



**Hosting a
Conference on
Care and Kindness**

A Planning Guide

Spreading Acts of Care and Kindness

The vision of spreading a mighty wave of care and kindness was founded by Dr. James R. Kok in the mid 1990s. The beginning messages of the vision were captured in the phrase, taken from the title of one of his books: *“90% of Helping is Just Showing Up!”* He taught that every person can provide help, love, comfort and care to others by being an ‘amateur’. A person doesn’t need to be a trained counselor to offer assistance—loving care is provided in the simple act of just showing up, of just being with a person, of being willing to walk alongside another as he or she experiences the triumphs and tragedies of life.

The Care and Kindness Campaign has grown through the intervening years with a series of annual conferences in California and others around the United States, as well as one in Sydney, Australia. The vision of the campaign is designed to teach, inspire, convince and motivate Christian people to give loving-kindness, more regularly, every day, and everywhere they go. Attached to this package is a copy of our Vision Statement.

Conferences on Care and Kindness are designed to refine people’s sensitivity to words and equip them with skills that enable them to offer actions that help. They are aimed to ignite in all God’s children a sense of calling to demonstrate to friends, colleagues, next door neighbors and the stranger at the carwash extraordinary kindness, attentiveness and compassion. They seek to broaden people’s understanding that Care is an emotion — one commonly felt — but Kindness is an **action**; the next important step that must be taken.



A fuller sense of how past conferences have addressed these goals can be grasped by exploring the vast amount of information that has been archived on our website, www.careandkindness.org. Details about conferences dating as far back as 1999 provide topics that have been covered and speakers that have participated. Links to photo albums from many of the years provide glimpses of the people and activities, giving a sense of the spirit of love and fellowship that overflowed at each one.

We invite you to consider how you could host one of these events in your own area. This packet of information will help you through the initial steps of evaluating the idea and making your first plans.

Hosting a Conference on Care and Kindness

Care and Kindness Ministries would love to assist you in hosting a conference in your area to help spread the vision of Care and Kindness.

Do it your way! This guide is designed to provide a rich resource of information, but let it not be overwhelming. It's extensiveness is intended to answer as many questions as possible — but you need not feel that you have to do everything. Pick what is useful to your situation. What are the ways your community can show God's love? How can we equip and inspire them to do so?

As you consider how to approach the idea, here are four scenarios for how a conference in your area can become a reality.

1. Our Regional Care Conference Committee can design the entire conference and bring it to your facilities, ready-to-go. Our Committee would assume virtually full responsibility for all aspects of the event — all you have to do is make sure the doors are unlocked on the day of the event.
2. You can designate a person or two who would meet with our Committee, and join in making the decisions required to develop the conference. This would mean that it would be developed jointly, but our Committee would provide the leadership and experience in working out the details.
3. You can develop a team of your own people that would assume primary responsibility for preparations, but experienced members of our Committee would meet with your group or be available for consultation. These Committee members would be able to relieve your team of feeling overwhelmed or anxious about undertaking what they may feel is a major task.
4. Your team can assume full responsibility for all aspects of the Conference, designing every aspect exactly as you wish.



These four scenarios range from one extreme to the other, and we expect that neither #1 nor #4 probably sound very appealing to you. The point of listing the options is to emphasize that there can be a great deal of flexibility as we approach the planning for your conference. Each area of the country has its unique needs and interests, so regional conferences will undoubtedly vary from one place to another.

We encourage you to feel free to design your conference entirely to your own preferences. However, we would like for it to be at least a day and part of another, even if only the preceding evening. As you consider how to put one together in your area, we offer the following general outline of conference elements that we have used in the past. The outline provides a broad-stroke view; we can follow up with much more detail as needed. As you contemplate speaker choices or ponder what topics should be addressed, our website, www.careandkindness.org, is an excellent resource for ideas.

