

CARING NETWORK BULLETIN #2 March, 1992

THE CARING NETWORK CONCEPT

The Caring Network arose out of discussions which took place in Milton in September, 1989 at the "Day of Reflection". An opportunity was identified to do more work as a community in accordance with the instructions of the apostle Paul to "bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ" (Galatians 6:2). The Network attempts to provide a means for brothers and sisters in need to obtain, on a confidential basis, guidance, a listening ear, and spiritual care from brothers and sisters who have some general familiarity and sensitivity to the kind of counseling that lay people can undertake. The Network also acts as a resource for individuals and ecclesias for information that can help deal with a variety of problems on a proactive and reactive basis. This bulletin functions to maintain a contact between the Caring Network and the ecclesias and their Caring Teams so that there is regular communication between the groups.

CARING NETWORK INITIATIVES

Some of the members of the Caring Network will be visiting the Ecclesias at Huntsville, Peterborough and Picton. The purpose of the visit is to explain the role of the Caring Network, facilitate discussion, practice listening skills, and review the scriptural basis for such work. Ecclesial attention, both proactive and reactive, to situations and problems will be strongly encouraged.

Brother Ian McPhee is developing a paper that concerns "Identifying Counselling Resources", it is in the draft stage but it will eventually describe screening techniques and guidelines to be used when approaching counseling agencies.

Career management counseling is being made available for the Christadelphian Community as part of the Caring Network Activities. If any of your members have concerns in the areas of career management, career guidance or job searching and would like to discuss them with a brother experienced in these matters, have them call Brother Stuart Moore (416) 822-5862 or Brother Phil Moate (416) 233-9117.

Marriage Seminar - may 22-24 1992 at the Mansfield Outdoor Centre. This seminar will dwell on the positive aspects of marriage as they are portrayed in the scriptures or as they indicated by the scriptures. Such topics as the History of Marriage in the bible, One Body In Christ, Leaving and Cleaving, Discussion groups dealing with successful marriages and positive attributes to married life, the Jewish Wedding as it relates to Biblical Accounts, Servant of Righteousness and Christ and the Bride.

CARING SEMINAR II

A second Caring Seminar was held on January 18, 1992 at Ossington Avenue Ecclesia. It featured presentations from Brethren Ken McPhee, Steve Moate, James Addy and Doug Finlay, and from a professional psychologist, Mr. John Caulder. Despite bad weather 37 persons attended from five Ontario Ecclesias.

ECCLESIAL CARING TEAMS

The Woodstock Ecclesia received the document from its caring team on February 23 and the Ecclesia will be discussing it at an upcoming Friday night bible class.

The Toronto team is reviewing books and is arranging a soup and sandwich meeting on April 15 to discuss some case studies on the role of caring one for another.

The Guelph Caring Team reported on a very successful evening with its Ecclesia. The Team wanted to have the members of the Ecclesia Get to know one another on a more personal basis. The conversation was directed by means of a guideline which encouraged the sharing of ideas and experience about the realities of a life in Christ, personal experiences and interests and other subjects which allowed the members to get more “familiar” with each other that they would otherwise be. The evening turned out to be very successful. The team meets once a month with the arranging board to discuss initiatives. A series of rotating lunches will begin mid-April with the same goal in mind of getting to know one another better.

The Scarborough Ecclesia is planning a Caring Seminar of their own, and has been proactive with some individual members “in need”. On March 28 the ecclesia held a seminar on “Stress” led by Brother David Levin. On June 6 the Ecclesia will hold a seminar on “Listening with Sensitivity” utilizing the services of Sister Deanna Pandya of Norfolk, Virginia who is skilled in this field.