastorCare in their own countries.

In this incredible statement, from the very beginning, a couple of words changed, but, the statement has been there for over ten years, in terms of God’s revelation of this mission, challenge to pastor care support. Back in 1999, or even earlier, Phil Burroughs from the PastorCare Board asked me for a Biblical base for the seven key categories wherein Satan tempts and tests pastors and their families. We have brochures that we give out to people in churches and in the communities to invite them to be a part of PastorCare. Here are the brochures:

***PRAY FOR A PASTOR**

Invites people to be a prayer intercessor; to pray with a pastor;

***YOUR VACATION, COTTAGE, CABIN OR CONDO FOR A PASTOR GET AWAY**

Invites get away owners to offer their vacation home or cabin at the beach or condo in the mountains, or a motel owner to offer on a space available basis for rooms for a free getaway for a pastor and family;

***TEMPORARY EMPLOYMENT FOR A PASTOR**

Invites able employers to provide temporary employment for force terminated pastors in category three;

***CHRISTIAN LAWYERS**

Invites lawyers to help with legal matters, so that pastors don’t get in trouble with the law of Rome or Caesar or the IRS.

And if the prayer intercessors are not enough,

***CHRISTIAN COUNSELOR**

Christian Counselors can provide services to those that may have deep-seated issues, and we will talk more about those when we go through the manual, in category six.

***PASTOR MENTOR**

Our category seven brochure, acknowledges that many pastors, many young ones, particularly, need older pastors to come along side them as Paul did with Timothy. And we will say more about that too, later.

CHRISTIAN LAY FORCES:

For people who don’t fit into these categories, like service station attendants, tax preparers, beauty shop and barbershop people, but ask us, how can I help and we give them this general brochure so they begin to think

through and begin to consider how the Lord might use them to encourage the spiritual leaders in their community.

I went ahead and did a paper in the manual of some of the Biblical basis from scripture for each of these seven categories.

There was an initial sheet on the basic summary of PastorCare. It goes way back to 1995 and 1996; the two basic dimensions of PastorCare: a nurture dimension and a crisis support dimension. A crisis dimension wherein we seek to rescue, reclaim and restore pastors that have been broken--like the man who came running up to me at the Promise Keepers convention at the Charlotte Motor Speedway, at our booth in that tent, literally crying. He saw the sign from afar and he said, "Where were you when I needed you?"

And I said, "What happened?"

He said, "Well my wife left me two years ago, I needed PastorCare."

I said, "Well, we weren't there, but we're here now." He was a broken man, and needed restoration and rescuing, and felt called to be a pastor.

The second dimension is for pastors who are doing pretty much ok in their pastorates, but have some secrets; maybe some secret sins, some roadblocks they know are holding them back in ministry. And they need somebody safe to talk to outside the politics of their denomination; and so we seek to nurture them, to under-gird, encourage and support them in the reality of Romans 8:28, that "all things" do "work together for good" my friend. God can use, if you are called to be a pastor, God can use your pain and your struggle, even your sin and your brokenness, if you confess it before Him, He can use you to be even a better pastor, and a better teacher, and a better guide to people in your congregation.

I want to move a little deeper into this manual...

After the example of Christ, there are three characteristics of the ministry that do reflect our Lord and Savior when He was on this earth. These came out initially in the opening prayer time that August seventh through ninth, at that opening symposium gathering at Peace College, in 1995, when I was on my knees in my little room there on the Peace College campus, I believe it was Bill Buck and Al Thomas who came in to tell me it was time to go--time to come to the dining room to meet the people. I had them pray with me. Out of that came the three characteristics of this ministry. Surprisingly, they are exactly of Jesus.

MINISTRY CHARACTERISTICS

PERSONAL: At first the ministry is personal. Jesus was a man who was very personal with people that He met; the many people who reached out to touch Him; people who asked that they be healed--He was very personal and very real when He walked this earth. How important it is for us to hear, pastors and spouses to hear a live voice on the phone at PastorCare. The wife of the pastor of the little rural church in Louisiana whose first words to me when I picked up the phone one night, she said, "I was praying that I," and I could hear the brokenness in her voice, "I was praying that I wouldn't get an answering machine." Her husband was off to a meeting at the church and they were new to the town, and she did not know who to talk to, and it was safe, you know. She needed a confidential voice...somebody who would listen to her, someone who was safe. So, PastorCare first is Personal.

ACCESSIBLE: Second PastorCare is accessible. We know that our Lord Jesus didn't move beyond the region of Galilee. He went through Samaria, but that little piece of land, no more than about sixty miles or so at the end of the Mediterranean Sea. So it is with PastorCare. We seek to find PastorCare givers who are easily accessible to any hurting pastor and spouse, near where they live and serve.

Personal, Accessible and then...

PRACTICAL: Jesus was practical. He didn't just offer a simple little prayer, but a lot of times He would call out to the even the woman who touched Him from the crowd, "Who touched me?" cause He felt the power go out. We who serve at the ministry know how draining it is...how the power goes out of us as we listen to the minister, to the hurting pastors and their spouses. But God blesses and that, and they know it. We are coming along side them. We will be standing there with them in their struggles, in their churches as they seek to lead and serve and follow God's will.