Plenary speakers Plenary speakers are those whom you want everyone to hear, as opposed to Workshop speakers, who will address smaller groups. Dr. Jim Kok has typically been the one to speak at the opening session to set the tone of the conference and the closing remarks at the end of the conference. He can do another presentation during the event, if desired, or other speakers can be scheduled.



Workshop speakers Workshops are designed to address topics that may be of more specialized interest. These speakers can be scheduled for one presentation only, or if you anticipate that there might be wide enough interest for two sessions, the speaker could do a repeat to a second group. Dr. Kok is also available for this type of presentation.

Worship time Worship time can be as simple as an opening prayer, or it can be expanded to more, such as a solo by a singer, an organ selection, a congregational hymn, etc. Worship might be scheduled for only the opening session, or it might be observed several times during the conference.



Meals (optional) Past conferences have varied on the handling of meals. It depends in large part upon the hours of your conference, and on the availability of nearby eating facilities if attendees are expected to handle meals on their own. If you choose to provide food as part of your schedule, it can be as simple as snacks, a sack lunch, or something more elaborate.

Sharing time/Table talk (optional) These times of having groups of six or eight people gathered around tables can be directed in ways to provide more intimate interaction between attendees.

Involvement of volunteers Including the services of volunteers is an excellent way to demonstrate caring actions. The example set by the conference organizers in this way is an important part of creating the Care and Kindness ambience that has been acknowledged by attendees as having had a strong impact.

Volunteers can be used to assist with registration, to direct people to workshop locations, to assist with provided meal service, to staff an information table, to introduce workshop speakers, and to serve as a Girl Friday or Man Friday for speakers, helping them feel cared for as well.

Establishment of Care and Kindness ambience The blending of many elements into an overall atmosphere of love and caring makes a Care and Kindness Conference different from professional conferences or motivational conferences that people may have attended. The ready assistance of volunteers, the fellowship fostered throughout the event, and an attitude by everyone involved of serving and caring for others is tremendously important.



Support from Care and Kindness Ministries Members of our ministry have been involved in the organization and presentation of conferences of this type since 1998. Large conferences at the Crystal Cathedral ran for two-and-a-half days, and regional conferences have been as brief as a single day. We stand ready to share our experience and advice with you as fully as you wish. We can provide forms, letters, and instruction lists that we have developed. We will assist with publicity by posting your conference details on our website, www.careandkindness.org and through our national publication, *Care Capsule*.

Recognizing, also, that a church or organization that chooses to host such a conference may have limited budget resources, Care and Kindness Ministries stands ready to offer financial assistance as needed. Much of the cost of a conference should be covered by a registration charge, but if total costs would require a registration fee that is too large, Care and Kindness Ministries may be able to help provide additional funds.

What should we do first?

The following steps, though numbered sequentially, need not be done in this exact order, and some may be undertaken simultaneously. But working through each of these steps will get you firmly on your way.

We urge you to begin contact with us as early in the process as possible. As stated earlier, we stand ready to assist you as much as you need. We desire to help you prepare for the best event possible. You can email us at ShowUp@careandkindness.org or write to us at Care and Kindness Ministries, 10073 Valley View Street, #429, Cypress, California 90630

1. Decide upon a general conference outline.

- a) **Number of speakers/topics:** Do you have certain speakers that you definitely want to include? Are there certain topics that you want to have covered? Would you like to keep the topic/speaker list fairly limited and focused, or would like to offer a wider smorgasbord?
- b) **Number of days:** This choice can guide your decisions about speaker and topics, or your choices about them may help determine the length of your conference.

2. **Set a date.** The most important step is the first one. Once you put a date on the calendar and announce it, even if only amongst yourselves, it will take on a reality that will keep you moving through the next steps.

