

Attn: Daughters of the King (DOK) Taken from a Prison Ministry  
at The Pastoral Care Conference  
2004

## Caring In Crisis Ministry Principles

### Our Mission Statement:

To reach out to people in crisis in hospital or home  
For the purpose of strengthening their faith in Jesus Christ  
By demonstrating Christ's love, encouragement and eternal hope to them  
Through personal visitation and telephone contact with personal prayer,  
compassionate listening and the sharing of scripture.

### Our Opportunity

Working with people in crisis is being with them in a very special moment in their lives. People are most open to God when in crisis- whether medical, health, or personal. Crisis situations create a climate of need and spiritual openness that is unusual in people's lives. Helping them connect with Jesus is the most important thing you can do for someone in crisis.

"Our crises are God's opportunity."

The person you visit during a crisis will remember you long after you remember them because crises mark time periods, thus providing an opportunity for tremendous impact – through this *life-changing ministry*- and can make a lasting difference.

### Our Goal

is to show something real of God's love to them and connect them with the Lord. We want to strengthen their relationship with Christ (make it stronger when you leave than when you came in) and then He will do what wasn't going to happen prior to your visit. He'll see them through the night (you won't). He'll be there in the morning (you won't). He'll be there during the scary time preparing for surgery (you won't), or when they hear bad news or results (you won't), or when they are dealing with medications or even death (you won't). It is for this reason that we need to connect or reconnect them with Jesus Christ.

### 4 Core Skills:

1. Listening
2. Friendship
3. Sharing Scripture
4. Praying

### Our Team Strategy:

You lead; you are Christ's front line response team. Your Clergy support, train, & back you up, and are referral source for you.

## Process Of Visit:

### I. Greeting & Introduction

### II. Questions/Listening

- What is this person going through?
- What do they believe/feel about their situation?
- What has led them to believe/feel the way they do?
- What can I affirm?
- How should I best proceed next?

Be certain to listen carefully to their answers.

### III. Friendship Sharing

- This should be about 5-15 minutes of your visit, as you try to build a sincere friendship with the person you are visiting.
- Talk about their family, where they live, what they do regularly, etc. Ask about things that tell you who they are.
- As friendships are "two-way streets", share about yourself as well. (But be careful not to spend too much time talking about yourself.)
- Pay particular attention to the things you share in common, as they provide a basis for the friendship you are trying to develop.
- You should leave the visit with the other person knowing you as well as you know them- as new friends who have become better acquainted.

### IV. Encouragement

The information used for encouragement is gathered from two "buckets"

**First bucket:** who they are; what they are facing; their fears; their needs (this is gathered through your listening to them share)

**Second bucket:** Christ; personal faith, scripture, prayer, etc.

Take things from the second bucket that correspond with the first bucket.

### V. Prayer

This should make use of the same information as above regarding encouragement. Prayer should be specific according to needs, fears, etc.

### VI. Departure

## Scripture To Help In Praying

### Our Encouragement

"In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express."

Romans 8:26

### Questions to Ask as You Prepare For Prayer

✓ **What would you like to tell Jesus?**

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

Philip. 4:6-7

✓ **What would you like to confess to Jesus?**

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."

1 John 1:9

✓ **What would you like to ask of Jesus?**

"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened."

Matthew 7:7-8

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

Matthew 11:28-30

✓ **For what would you like to thank Jesus?**

"Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

1 Thess. 5:16-18

✓ **What else would you like to say to Jesus?**

### Some Prayers

#### *Before an Operation*

Almighty God our heavenly Father, graciously comfort your servant *N.* in *his* suffering. Bless the medical team with great skill and insight as they care for *him.* Be present at *his* side. Lord Jesus, and work your healing in *him.* Whisper to *him* of your surpassing love and mercy, and restore *him,* we pray, to health and to *his* family at home and at church. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

#### *For Healing*

Almighty God of power and love, through the command of your Son Jesus you drive away from our bodies all sickness and infirmity. We bring before you your servant *N.* this day. Be present at *his* side in *his* hour of weakness and need. Touch *him* with your own hands and heal *him.* Restore *his* strength, we pray. Encourage *his* heart and strengthen *his* faith in you, that *he* may serve you and praise you in all *his* ways. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

#### *Thanksgiving for a Beginning of Recovery*

O Lord, your compassions never fail and your mercies are new every morning. We give you thanks for giving our *brother N.* both relief from pain and a renewed hope of health. Continue in *him,* we pray, the good work you have begun. Increase *his* bodily strength each day. Multiply *his* confidence in your goodness, and strengthen *his* faith in you, that *he* may serve you in all that *he* thinks and does, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Scripture To Help In Ministry