We seek, in terms of practicality, to walk through the door of need as that caller expresses that need, as an initial opening door, we try to meet, as they articulate that to us. Knowing of course, that there are probably many other needs among these seven categories, and maybe beyond. They may need just money; as we know with Jesus in the wilderness the issues weren't just bread, they weren't just power and control, with which Satan tried to lure Jesus, it was the spiritual issues were much more important than the physical issues--which is my biggest concern about the survival of America. It's not going to be about how the economy goes, or who is in the White House, or how we fix any of the physical needs of the populace, but, how do people respond when the 9-11 comes? When circumstances occur personally or nationally, how will the people respond? If anarchy takes over and they cry for some strong dictator, as happened in Nazi Germany, will they cry out for some pseudo leader, or will they seek the Lord? And will there be enough leaders in our land who will be strong and wise enough to be able to look to God for strength and for wisdom and guidance?

This is one of my biggest concerns for having strong pastors in a nation today, with so much material success at the present time. The neat thing about it is that God always raises up catalysts, unnamed individuals to support pastors, and He is always calling new pastors into the ministry. When I am aware of the reality that we are closing 4,000 churches a year in America, and that the number of pastors has dwindled from over 425,000 down, says Michael Hill, our new interim director, down to 376,000, that the number of people in America who no longer believe in God--it was only like 12% in 1992, of people in America who said they did not believe in God, it's now up to 27% of people in America who say they do not believe in God at all: who are either agnostics or atheists.

In the manual, the next page there was our first mission page where we talked a little about questions like: Who does a pastor confide in when he doesn't feel like being a pastor, or where things at home are strained?

I have a Methodist district superintendent in a region that said to me he tells his pastors in his district, "If your marriage is in trouble, or your kids are on drugs, or you are going through a mid-life crisis, don't tell me, tell PastorCare, because it might affect my appointments next spring." And, so it goes...

Not only in the Methodist denomination but a leading Episcopal Bishop told me at a conference in Washington DC, with a tear in his eye, he said to me, "Bert, I want you to know at least 40% of our Episcopal priests are demoralize. And when I asked him why that was true, what did he mean by that, he said to me, "All too many of the Episcopal priests today are just marking time till they can get their pension, their comfortable pension and retire comfortably. They have lost the power of God. They have lost the Spirit

of the Lord and their passion for ministry, and the challenge of Matthew 28:19 to “make disciples,” and to be teachers and encourage people to live strong in the faith and trust in the Lord.

In that document back there which you can see in the manual, we perform three additional functions, of not only trying to reach out to hurting pastors, we encourage our regional coordinators to go and meet with pastoral groups in the region where they live and serve, to build the trust of those pastors, to want to open up to them as a regional PastorCare coordinator, but also get into church to recruit and call forth the body of Christ, those eleven tribes of caregivers, to care for and be a part of the confidential network of PastorCare. We remind them that we don't publish a directory, so if they do not want their name published, they can be confidentially in the network as a caregiver to respond to a specific case of need.

The last big piece is the list of training opportunities; it's in the basic brochure: trying to encourage our regional coordinators to set up training opportunities for people who care about pastors in their regions to come together to have symposium gatherings of people who do care about spiritual leaders in their community.

As I get ready to go into the seven categories, and begin to look at those one on ones specifically, I just wonder if any of you have any questions that you'd like to raise, or you would like to ask about it at this time? For those on the video, I have asked a few friends, and board members and staff to be here and possibly provide some interaction if they would like. Feel free to interrupt me, at any time if you would like.

This has been one of the miracles of this ministry, which is a pure “faith ministry,” the Lord has almost matched the caregivers with the needs throughout the ministry. I remember the president of the American Association of Christian Counselors, Tim Clinton, saying to me, “Bert, this ministry will never last one year.”

And I asked him why? And he said, “Because there is no money in it.”

PastorCare, up to this point, has never had anything to sell, no products, it literally is a pure faith ministry. The Lord has preserved this ministry, not without difficulty and a lot of prayer, right, Phil? Over the years, financially, Phil has watched over the finances of this ministry and it has not been easy, but some way or another, the Lord has sustained us for over ten years, in taking care of hurting pastors and their families.

2:10 TAKING THE CALL

We have included a page in here, as I begin the next section how the PastorCare plan very simply works. We receive at the home office and at the regional office now, on an increasing basis, phone calls from across the nation, and e-mails that come. These are downloaded or the calls are received or referred within the office and we try to respond. If they are for information, we just send out information and do what they say, initially. Sending out brochures, and testimonies of people who have been helped by the ministry, and newsletters and see how the person responds from there. There are people who call in specifically for help and we move directly into that. There are those who call and just want to be a caregiver. They have heard about the ministry and we send them out an application form. A green form that they can pray through this form and fill out the areas in which God has blessed them with gifts and talents.

As we move into the needs, this is a most exciting area. I can say over the ten years that I have served at the desk at PastorCare, as Bill Buck reminds me, who is the secretary for the board of directors, reminds me of the year and a half before the ministry was incorporated, in which many of these people were a part of the

advisory committee for testing the waters, testing whether God wanted this to come into being, he said, “We’ve had the blessing of seeing the Lord work in the lives of these men and women of God.”