3. **Organize a Steering Committee.** Beginning with our very first conference in 1998, we had a committee of people that met regularly to plan the details of the conference. Each person took on a leadership role in a specific capacity. Some of those included:

- a) **The logistical aspects of the event:** What facility or campus will you use? Are there enough rooms to provide both a gathering for everyone, and for smaller workshops? Arrangements need to be made in advance for the facilities, and details about the use of them during the conference will need someone's attention.
- b) **Organizing of volunteers:** In whatever capacities you use volunteers, some one will need to recruit them, organize them, train them and supervise them during your event.
- c) **Marketing and publicity:** You may have some experienced persons who can undertake this important area on their own or it can be discussed and developed in group discussions within your committee.
- d) **Development of the schedule for the conference:** The determination of the timing for each activity can help create the caring ambience that is so important. What time will the conference start? When will it end? How long should plenary sessions be? How long should workshops be? How often should breaks be scheduled? Creating the final schedule is an important task for someone to accept.

4. Make arrangements with speakers.

- a) **Names:** First, desired speakers need to be considered. Then they must be contacted for availability.
- b) **Topics:** Do you have a specific topic you want your speaker to address? Or is he/she free to determine his topic? In either case, to ensure that the theme of the conference is maintained, each speaker needs to be given information on what the conference is about. Attached to this package is a sheet called **Who Will You Be Speaking To?** that we have provided to each speaker in the past.
- c) **Honorariums:** Will you be paying honorariums to some of your speakers? All of your speakers? Will you need to reimburse travel expenses to any of them? Answers to these questions were arranged individually with each person. For example, though we paid some speakers, members of our own church

staff who were presenters did not received honorariums. And others often offer their services as a part of their own ministry.

5. **Determine a budget.** The consideration of all these anticipated expenses will help determine what your registration fee should be. If you have donors that help underwrite some of the costs, you can lower the registration fee. Similarly, if you have any related sales, such as recordings of the speakers, photos, display booths, etc., these can also help keep the registration low.

- a) Speaker costs
- b) Facility costs
- c) Meal/ snack costs (optional)
- d) Publicity expenses
- e) Conference handouts (optional)
- f) Registration fee

6. **Determine intermediate deadlines.** This may seem obvious, but in the interest of being thorough, here is a reminder of things to take care of.

- a) **Finalize speaker commitments:** Obviously, you need to have your speakers and topics finalized before you put out any publicity.
 - b) **Commitment of available facilities:** Another obvious item is that you need to have a firm commitment on facilities before you can publicize the conference.
 - c) **Stages for publicity:** You need to not only decide on how and where you are going to publicize the conference, but you also will want to set a schedule for each stage of your publicity. Get the information out early enough that people can make plans to attend, but also along the way to keep them reminded.
- Note:** Don't forget that we stand ready to publicize your conference on our website and in the *Care Capsule*.
- d) **Registration dates:** Do you want to have an early registration discount? If so, what is the cutoff for qualifying as an early bird? What is the latest date that you will still be able to accept a reservation? Must everyone register in advance, or will you allow people to register at the door?

As you collect registrations, you will want to get each person's email address so that they can be added to the distribution list for the *Care Capsule*.

Sample Schedules

The following schedules are included to provide a basis for considering how you choose to construct your conference. They are obviously not intended to be adopted wholesale.

The three-day conference, for example, shows how our largest conferences were scheduled at the Crystal Cathedral in Garden Grove, California. Regional conferences are typically two-days, or “one-plus”, which consists of a Friday evening and an all day Saturday session.

Sample Schedule for Three-Day Conference

Day 1 - Thursday

11:00 am — 3:00 pm Registration
1:00 pm Opening Session
Dr. James R. Kok
1:45 pm Table/group discussion
2:30 pm Stretch Break
3:00 pm Plenary Speaker
4:00 pm Stretch Break
4:15 pm Workshops
5:30 pm Dinner (included)
6:30 pm Sing Along
6:45 pm Plenary Speaker
8:00 pm Closing

Day 2 - Friday

7:30 am Worship class
8:30 am Continental Breakfast (included)
9:00 am Plenary Speaker
10:15 am Table/group discussion
10:45 am Stretch Break
11:15 am Workshops
12:30 pm Lunch (included)
1:30 pm Plenary Speaker
2:30 pm Stretch Break
3:00 pm Workshops
4:30 pm Open
6:30 pm *Care & Kindness Banquet*