### Anger

"Don't let the sun go down if you are angry" Eph 4:26,31  
"Blessed are the..." Matt 5.1-12

### Anxiety and Worry

"Do not be anxious... behold the birds..." Matt 6.25-34  
Anxiety, prayer and peace Phil 4.6,7  
God comforts us in our affliction 2 Cor 1.3-5

### Christ in John's Gospel

Son of God John 1.1-14  
With the Woman at the Well John 4.7-29  
The Great Physician John 5.1-9  
Bread of Life John 6.32  
The Water of Life John 7.37  
The Light of the World John 9.1-39  
The Good Shepherd John 10.1-16  
The Resurrection and the Life John 11.1-44  
The Way, the Truth and the Life John 14.6  
He Prays for Us / *He Suffers for Us* John 17  
Our Sacrifice John 19.16-19  
Conqueror of Death John 20.1-31

### Death & Resurrection

"I am the resurrection and the life..." John 11.25,26  
"in the valley of ...death, I will not fear..." Psalm 23.4  
"No more death or mourning or crying or pain..." Rev 21.1-4  
*For more reading:* 1 Cor 15; 2 Cor 5

### Depression

"Always pray and not give up" Luke 18.1-8  
The secret of being content Phil 4.8-13  
"My soul is full of trouble" Psalm 88

### Doubt

"Fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith" Heb 12.1,2  
Faith comes from hearing the message Rom 10.12-17  
"Help my unbelief!" Mark 9.15-29

### Guilt & Forgiveness

"Confess... and pray... that you may be healed" James 5.16  
"If we confess our sins... he will forgive us" 1 John 1.8-10  
For more reading: Psalm 51 (confess) Psalm 103 (assurance)

### Forgiveness (of others)

"As we have forgiven those who sin against us..." Matt 6.12-15  
"When you pray... forgive..." Mark 11.25

### Healing

Is any among you sick? He should... pray..." James 5.14-15  
*For more reading:* Mark 1-3;

### Hope

"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want" Psalm 23  
"Whoever believes in him... have eternal life." John 3.16  
"In all things God works for good..." Rom 8.28

### Loneliness

"Nothing can separate us from the love of God..." Rom 8.31-39  
"Never will I leave you..." Heb 13.5,6

### Peace

"Do not be anxious...but [pray]...and God's peace" Phil 4:6-7

### Temptation

"God is faithful... not beyond what you can bear... provide a way out"  
1 Cor. 10:13

### Thankfulness

"sin, guilt, death—are gone. Thank God!" (Msg) 1 Cor. 15:57  
"Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good..." Psalm 107:1

### Weakness

"I can do everything through him who gives me strength." Phil 4.13  
"He is my refuge and my fortress..." Psalm 91  
*For more reading:* Isaiah 40

## Easter Sermon...

### 4) What are the Days of My Life?

Death is the biggest question of life. Sooner or later you are going to have to get honest about it. Life forces you to do that. That moment of honesty may come in a flash. Becca and our girls were **driving to Fla** this past week for Matt's winging ceremony in the Air Force—when traffic slowed and they passed a wreck. An 18 wheeler had plowed through the broadside of a passenger car. No one in that car lived. It shook them up. Maybe your day of honesty will come when a doctor sits down for a blunt conversation about **your health** and you find out you have cancer. Maybe your moment will come at a friend's **graveside**. Maybe it will come in a **sudden, shocking accident**. You have to face it.

People don't like to talk about death. Invite your friends over sometime, serve them some coffee and pie and say, "Hey, **let's talk about death**." Just watch what happens. I remember some **children who were asked to write sentences** about death.

- Gilda, age 8, said, "When you die they put you in a box and bury you in the ground because you don't look too good."
- Raymond, aged 10, said, "A good doctor can help you so you won't die. A bad doctor sends you to heaven."

But here's the truth: **you are going to die**. It doesn't matter if you're rich or poor, black or white, old or young. You can't avoid it; you are going to die. And remember that you are going to spend **more time on that side of eternity than on this side**. Here we only spend 60, 80, maybe 100 years. But this is just the first inch of the yardstick. So you've **got to be ready**. Only a fool would go all through life **unprepared** for something he knows is eventually going to happen. Eventually, all of us begin to wonder, "What is really going to happen to me when I die?" You need to know if you are going to **go to heaven or to hell**. It's important. The **resurrection of Jesus** is a rock-solid answer to this fundamental question of life. Here's the answer...

### Because Jesus Is Alive...I Can Have a Life - Forever

Again and again the Bible makes this bold claim...