One of the key things that we ask, at the beginning, with open-ended questions, is about their call to ministry. Some of them you can tell are hurting, but there is fire in that. Some are like Saul before the Lord knocked him off the horse and became Paul, when the Lord confronted him directly. Some of the men may have gone into the ministry under wrong circumstances where they need to drop out for a while and do something else as Paul did when he became a tent maker under Priscilla and Aquilla-- subcontracted under them in Corinth and made tents for sales because they knew the business and he didn’t. So there are times in which pastors need to do that if they are deeply hurting and are not ready to take another church.

We tell the callers, and there is a paper that came out of the Upper Room Training Center in Nashville, TN-- and that is still there today. They only limit you to a couple of minutes on their prayer line because that’s all they are set up to do is to deal with prayer, but with their volunteers, they are very heavy into just listening to prayer needs and not really responding in any particular practical way, as we have been called to do in PastorCare.

I have included in there a sheet where listening is the biggest requirement for pastors and counselors in our office across the country. I share with them that since you can think three to four thoughts in the time that the caller is sharing just one, there is that lag time in which you can listen not only to the caller but listen to the Lord for guidance, and be listening for the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Listen to the other needs that are unspoken by the pastor or the pastor’s wife that’s calling in, and see how the Lord guides you and things you’ll put on the intake form which I will go through in a moment or two and begin to lean on the Lord.

Sometimes asking other people in the PastorCare office to pray for you as you are dealing with a particularly sensitive and struggling caller. We can’t lean on our own resources and our own cleverness and our own wisdom. All that we have and all that we are comes from the Lord. We have to be that way so He can use us--and they can hear the Lord coming through, speaking to their hearts, and not just another human being on the other line.

Yes, I say to my people, it is very helpful, as it was in my own personal life, to have someone there “with skin on,” as *Velveteen Rabbit* book so aptly says. And as our Lord did with sending His only begotten Son, the Word becoming “flesh” and dwelling among us, full of grace and truth, so that we can hear and see the truth in a very visible way and know that the Lord does love us and loves those pastors who are hurting, and they can hear that through us.

But we must be prepared ourselves. Which is why I would say as we begin every morning at PastorCare we begin it with prayer. Every morning before we go to the phones we take time at the PastorCare office to download the calls and pray for people who have called in and emailed the night before and prepare us in the Lord, before we go to the phones to get back to these pastors and spouses.

There are some other helpful pieces; I won’t go into them all. They are in the training manual: in terms of what is the opposite of being a good listener, and some warnings that are given in terms of not making judgments and preaching; giving advice; sharing your own problems and things like that. We talk about those things too, in part of our training time in each office.

As you turn to the page in the manual that has the PastorCare calling form. It is critical to have one of those on your desk for every single call that comes in, or every call that you make to make sure that you have the

information correctly on there. The call form looks like this...its divided simply into three sections. Every one of the sections is critical to the ministry. The first section is just basic caller information. Sometimes I have had a pastor in an office, and I won't mention any names (that person is not here today), pick up the phone and write on the back of an envelope or a piece of paper and forget to get a vital piece of information they are so busy listening to the caller that they forget to ask the caller's telephone, so we can't call them back. That has been a real struggle and a hurtful situation in a couple of cases.

By having the form in front of you, section A where you get the name eventually; you don't have to get it right away but before you hang up you should. As you look back over the form you realize you have not gotten the spouse's name, because if she answers the phone next time, I want to be able to call her by name and let her know that she is cared for, too. Also get the address, work number, cell phone number, e-mail, fax any of that other information...the church that they serve and the Sunday morning attendance, not the membership of the church but how many are really there on a Sunday morning in that church will give a picture of an accurate support base for that pastor, and it helps to document the human need.

The second section, section B on that caller information form, deals with the type and nature of the call; whether it's for information (the response will be different), whether it's to be a caregiver, or for help. There is a space there to begin to describe the situation, or describe the getaway place. Maybe they need a little bit of money to change the sheets and maintain the place, so it can't be absolutely free to a hurting pastor. Or if it is a person needing help one of the first words that come out of that pastor's mouth when they answer the phone...write those down on that sheet because they will reveal many times not only through tone, and also the words. Like the lady that said, "I was praying I would not get an answering machine." You could hear the hurt in her voice. You could hear the loneliness, the isolation of this pastor's wife just in the very first words on that phone that night. So, we ask you to put down the situation, and then if the Lord is leading you with impressions of other needs of which they are not speaking, you put those down there, too. But put them in parentheses, so that they know it is not a quote from the hurting person, but it is what the Lord is showing you, as the other person now involved in this telephone relationship. I tell people always initial, your name will be at the top, but initial the comments as you as you move down through the in-take form.

And then, lastly, on that form, "Are there specific requests for help or need?" And you are going to be checking heavy the person who says, "I need a getaway right now. I've got to get my husband out of this church! He is burnin' out! I will deal with the specifics on that in a few moments. When you hear that kind of response and it is urgent, you are going to check that section off--getaway! There are going to be some other areas that they are not mentioning. You may have written them up here in the "B" section, but in the "C" section under help or need, you put them in dotted lined "check" which means that you really believe there is a need here, but it hasn't been dealt with. And you may later, as you check with them, you may ask, "Could you also use some financial support?" CHECK. Then it becomes a heavy check, and not just a little dotted check that you think part of what they need. Because you never know if you are not in the office, as a caregiver caller, whether you're going to be handling the case maybe the next day, that is all the more reason you need to initial the comments that took place when you were on so that somebody else who comes in will do that with theirs too, when they pick up with that case at a later date.