Day 3 - Saturday *Care-iffic Saturday*

7:30 am Communion Service
8:15 am Continental Breakfast (included)
9:00 am General Session
Dr. James R. Kok
9:30 am Plenary Speaker
10:30 am Table/group discussion
11:00 am Stretch break
11:15 am Workshops
12:30 pm Lunch (included)
1:30 pm Plenary Speaker
2:30 pm Stretch Break
3:00 pm Workshops
4:15 pm **Taking Care and Kindness Home**
Dr. James R. Kok
4:30 pm Closing

Sample Schedule for Two-Day Conference

Day 1 - Friday

8:00 am — 9:00 am	Registration
9:30 am	Worship
9:45 am	Opening Session <i>Dr. James R. Kok</i>
10:45 am	Stretch Break
11:15 am	Workshops
12:30 pm	Lunch
1:30 pm	Plenary Speaker
2:30 pm	Stretch Break
3:00 pm	Workshops
4:15 pm	General wrap-up for the day

Day 2 - Saturday

9:00 am	General Session <i>Dr. James R. Kok</i>
10:00 am	Plenary Speaker
11:00 am	Stretch break
11:15 am	Workshops
12:30 pm	Lunch (
1:30 pm	Plenary Speaker
2:45 pm	Workshops
4:00 pm	Closing <i>Dr. James R. Kok</i>

Sample Schedule for “One-Plus” Conference

Friday evening

6:30 – 7:00 pm	Check-in / Networking
7:00 pm	Worship
7:30 pm	Opening presentation by Dr. James R. Kok
8:30 pm	Workshops

Saturday

8:00 am	Continental breakfast
8:45 am	Worship
9:00 am	General Session <i>Dr. James R. Kok</i>
9:45 am	Workshops
10:45 am	Workshops
11:45 am	Lunch
1:00 pm	Plenary Speaker / General Session
2:00 pm	Workshops
3:00 pm	General Session <i>Dr. James R. Kok</i>
3:20 pm	Closing Litany

Additional Resources

Through the years, we have developed a number of materials and processes that you might find helpful. We will be happy to provide any and all of them with your committee.

1. Speaker confirmation letter – Confirms the date, time(s), and number of presentations by the speaker. If recordings are to be made and a waiver is necessary, this can be included in this letter. It also requests a short summary (*we call it a 'blurb'*) of the speaker's topic and a brief bio for use in promotional materials and on the web site what Care and Kindness Ministries will create for you.
2. Speaker tracking sheet – Has all vital information about the speaker, including address, phone, email, specific presentation needs (audio/visual, tables, etc.), presentation titles and times and space for follow-up notes, such as where and when pick-up/drop-off is needed (primarily for out-of-town speakers).
3. Volunteer recruitment letter – Lets people know what kind of help is needed.
4. Volunteer confirmation letter – Lets volunteers know when and where they are to report. It also highlights what is expected of them in their specific position.
5. Samples of thank you letters that are sent to speakers and volunteers.
6. Evaluation forms.
7. Speaker Worksheet – Lists speaker, time of presentation, location, and audio/visual needs.
8. Title Worksheet – Lists titles of all presentations being recorded and their location (for use by recording people).
9. Detailed Schedule – Working tool for committee members to coordinate information on all that is happening. Is modified as needed as the conference nears. Helps identify possible conflicts that might arise and to finalize special things that are to happen.
10. Volunteer tracking – Master list of all volunteers and their assignments during the conference.
11. Conferee Schedule – Final version of the schedule (without all the detail in the working version) which is given to each attendee, speaker, and volunteer.

Please take this list only as advisory. Be sure to let your own creativity function. You might come up with an easier way!

Suggested Topics

The following list is made up of topics and presentation titles from past conferences. Scanning through it will provide ideas of topics to include in your own conference.

The list is admittedly quite lengthy but it is meant to help stimulate your thinking.