*Because Jesus was raised from the dead, we've been given a brand-new life and have everything to live for, including a future in heaven—and the future starts now!*

1 Peter

1:3,4

Jesus resurrection is the proof of this claim. If he's dead, the claim is bogus. But if he was raised, the claim is good. The claim is good!

He was publicly executed – the Roman executioners were **pros** – crucifixion was a science for them and a spear lance in the side made certain. There was no doubt. Then three days later his tomb is empty. His body was gone. No doubt about that, either. Rumors spread, but the apostles found it hard to believe. When they saw him for the first time they were **terrified**... they thought at first that he was a spirit, or a ghost... But then he **ate** some food - no ghost does that! He showed them the **scars**. He was certainly **not dead**. There are at least 15 other incidents in the Bible alone of what Jesus did after He came back to life. He was seen around Jerusalem, He talked to people, He ate with people, walked with people. They held his feet, they touched his wounds. He made breakfast for a few of them one morning. One time He spoke to over 500 people. They all saw him. In the end there was **no doubt at all**. He has defeated death.

### Because Jesus Is Alive... You Can Have a Life That Is Full

*"Jesus said, 'I have come that you might have life and have it abundantly.'" John 10:10.*

He's in the **life business: the new life, eternal life, abundant life business**. Not empty, or shallow, or shamed, or lonely, or confused, or overwhelmed. He is in the good business of helping you find **purpose and love and strength and hope**. In abundance. Overflowing.

Now, if Jesus is dead, he can't make good on that promise. Because you are **not going to get a life worth living from a dead man**. But Jesus is raised from the dead, alive, and real, and reigning! And his promises are good. It is a resurrection answer!

## Easter 2 Sermon

### Life's Riddles and Resurrection's Answers

Last week I said that the **resurrection of Jesus is the answer to life's largest questions**, the questions of significance and community, and the questions of the strength and length of our lives. It was true for **Ashley Smith** as she found herself abducted by Brian Nichols in Atlanta 2 weeks ago. Her witness and courage stunned and heartened millions. It was true of **Pope John Paul II**, a spiritual giant of the XX century whose legacy to human dignity and freedom, to the transforming hope and power of the Christian faith will last maybe for centuries. Be your opportunities in life little or large... Everything hangs on Christ's resurrection.

I want to continue to make that point with you today by thinking about two of **life's biggest riddles**. At least I think they are riddles. Here's the first...

#### 1) The Riddle of Desire...

#### 2) The Riddle of Mortality

Do you love life? I do. I love living, being alive. I love my days, my tasks, my friends and family. I love life. I would love it if life went on for 800-900 years. I agree with King Solomon...

*"It is a wonderful thing to be alive. If a person lives to be very old let him rejoice in everyday of life..."* Eccl. 11:7-8

But with all his wholehearted love of life, King Solomon also saw a riddle he **couldn't dodge and couldn't solve**. It's an unavoidable, pesky fact of death. And **that's the riddle**. How could he love life so much and deal with the inevitable fact of death? **He wrote...**

*"We must all die, wise and foolish alike."* Eccl. 2:16

Everybody has to face it. The mortality rate is still 100%. Nobody cheats it, nobody escapes it. It's certain. We get older and we die. Great news, huh? Here's what else Solomon wrote...

*"Man's fate is like that of the animals; as one dies, so dies the other."* Eccl. 3:19

When Solomon looked at the death of a **man**, and then at the death of an **animal** – he saw **no difference**. He couldn't find a spiritual answer to the riddle of mortality.

*"There is no way for us to know what will happen after we die."* Eccl. 3:22

He actually thought it was even worse...

*"The dead know nothing ... their loves, their hates, their passions all died with them."* Eccl. 9:5-6

Do you remember the **poem by: Dylan Thomas...**

**Do Not Go Gentle into that Good Night**

*Old age should burn and rave at close of day;*

*Do not go gentle into that good night,  
Rage, rage against the dying of the light.  
Do not go gentle into that good night,*

Solomon would have gladly heard that poem in his court.

I think our rage against our mortality is something significant, something from God, a **seed** he has planted. There's something in all of us that thinks "There's **got to be more to it than that**" Solomon talks about this:

*"He has also set eternity in the hearts of men..." (3:11)*

And **eternity is always whispering to us**. Every culture has said, there is something beyond. God put the seeds of eternity in our hearts and we know there is something more, but we can't figure it out. Until you find the resurrection answer.

### 3) The Answer of the Resurrection

The riddles of desire and mortality found their answers on Easter Sunday, right at this moment...

*Suddenly, Jesus was standing there among them! "Peace be with you," he said. In 20:19 (NLT)*

It was his resurrection that changed everything and answered life's largest questions.