Are there any other questions about the call-in form? I have gone over it very, very quickly and very briefly in terms of that call-in form, and those of you who are here know that it needs to be on the desk at any time so that that is what you write on to keep an accurate record.

Incidentally, as these records are kept and they go into the secure files at the secure PastorCare files at night--we are out of our own home office following up on well over a thousand Pastors. With a follow up

call every six months. Promise Keepers, the Christian men's organization says we are the only ministry organization they know of that does this across the country, in following up on hurting pastors and their families.

Rev. Keith Glover:

Dr. Moore, you have mentioned the matter of records and keeping about people. I know confidentiality is an issue. How does confidentiality factor into the way you continue and follow-up with people over a period of time?

Dr. Moore:

Keith, it is absolutely critical that confidentiality be maintained in this ministry. I am not saying that we as imperfect human beings don't have a slip--where a piece of information inadvertently slips in over a phone to someone that shouldn't hear it, but even in terms of when we call a caregiver, and ask them about whether they can take a case we never mention the pastor's name or the pastor's spouse to that caregiver, until they have accepted the responsibility--"Yes, I will be a prayer partner for that lady." We connect men with men and women with women in that first category. So we will be very confidential not even sharing who the person is, when we talk to a potential caregiver over the phone. If the person says they can't do it, we go on to somebody else. And then if the person wants to know; if the caregiver says, "I will take the case, are there some things I need to know about this particular hurting pastor or spouse?" in most cases, it is most often safe to say I would rather let the pastor or the pastor's spouse tell you when you get in contact with them what they want to tell you. So they are starting to build that relationship and the confidentiality between the hurting pastor/spouse and the caregiver, rather than us trying to load the gun with something we may see in the files that maybe the pastor/spouse shared with us in advertently, and would not want to share with anyone else right now--or a caregiver right up front. So, yes, confidentiality! And be very careful about the safety of the person on the line.

I remember a lady, a pastor's wife whose first words when we talked about a confidential caregiver, said, "Oh, everybody knows my husband within five states." Obviously there is a bit of paranoia there; I mean, everybody within five states doesn't know this woman and her husband. But, that is the way she felt. If she felt that way, we had to make sure we got someone outside those five states to be her caregiver. I can remember we got her a caregiver lady from up in Pittsburg, PA, who drove down the river and met this lady at a little restaurant where she felt they were safe and could meet once a week, and later it dwindled down to be once a month, but for a period of time when she was in crisis, boy, they met to pray together and share together and it was beautiful.

We have in the manual a script guide for the PastorCare phone operators. I won't go through that, but that's there--a guide to help you when you're dealing with fresh people. I always say at the end, and them too, since we trust the Lord, to ask Him. Ask for them to give you permission. Don't just pray with them. Ask them, "We've talked a while about these needs, would you like me to pray with you before we connect, or call again?" Encourage them in a lot of ways. Admire their courage to call. If there is any information you would like to have from us, if there are ways that you'd like us to help--sometimes they do. I've had them call back in a day or so and say, "I thought of something else." And if they need to have the 800 line, our unpublished 800 line, because we are not wealthy enough, the board has not yet seen fit to make that public because of the impact. But if they are hurting enough, the board felt that they will make the 919 initial call. But if they are in need, we always say to the guys on the phone, if you need an 800 line you can go ahead and call us any time.

3:10 FIND NEED, WORDS THAT HEAL

As we get into the call for help, before we want to contact the caregiver, we have to have some kind of assessment of human need, the level of that need. Now on the intake form you are going to be getting a lot of clues about the need of that pastor--small congregation one of those of 26% of the congregations in America that are under 50 members. Right away you know there aren't very many churches of 50 members who have a strong budget, and for whom the pastor is well paid to be there. And so questions like, "And how are you putting bread on the table?" once you've discovered a little bit about the income and they have shared that. "Are you living alone? How many kids do you have at home right now, or away at college? How's your budget? How you doing on your budget?"

There's a whole page of questions, and Pastor Wayne has a few more in his supplemental things that can be used, directed specifically to each of the seven categories of need. I can't underscore enough if Satan isn't attacking in one area, he will attack in another area. Never think that because you have met one area of need that there aren't other areas where they have need and are really struggling. They may not tell you about their marriage right up front. They just tell you that the car has 385,000 miles on it, and they don't have enough to get another one, and obviously that's causing stress. She can't go anywhere. He's got the only car...a lot of issues. One car a family, and it's breaking down all the time.

So I have included in the manual a little thing called "Helpful Hints," that I have collected over the years. Here's one that I did in 1998 emphasizing to listen but not to counsel; that we are not a counseling ministry. Sometimes our pastoral counselor spills over a little bit, inadvertently.

We are to get enough information to connect, as Bill Buck says, to connect them to the right caregivers in their areas. We are to be like God's "Andrews" bringing them to Jesus through the very practical ways.

Be aware that the pastor is testing us on the phone, whether he can trust us (and the wives, too).

In terms of asking questions for information as much as we can...open ended questions. I often say questions are never politically incorrect. You don't want to probe or push for personal information. They will tell you...as they begin to share, they will share with you, and just take notes.