What would be most helpful to your audience?

Topic	Title
Addiction	Addictions; How to Help Caring for the Families of Addicts and Abusers Without God — No Recovery (Addiction)
ADHD	ADD/ADHD S.O.S. for ADHD
Adoption	Adopting Takes More Than Love Adoptees Come of Age and the Ghost Parent Struggle Another Side of Adoption: Giving Up My Baby The Hidden Hurts of the Adopted Child
Aging	Aging With Grace Retirement, The Grand Illusion Saying Good-bye to Aging Parents - What to Say Before They Leave What On Earth is Happening to My Family - Caring For and Dealing With Aging Parents
Alcoholism	Delivering Healing and Growth for Adult Children of Alcoholics
Alzheimers	Addressing the Spiritual Needs of Those with Alzheimer's Alzheimer's Disease: Meeting the Spiritual Needs of Dementia Patients and Families Someone Has Alzheimer's: How To Be Present
Anger	Disarming Anger - Unleashing Peace
Autism	Hope and Autism Perspectives on Loving Someone with Autism Simple Acts of Kindness for Children and Families with A.D.D. and Autism
Bipolar	Bipolar Disorder and Your Marriage: Surviving, Coping and Rebuilding How to More Effectively Help a Bipolar Loved One, and Still Maintain Health and Happiness Understanding Bi-polar Disorder - Strategies for Recovery
Boundaries	A Time to Say Yes; a Time to Say No Balanced Caregiving: Avoiding Burnout, Stress-out and Depression Boundaries for the Soul of Your Caring Care Without Burnout Kind People Can Have Boundaries Too Kind People have Boundaries, Too!
Cancer	Cancer Calls for Caring: How Love Always Heal

Care and Kindness

5 Spiritual Laws of Care and Kindness
A Fortune 500 Company Responds to the 5 Keys of Care & Kindness
Basic Tactics of Caring People
Care and Kindness for Beginners — 10 Important Essentials
Care and Kindness in a Cross Cultural Environment
Care and Kindness in Africa - Our Adventure
Equipping Christians For Care And Kindness With Stephen Ministries
Essential Tools for Active Kindness and Care
Five Laws of Care and Kindness
How Loving Kindness Wiped Out the Pagan Religion
How Pixie Dust Creates Exceptional Guest Service
Increase Kindness: How and Why
Kindness: A Way of Life
Kindness: How to Make It Part of Life
Loving and Understanding People
Loving Kindness is Key to Your Happiness
Naming the Elephant - Essentials for A Caring Person
Only Love Can Change the World –Again
Responding To Others So They Know You Care
Small Acts of Kindness Heal the Human Spirit and the Body
So...I Have Gifts; Now What Do I Do?
Taking Care and Kindness Home
Ten Shapes Love Can Take: Love is Health Producing
The Passion of God - God Responds and So Must We
The Spirit-lifting and Hope-building Behaviors We All Can and MUST Do
The Uncomfortable Choice Caring People Need to Pick
Twelve Simple Pieces for Brightening the World
Using Care, Kindness and Compassion to Improve Workplace Effectiveness
What It Means That We Are Spiritual Beings
What Jesus Wants From Us
Where Is God in All This

Care Ministry

Build a Care Ministry in your Church
Building a Loving Church
How to Begin a Care Ministry for your Church: Simple Applications for Continued Kindness
How to Create a Care Ministry
Setting Up A Care Ministry Program At Your Church

Communication

Build Your Communication Skills
Communication That Really Helps and Heals
Simple Secrets of Care-full Communications

Depression

Adolescent Suicidal Depression and Grace
Depression: The Healing Emotion
Fighting Depression
Disability Awareness and Etiquette 101
Disability Awareness Q&A Panel
Extraordinary Kindness in the Disability Community