The Apostles began to say things like this...

*... the fact is that Christ has been raised from the dead. He has become the first of a great harvest of those who will be raised to life again.*

1 Co 15:20 (NLT)

The **harvest allusion** here is to the Old Testament habit of bringing the **first-fruits** of the harvest to God in an offering. When you bring the first-fruits, it is a sign to God that the whole harvest is his if he wants it. The first-fruits are **connected** to the rest of the harvest.

Paul is saying that there is a **connection** between the resurrection of Jesus and our resurrection. He is saying that Jesus heads what will become a **resurrection parade**. And you can be in it! Have you thought much about what **resurrection parade** will be like? The Bible does give us some **pictures**. History starts in a garden but will end in **God's city** – and there's going to be a resurrection parade to fill it. It's going to be a great **homecoming**; all our earthly homecomings – as moving as they can be - are just a hint of the **one to come**. After all the **hardships**, the **challenges**, the **enemies** that must be faced, the **lessons** that must be learned, the **battles** that must be fought, we will finally be **home**.

**Jesus himself will welcome us on that day**. I heard one of the Catholic Cardinals say that Jesus himself was at this moment receiving **John Paul II** into heaven with open arms. The phrase stood me up straight. Because I believe it. I have said the same thing again and again at the funeral of believer after believer. That will be a moment unlike any other moment in your life. The moment when your greatest hopes and dreams and aspirations, and your greatest fears and failures crash together as you see the face of Jesus. A moment when you are undone, and beyond all hope you see his face and know that you are loved and welcomed and redone - and your heart wildly leaps and surges within you for disbelieving joy. A moment too good to be true, and too great to be missed.

A moment when a **voice speaks**... a voice that you have heard before, a voice that ages ago gave birth to the cosmos, a voice that thousands of years ago stilled storms, a voice that a lifetime ago whispered to your spirit, "come to me, follow me". A voice that now speaks again, "Welcome home, my son. Well done, my

daughter... Welcome home." **He's going to be so glad to see you.** And you are going to be so glad to see **him.** That sight of Him will answer every longing of our hearts, every desire of our souls and every yearning of our hearts to overflowing. **Are you ready for this? Have you thought enough about this???**

**What are you going to be like in heaven?** The short answer is that...

*we shall be like him 1 John 3:2*

Healed and whole and redeemed and resurrected and alive. Really alive. The Bible says you're going to have a **resurrection body.** I know what it is like to have a body that **gets weaker,** to live a life that runs down. I have stood at the side of a lot of people who are in a season of suffering and trial because of sickness and mortality. Most of them have been older than me. Some of them have been younger. More and more of them are my age. That happens as you get older. The bible says that the body of every follower of Jesus will be changed from what "will die" into what "cannot die." Cancer and heart disease and old age and tragic accidents... **no more!** Death and dying and suffering and broken hearts and shattered dreams... **no more!** Every tear, gone. Every heart, healed. **Everything new!** A new heaven, new earth, new order of life, new bodies, new hearts, new lives, new friends..., **new you and new me!** **Are you ready for this? Have you thought enough about this???**

**What will we do** in Heaven? Will we be **bored?** Ha!!! Not when you see God, face to face! We will **worship,** indeed we will! With every cell in our bodies, yes we will. And we will **reign** -- we shall be kings and queens with purpose and importance and responsibility into eternity.

*You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!* Matthew 25:21

You **will** be happy, like you have never been before. And we will **celebrate.** The party is called the **marriage feast of the Lamb...**(19.9) I wonder if the words "party" and "fun" and "play" will not find their true meaning in heaven... I wonder what will be served at that feast... I think we are invited to think that we shall drink from the **water of the river of life** and eat the **fruit from the tree of life...** (22.1,2; 21.6) Eat and drink immortality! (22.14,17) **Are you ready for this? Have you thought enough about this???**

Here are two quick points I want to close with today.

**If you have not yet chosen Jesus** as your leader and your Lord, don't wait. You will never solve the riddles of desire and death until you do. And remember that nowhere does scripture promise resurrection answers to these riddles except to those who have yielded to Jesus, who have come to him in faith, and who follow him in their lives... Don't wait.

**If you have chosen Him,** live **without fear** for him. **Live large** for him. **Live boldly** for him. The phrase Pope John Paul II chose to begin his papacy 25 years ago was the most frequently repeated phrase Jesus spoke in the gospels. Do you know what it is? "*Be not afraid.*" "*Fear not.*" By that phrase he lived and took on the giants of communism and poverty and secularism and hopelessness of modern life. By that phrase you can live and take on the giants of your life and prevail! **Because Christ is risen!!!**