As you move toward the end of the conversation you sense that you are getting tired, you need to get on something else, you need to disengage--there are some ladies, once they find out you are someone they can trust, they might want to have you on the phone for an hour or an hour and a half. That might happen once in a while during an initial call, maybe when they are pouring out, but they need to know that there are other people who you need to be ministering to.

If they do not know all about PastorCare and they get sensitive to the volume, we can send them information so they can get a perspective on the ministry. Never assume that they know all about the PastorCare ministry. Feel free to share information, but only if the caller is open and only after you have had an opportunity to listen to their story first. We're not to make any promises we can't deliver. Always feel free to have prayer at the end, if they are open to it.

There is a sheet here in the manual that I have included with "words that hurt and words that heal." When I am doing training with callers I will spend a good time on this to help them get some of their language correct. Rather than be making "you statements," be making "I statements." Often "you statements" could be accusatory and judgmental. Sometimes we in our weakness say, "You ought to do this or something." No! Let the Lord enter. Let the Lord work. Use "I statements." Say to the pastor, "Did I hear you correctly when you said...(quote something they said earlier and may have forgotten)." Maybe you said earlier that

the marriage was strong, and now you're telling me that you're really struggling. Could you really use a counselor?" They never asked for one, but you are putting two and two together based on a movement or evolution of that conversation. At the end, say something like, "I hear you are hurting." Often times to be able to move out of a hurt of a long listening ear. "Mary," when they take a breath, "what kind of help could you use right now?" You are going very specific with that questions in helping that person think about where God might want them to be receiving some help.

4:10 INTERCESSORY PRAYER

There's a bit of a history sheet in there so that people can see how the Lord has led this ministry. It's dated, February 6, 1996. And you can see on that one sheet from where we've come to where we are today in terms of numbers. Those who have been with the ministry will recognize that we have prayer intercessors in all the states not just 36 or 39 as in that opening sheet.

INTERCESSORY PRAYER: Working within the seven basic categories of PastorCare, connecting them to hurting pastors, the first category, as you may remember is the category of confidential prayer partners, prayer intercessors. Remembering that the statistics are true that seven out of ten pastors do not have a person they call a close friend, someone they call an accountability partner, someone they can call at three o'clock in the morning and say, "I'm really hurtin' I need you to pray with me right now." So here we go. The one thing that Satan wants to do is to break that relationship that vertical relationship with the Lord. If he can do that with a pastor or pastor's wife, he has really worked to destroy that relationship with his people on the horizontal level, the congregation. And those people will pick it up. They will intuit it. They will see. This pastor is just preaching little stories and pleasant homilies, but he is not standing in the Word, in the power of the Lord.

The practice of prayer is key to the PastorCare network. Which is why our ministry starts with prayer each day in the office. This is a time in which we share prayer requests ourselves. "How is your prayer-life, pastor? How are you all doing, you and your wife? Are you all praying together?" We ask those questions at PastorCare.

I was sitting in the office of the president of a seminary. And I asked him about his prayer life. He took a long pause and looked across his desk at me, (this is at a prominent seminary in our country, I won't name which one) and his words to me were, "You are only the second person that has ever asked me about my prayer life." Of course, I asked him who the first person was, and he said it was a Greek Orthodox priest who was visiting on campus. Many denominational people will not talk about that with their own pastor, but we at PastorCare, do and must. Because if that pastor is to stay, he must know God has called him. That there is, as Jeremiah said, "a fire still in his bones somewhere."

Sometimes I'll ask a Pastor in that category, "Can you remember when God called you?" If I get the intuition that this guy really has stuff, like Saul. Like the Lord saw Saul, but he's really burdened down with the circumstances of his situation. I ask them to go back and ask them, "Can you remember when God first spoke to you? Where was that? What was it like? Tell me about it. I want to hear," because we have to know if we are going to go any further, in terms of moving him out, encourage him to go get counseling, and get a career assessment, or whether this is a guy who really does need to be in pastoral ministry. And God is testing us, too, as caregivers at the office. We have got to come along side this guy. There are some who have really truly, deeply tested us in terms of their circumstances. Guys that the world had already given up on as a complete wash out--this may be Job's tempters. So this is critical. This is the first category.

Everybody needs somebody they can talk to. My wife asked me, "Whom can you talk to?" Phil Burris is retired. If I need to talk to Phil I will call him about something. I know the Burris family--you all pray for me. I call Bill Buck. I used to call Al Thomas. He was my buddy. He did my premarital counseling, he and Carol. And she is still very much a part of our lives. We all need somebody we can call anytime to pray with us and for us, and really kind of cast our burdens upon them in the Lord.

And we try to connect men with men and women with women to keep the sexual issues out in category one. In that first area category, not to short-change the Holy Spirit, I will often ask the question to the pastor and the pastor's spouse, "Do you know somebody that we may contact anonymously on your behalf." I use that in all the categories, but that is a key, open-ended question that allows the Holy Spirit to work within the heart and mind of that pastor to think about people maybe a pastor in a neighboring town, or maybe a lady the pastor's wife knows and she respects but has never met, "Oh, I heard her at a conference, I connected with her in my spirit." So we will offer to make a phone call to that person, without mentioning names, we have a person who is willing, would you pray with this person; be willing to meet with this person and pray? That's very important.