Disabilities	Insights About Caring for the Disabled Marching in the Light of God...Dealing with Disabilities
Ethical Issues	Ethical Challenges We All Face Ethical Consideration in Death and Dying Ethical Issues in Care Giving Medical Ethics, Faith and Caring
Forgiveness	From Forgiving to Blessing Those Who Hurt You Joy of Forgiveness The Gift of Forgiveness: Blessing Those Who Hurt You
Gratitude	Attitudes, Platitudes, and Gratitude The Power of Gratitude to Heal, to Energize, and to Change
Grief	A Heart for the Grief Ministry A Life Transformed Through Career Choice Amazing Grace in the Midst of Loss Caring for Those Who Grieve Death and Dying Decembered Grief: Offering Kindly Care Dying In Diversity: Cross Cultural Issues In Death and Grief Families in Mourning Friend Grief: Opportunity To Care Grief After Suicide Grief and Caring for Those Who Grieve Grief, Trauma and Complicated Bereavement Grief: A Caregivers Medicine Bag of Spirit Lifting Prescriptions Grief: Naming the Elephant Grieving and Healing the Wounds of Miscarriage Helping Families Grieve How To Walk with People in Grief Kind Ways to Respond to Grief Living Fully in the Shadow of Death Orchestrating a Good Death Providing Comfort to Those Who Have Lost a Child Take My Hand: Guiding a Child Through Grief The Dying Experience The Grief of Men The Six Most Asked Questions About Funerals Unique Grief of Hospice Care
Legacy	Passing the Torch - Leaving a Legacy
Listening	Blessings of the Heart Through Listening How to Listen Compassionately to the Sick and Injured Listening So People Talk Listening to Empower Listening, Learning and Loving Listening—Much More Than Words Can Say You Never Listen

Mental Illness	<p>Dispelling the Myths About Mental Illness</p> <p>Help Me - I Have a Mental Illness!!</p> <p>Identifying Mental Illness In Youth</p> <p>Mental Illness' Unique Needs</p> <p>Mental Illness: A Family's Story</p> <p>Spirituality, Stigma and Serious Mental Illness</p> <p>Understanding Schizophrenia</p>
Other Faiths	<p>Can A Christian Love A Muslim?</p> <p>Can These Be Fellow Believers?</p> <p>Care and Kindness Across Cultures</p> <p>Caring about Other People of Faith</p> <p>Kindness In and To Your Buddhist Neighbor</p>
Parenting	<p>Empowering Parents: Choosing to be Safe</p> <p>Parenting Difficult Children in a Difficult World</p> <p>Parenting Skills for Troubled Teens</p> <p>Parenting When It's Rough</p> <p>Raising Respectful Children</p> <p>Single Parents: Ten Terrific Techniques for Teens and Toddlers (That Really Work)</p> <p>The Missing Piece: The Parent Component</p> <p>The Vital Importance of Blessing Your Children</p>
Prayer	<p>Called and Empowered to Pray</p> <p>Care Through Prayer Without Words</p> <p>Everything You Need to Know About Prayer</p> <p>Ministry of Prayer</p> <p>Praying for Others in Jesus' Name</p> <p>Presence as Prayer</p> <p>The Healing Power of Prayer</p> <p>The Power of Prayer in Christian Care</p>
PTSD	<p>Life after a Storm: A Look at Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)</p>
SACK	<p>Simple Acts of Care & Kindness - A Church Festival</p> <p>Take S.A.C.K. Home With You (panel)</p> <p>The Bully, The Bullied and the Bystander</p>
Self Care	<p>Caring for Yourself as You Care for Others</p> <p>Self Care in the Senior Years</p> <p>Surprising Joy for Tired Caregivers</p>
Suicide	<p>Is Joy Possible, for the Survivor, After the Unique Grief of Suicide?</p> <p>Responding When There's a Suicide</p> <p>Suicide...the Silent Killer</p> <p>The Devastation of Suicide</p> <p>The Legacy of Suicide on the Christian Family</p>
Trauma	<p>Emotional First Aid: How To Help the Emotionally Injured After Tragedy Strikes:</p> <p>Helping Victims Of Domestic Violence Become Survivors</p> <p>Ministering to Victims of Crime and Trauma</p> <p>Understanding Trauma and Victimization</p>
Visiting the Sick	<p>A Caring Moment: Visiting the Sick</p> <p>Visiting the Sick So People Get Better</p>