There was a study done in Michigan, reported in *Psychology Today* many years ago, that 85% of people who go to counselors really did not need to do it, if they had a close friend to whom they could confess and unburden their problems and needs. We try to have these people within easy accessibility, as in every category.

So that's the first category--prayer partners, the power of prayer. I have included a sheet from Sherry Perkins, who did a seven day initial prayer sheet, to help people start praying for pastors in their community and for this ministry, as a model, to start with.

5:10 HOSPITALITY

Category two is really a fun area. It is fun because my wife and I have stayed at a few of these places. And we will stay hopefully, at some more of them to check them out. Our "on the road team" pastor Gordon and Verna Stanmore, who are out traveling the nation in their motor coach visiting hurting pastors on site which is one of the most exciting things PastorCare uniquely does in America, no other ministry does this, except us. They are out there--been traveling for seven and a half years now, I believe. And have sacrificed. Their only home is that motor coach. They visit hurting pastors on site, take them out to dinner, hear their needs and sometimes come back and do evangelism services or revival services for them in their churches. And counsel with their people as well as the pastors. Beautiful ministry.

But Verna Stansmore checks out the getaway sites. Give kind of our own PastorCare Triple-A star ratings, as to which sites are best suited to which pastors. They often take photographs and send them back into the ministry so that photographs of some of the places around the country that you will never see anywhere else, except through PastorCare.

It is really fun. We've sent pastors down into the Caribbean. The church raised money for the pastor's airfare and we got the spot. We sent one couple with his mother-in-law who was up in years, and they wanted to do something really special for her, so they went to Hawaii. We have three islands in Hawaii but the airfare getting there is not cheap. We usually ask the pastors in the getaway category, two key questions. Give us a first and second choice of dates of when you want to have your getaway, and how far you want to go. I tell them, go, pray with your spouse, about that and get back to us at PastorCare, right, Randy? And that is exciting. It is just fun. When they come back and we get the thank you letters and we see the joy of some of these couples, and the joy of the caregivers who put them up.

This one lady, Beverly, a lady we wrote up in one of our newsletters, is up in the Chattahoochee National Forest with this big house, she got one pastor family in there and was so excited she said, "I just love to watch them sit down by the lake. There he was with his Bible. She'd come join him with a cup of coffee and all they did was sit for an hour and a half or two hours by themselves. I felt in my heart, what a blessing this was to be able to do this for pastors. So she went out and got people around this little rural area, told them about the ministry, they started making homemade breads, and jellies and would bring them in for the pastor who had come in. She asked for a second Pastor, a third, and finally six hurting pastors in one summer up at her place in Chattahoochee National Forest, in western North Carolina.

There have been caregivers that have been blessed--God blessed them because they were willing to open their resources much like the Shunamite woman, in Second Kings, who said to her husband, obviously they were people of some means, and she convinced her husband, she could not have done it alone, "Might we build a room on the top of our house, to put in it, and the scriptures are very specific, a bed, a chair, a light, a good light for that time, so that we might have this space for the prophet, Elisha, whenever he passes by. You know they were blessed because they had a heart for God's called servants. God blesses the caregivers. We have seen this time and time again.

We had a motel owner who walked into PastorCare after he heard about the ministry. He couldn't believe it. It was over at the Hampton Inn at the time, now manages a big hotel down in South Carolina. So the Lord just spreads them out there. He said, "I just had to see this." He said, "I can't believe it. Before he walked out of our office he wrote out a check for a hundred dollars. He said, "Anytime you have a hurting pastor that needs a free getaway, you call me at my motel."

This is an exciting ministry. And this is an exciting piece that is unique to PastorCare in this nation.

Any questions about getaways? I mean I love to talk about getaways! I love to do them myself. Often times when Ann and I go out they give us special rates and that is good. This one room in this one place in Savannah they were charging \$135 a night. I said, "I can go out to Mirotell for \$50." She tells the whole staff, she calls the owner, the owner says, "Work with them. Work with them. Give it to them." This was incredible.

We have places that people can go for an anniversary as well as take whole families to conferences in that category to an area. And Pastor Wayne has a bunch of questions that helps screen for need because we are not supposed to be the cheap alternative to a well-healed pastor who just wants this to be his alternative to a Triple-A travel guide. We need to screen for the need for pastors in that category, because it does take a good deal of time. There are several sheets in the manual that deal with the getaways.

6:10 INTERIM EMPLOYMENT

The third category is the providing of temporary employment, particularly to forced-terminated pastors--those 1,100 to 1,500 (one of the ministries out there says 1,600, but we hold at a conservative 1,500 a month max). But across the nation, pastors are force-terminated have no place to go and lose their income. A number of denominations, I happen to know the Baptist Church and many independent churches unfortunately do not have adequate severance pay requirements for a church when they leave. Some of the denominations do, but many don't. As *USA Today* said a couple of years ago said, the largest growth group among churches in the USA are the independent churches--what they call the churches without labels. The old mainline denominations in America are declining; those that had the big pensions, the secure health

plans, the severance pay packages and that kind of thing. For the independent churches, we become their support system. And that will increasingly be so as the ministry gets better known.

There are people around the country that are providing temporary employment for hurting pastors. I just tell the staff at PastorCare to be creative in this area. In every major city across the country UPS and FedEx and others have jobs that guys, if they are half-way physically able, even if they're in their fifties and early sixties can handle. I have had testimonies from pastors from small churches whose wives won't let them quit...sometimes working holidays making \$300 in a two-day period. One pastor said, "I've been able to buy a dress for my wife--a new dress. We've been able to stop shopping out of the "dent can" at the grocery store now because we have enough funds from my 'tent-making job' now in addition to the church, to be able to live as a family now and not be humiliated when I take my wife to a store."

We have a number of hardware stores that put the men on. We have a beauty shop, a barbershop in Atlanta that hired a pastor to close all his shops around the city--put him on until he could find another church. This is literally the biblical "Priscilla and Aquilla," who God blessed because they gave a job to the Apostle Paul when he came out of Athens at that time. A very important ministry--often times churches are just not structured to do this; to work to try to get pastors help in this area.

Again, there are a number of things on that sheet that talking about and asking about family support--are there family members who are supporting you in your forced-termination, or in your struggles right now to support you in your low-income ministry. Are there any people who are helping in your community? We go through a series of questions to screen that need very carefully, before we come in and try to offer significant help with other caregivers.

The follow-up calls are very important, since that's a financial area, there are very fine ministries, like Crown Ministries, used to be under Larry Burkett, Christian Financial Concepts, but is now called Crown Ministries, with Ron Blue a very important ministry to help them work through their finances. It's not uncommon for us to encounter pastors with huge financial debt--credit card debt, and they have no idea what the interest payments are on that and they have gotten themselves in a hole financially. I had one pastor, who is working off a \$28,000 credit card debt, and he has got it down to less than four figures now, and he's still working at the same place to do that. A very talented guy, a very dignified and wonderful pastor, but he can't go on until he gets rid of the debt. He's got that burden hanging over his head. So, that is very important for him to be effective as a pastor again.

There is a question sheet in that manual to help you screen for need. Read those questions very well.

7:10 LEGAL AID

The fourth category is the legal area. If the Apostle Paul had not known the legal system he would have never made it out of Jerusalem to get to Rome for God to do with him what he did and the books he wrote and the witness he had around the world. He used that.

And Moses, too, if he had not been willing to submit to others to help him with judgment cases in Israel, he might have been physically worn out, burned out and dead. But there were caregivers that recognized that and said, let us help you with the judications. This is a very important area.

I can tell you personal stories--like the one who said to me, "Our entire retirement would have been wiped out if it hadn't been for you all at PastorCare." He was referred to us by a major denomination because they could not help him, and they knew we would. A disgruntled refugee was suing him. You know, in every

church there are always people who are disgruntled in a church that is a hospital for sinners--broken people who will take their pain out on the pastor. This particular disgruntled refugee filed a lawsuit against the man that was helping him get into this country. He said, "If I had lost that, I could not afford a lawyer. If it had not been for you all at PastorCare, I would have lost my entire retirement. We are indebted to you and the Lord for your ministry to this day." Legal aid for pastors...

8:10 HEALTHCARE

The fifth category, which is very vital and dear to my heart, is the area of healthcare. It's for dentists, doctors--Christian physicians and dentists, to invite them to be a part of this ministry. We have direct access to the Christian Medical and Dental Association. There are over 14,000 physicians and dentists ready through PastorCare to help hurting pastors. They are not always in the right spot where we need them in the country, so we have a whole thing to work through to find them, many times through local churches. If Pastors do not have adequate health care and insurance, there are programs like the Samaritan program out of Melbourne, Florida, that we refer them to by simply calling 1-800-Psalm23. We see if they can help them get a plan. If they are non-drinkers and non-smokers and at least one year off of a major disease--healthy for one year, they offer opportunities to get into the Samaritan program. It is a very good program--alternative insurance at much less cost.

With each of the categories, speaking with lawyers, speaking with physicians and dentists, as we discover, and there are helpful hints, in the manual, you speak to each of them very differently. Particularly men and women who are in the area of physicians, counselors and lawyers, time is money. Where with a prayer intercessor, they won't charge him for that. Often times the getaway people aren't that way either--or mentors.

In those three areas we have to be very, very careful and it's tough getting in past secretaries. Randy can give us some hints on that. I can talk to people beyond this video about some of the ways we get to physicians that are terribly, terribly busy. One of the ways is once you've made contact, in your own town, if you are a regional coordinator, and you made contact with one dentist or one lawyer, they will know others. Their main contribution to you may be a referral source as our good surgeon on our board is with physicians in the Raleigh area. Often he will make a call for us and persuade them to help needy pastors in the medical area.

To screen for need, there are a lot of key questions to be asked, and they are in the manual to ask pastors in that category five.

9:10 COUNSELORS

In category six, that is the area of Christian counselors. This is obviously the area where a prayer partner will not work. One of my classic stories is the lady who called in tears and said, "My husband was caught fondling a woman in his office. He has been forced to resign." I asked her how he's doing and she said, "He's in the office at the house now just crying and crying and crying uncontrollably." She said, "I can't go to him, he's no help. I don't know what we're going to do because I'm just a part-time librarian downtown and our family can't live now that he's lost a \$40,000 a year job. Where do I go to get rid of all my anger over what has taken place and what he's done?"