Miscellaneous

Visiting the Sick: Practical Ways to Give Care, Comfort and Courage
12 Steps To Understanding And Connecting To Distractible Or Hyperactive People
(An Owner's Manual)
22 (Non-Negotiable) Laws of Wellness
90% of Helping Is Just Showing Up
A Positive System for Empowering Lay People for Ministry
A Time to be Born
Allow God To Define You
Art of the Gentle Heart
Assessing Your Spiritual Gifts
Back on My Feet Again
Barriers to Bridges
Bearing One Another's Burdens: the Spiritual Imperatives of Caring
Bearing, Baring, or Burying Each Other's Burdens
Being Messengers of Love
Building a Multi-generational Community
Building A Safe Haven Marriage: Making Sense of Your Differences
Building Faith and Spirituality in Children
Candor: Speaking the Truth in Love
Care and Compassion Through the Media
Care and Kindness to People with Diabetes (Tending the Diabetic Soul)
Care for the CareGiver
Care Givers and their Special Gifts
Care that Crosses Cultural Boundaries
Caring Enough to Confront
Caring for Creation: We are Stewards of this Planet
Caring for the Creation
Caring for the Emotional Needs of the Gifted and Talented
Caring For Those Different From Ourselves
Caring in the Workplace
Christ's Kind of Care
Circles of Care with Christ at the Center
Close Encounters of the Third Kind
Confessions of a Fellow Struggler
Connecting Kindness to Young Cultures
Contours of Christian Compassion
Creating a Culture of Caregiving
Creating Space for Telling and Listening to Stories
Cultivating a Spirit of Generosity
Dealing with Destructive Conflict In The Church
Designing Dynamic Stepfamilies: Bringing Pieces to Peace
Effective Ministry to Families with Special Needs Children
Empowering Positive Change in Others
Essential Counseling Skills for Everyday Helping
Extending God's Love for Children
Feast or Famine, The promise of Genomic Medicine vs. the Hosts of Uninsured

Friendship: Catch the Vision
Gentleness
Getting Smart - Growing Older
Giving Helpful Help - And That's All
Grandma Calls Me Precious
Growing Christ-like Human Relationships
Guiding Children Through Life's Losses
Healing Love
Healing Touch of Grace
Helping People Grow
Helping the Hurting without Hurting while Helping
Hope Givers: Understanding How to Grow, Heal and Be an Encouragement in Your Relationships
How Do Caring Persons Enrich the Hope of Others?
How Does One Care When a Daughter or Son Says, "I'm gay"?
How Music, Groups and Styles Affect Teens
How to Be a Powerfully Caring Leader
How To Care (And How Not To Care) For Those Experiencing Pain And Suffering
How to Increase Closeness, Care and Competence
How To Make A Difference
Identifying Barriers to Expressing Care and Kindness
If "one is one-der-ful", Why Do We Adult Singles Need a Special Ministry?
Is Mourning Necessary?
Kids With A Message
Living and Caring with God's Pleasure
Living with Chronic Arthritis: Making it a Joint Effort with God
Loneliness to Loveliness
Loving and Understanding People
Loving Care at the Last Stages of Living (Panel)
Making Rooms: Serving a Hospitable God
Marital Tune-Up
Married Without Children - How Can We Help Rather Than Hurt Infertile Couples
Memories Worth Remembering
Mentoring Makes a Difference - YOU Can Do It!
Ministry - You Can't Do It Alone
My Response to God - Is my Response to God's Ability
My Story, Your Story
One Of A Kind
Overflowing with Living Water for Thirsty Souls
Partnering with the Super Natural - Investigating the Sixth Sense
Passionaries: Turning Compassion into Action
Peace in the Storm: Pain and Illness through the Ages
Peace in the Storm: Walking with God while Living with Chronic Pain and Illness
Peacemaking Skills for Resolving Conflicts
Personalities: Giving and Receiving Care
Possibility Living