This is obviously more than what you would want to refer simply to a prayer partner, so we connect her at PastorCare to a lady counselor in a nearby town where she could go and receive the professional counseling she desperately needed.

It is very important when talking with counselors, because many people say they are counselors, and there is counseling at all kinds of levels--there are specific types of surgeons, specific types of lawyers, but you don't know with counselors if they are really good at dealing with sexual addiction, or with youth, or with the elderly, or in the specific area in which they are qualified to minister. Whether they are psychologist, or a psychiatrist with a medical degree and can prescribe medication for a particular situation. You do not know until you ask what their level of counsel is, and what their strengths are as a caregiver before you even connect them. Questions like that are critical to be asked.

Also in the whole area of spirituality, in this day and age, you do not know if a counselor is open to pray with a perspective hurting pastor/spouse, and you happen to know that the pastor/spouse comes out of an evangelical church, or they come out of a very liberal church where they don't expect prayer, just give me the counsel, depending on who you are dealing with, you need to ask the counselor, you don't want to offend them, but, I have a lady that comes out of a conservative denomination and we need to know if you all will pray with her and initiate a prayer as you all sit down together. You get clues there whether you are dealing with a right or the best match. But always sharing, particularly in this category six, sharing with the pastor or the pastor's spouse that if the match doesn't work, usually they will know in that first free counseling session, or with the lawyers, when they meet the first time (they usually do not charge that first initial session) whether that looks like a fit, a match, somebody that's compatible, somebody you believe is going to be helpful to you.

Are there any questions in that area? That's a very, very sensitive area. We need to find out in those caregiver forms that come back in, as much about that counselor as we can in terms of their qualifications.

10:10 MENTORS

The last section is mentors, somebody who comes alongside, usually an older pastor. The 1990-1991 statistics 90 percent of pastors have said that at least in some area of their ministry they have felt inadequate to meet the ministry demands--the seminary did not tell you. The Minirth-Meier team has a neat book entitled, *All the Things They Didn't Tell You at Seminary*. It is in our library at PastorCare. They need a mentor.

Often times guys will call us at PastorCare and say, I have a deacon meeting tonight. I am dealing with this issue. Can you give me a little advice? I know Pastor Wayne does--he's prone to do that. That's ok sometimes. The guy asks...you can say, "Well, this is just my opinion..." Sometimes that might be very helpful, if asked.

These mentors come from all walks of life. We've got chaplains; we've got professors at seminaries that have taken on one. Up at State College in Pennsylvania one professor took on two pastors and mentored them. Said, "I'd be glad to."

Any questions about these seven categories? I have included in the manual some of the resources with Minirth and Meier. Somewhere you can get career surveys done, and there are career survey centers across the country. H. B. London has a series of ten questions that he raises in what to expect in a Christian counselor. I encourage all the caregivers and the staff and regionals to read that. He's got good questions to help you screen for the right counselor.

Finally, coming out of Bible broadcasting network, since all that we are and all that we have comes out of God's love, there is a beautiful piece that I have included, that deals with each line of 1 Corinthians 13,

which may help caregivers as they think about loving these pastors as Swindoll has said, loving on them so that they will know and feel the security of the love of God, maybe through one of us at PastorCare.

There are a couple of additional little pages...one is a letter I included at the request of one of our former volunteer staff who was trying to raise funds so that he could be in the ministry of PastorCare. For the record, almost all of our regional coordinators are part-time. It would certainly be my wish if we ever got a strong grant, like the Lily Foundation or some wealthy person across the country, that we could put \$20,000-25,000 in each of our regional coordinator's sites--that they could have that live voice on the line more often and at least a live secretary, a person that loves the Lord and a live voice instead of the answering machine. That's my prayer and I ask you to pray to the Lord for that He would allow that to happen at some point.

But I have included a letter to help people to be informed, that they could use--a sample letter. It just informs people as to where you are serving and might encourage them to be a part of your support network, designating funds for the ministry.

Finally, a sheet, the regional ministries, because a number of them will ask what is unique about the regional coordinators and what do they do? I have included a sheet on that. Obviously, two things--they love the Lord above all, and God has called them to be a regional coordinator because they have a heart not only the Lord, but they have a heart for pastors at the grass root sense. Praise God, I feel so blessed personally that the Lord has raised up quite a number of regional coordinators that fulfill those first two qualifications, a love for the Lord and a love for pastors, the spiritual leaders in the community. We have included some other qualifications in there too, some other suggestions. They need to have a facility in the community that they can feed and house up to 30-50 people for regional gatherings from time to time. That they are willing to go out to visit pastors in their prayer groups and ecumenical groups around the community. And they are willing to go out to churches and call forth the body of Christ to be caregivers in this critical ministry.

I just happen to have you note, that this is the most critical ministry in the nation today. There are so many ministries that are trying to fix things physically, and spiritually for people in the nation, to help people live longer with their cancer or with multiple sclerosis, or diabetes, affordable housing, and the like, but that is not going to keep America necessarily strong. The Lord knew that, and showed us that in His Word. If we are willing to take up our cross and follow Him, to be His caregivers, and servants and help as under-shepherds, we will keep everybody's eyes upon the Lord, and if we do, we will be healthy and our children and grandchildren will be healthy in this nation.

On that, to God be all the glory and the praise.