Questions for God
Raising A Special-Needs Son - An Unfinished Odyssey
Restorative Justice for Ex-offenders and Families
Serving Others in the Joy of Christ
Soul Care with Jesus
Speaking the Unspoken: Communicating Across Differences
Spiritual Development in the Second Half of Life
Strength in Gentle Hands, Courage in Humble Hearts
Take Care!
Take Hold of Your Faith
Teens: Sex vs. Love; Knowing the Difference
The Art of Helping
The Church and Post-Abortive Women
The Game of Life and How to Play It
The Healing Power of "Heart Talk"
The Responsiveness of God
The Secret of Delivering Hope
The Secret of Transforming Power
The Stephen Series and the ChristCare Series Providing Comprehensive Care
The Ways of Love
Uncommon Decency: A Case for Civility
Uncommon Graces: Helping the Wounded Understand Grace
Uncommon Graces: Reflecting Jesus in Our Harsh World
Using Games to Encourage Care and Kindness
Violence Is Affecting Our Families
When Cure Is Not Possible, Comfort Always
When Things Won't Get Any Better
Wounded Healers: Servanthood and Suffering
Youth In Crisis - Keeping The Peace

Vision Statement

for the
CONFERENCE ON CARE & KINDNESS

We see people enlightened, inspired and willing to reach out with Care and Kindness to colleagues, friends, neighbors, strangers and kinfolk far beyond what is typical of Christians today. We see people transcending timidity, apprehension and lack of confidence.

We visualize Christians uniquely, yet simply and profoundly offering encouragement, appreciation, support, cheer and love in a way others mostly neglect. We see a great wave of care washing across the world, making a difference that actually changes the world for the better.

By exemplary caring behavior, the love of Christ will be delivered everywhere—sometimes named and sometimes not, but always God’s caring touch at work. We see waves of self-giving opening people to the love of God and moving them to give of themselves in like manner. We see ripples of goodness flowing, carrying peace, love and kindness—“on earth as it is in heaven.”

This “Care” vision is established on a clear and powerful awareness that the God of Scripture cares for all people and creatures and their home—the heavens and the earth. We trust God’s responsiveness to the cries of humanity. Repeatedly we read “...and God heard their cries and delivered them.” The gospel is essential that—a gracious heartbroken God sending a solution to the lostness and directionlessness of humanity.

It is the spirit of God seen in Jesus Christ that we take as our model of Care and Kindness. As Jesus laid down his life for us, so we must “imitate” dying for others.

We “die” for others by leaving our daily zones of comfort and acting in simple, helpful, concerned ways to the world around us.

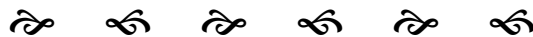
Our goal is to let Jesus’ vulnerable, caring spirit flow through us to lift others wherever we go, seven days a week, so Love will grow and the world will be better.

Who Will You Be Speaking To?

The **Conference on Care and Kindness** seeks to EQUIP people to be better at giving care to the hurting people that surround them on a daily basis. Therefore, the focus of our plenary sessions and our workshops is to empower individuals to provide help to **others**.

An analogy may be helpful to you. Suppose that you are an expert chess player. You have been asked to speak on the subject.

- Your audience will not be made up of people who are already skilled in chess.
- Your audience will not be made up of people who want to learn how to play chess.



- Rather, the people who hear you want to have a better understanding of the special problems that chess players face, so that they can better relate to them.
- They want to learn some of the ‘buzz words’ that chess players use, so that they can better talk with them.
- If indeed there are chess players in your audience, your presentation is not intended to help them with their own game. It is to better equip them for being supportive to other players.

As you finalize your presentation for the Conference, we urge you to focus your topic so it follows these thoughts. Your contribution will be valuable in equipping people to make a difference in the world around them!