

Local Care Ministries from A-Z

**Pastor Michael and Darlene Hartwell,
Verdunville, WV**

What does it mean to care?

CARE, CARES (Grk. merimma). The Greek word has the sense of being drawn in different directions, and answers to our distraction. It is translated "anxiety" in 1 Peter 5:7, where it is contrasted with melo, to "be of interest" to, and may be read, "*Casting all your anxiety upon Him, because He cares for you*" (cf. Ps 55:23; Luke 8:14; 21:34). In Matt 13:22 and Mark 4:19, the "worries of the world" are anxiety about things pertaining to this earthly life. Paul uses the same word, "concern for all the churches" (2 Cor 11:28).

Scriptures: Gen 2:15-17 and I Peter 5:6-9

I. The Hopeless: Ministry of Caring for the Senior Adults

Isaiah 61:1-3

- A. The Martha Ministry
- B. The Nursing Home
- C. The Local Church
- D. Widows/Widowers after the funeral
- E. Food Distribution
- F. Serve in Disasters

II. The Helpless: Ministry of Caring for the Children

James 1:27-2:1

- A. Saturday Sunday School
- B. Summer breakfast
- C. Children's Church AM/PM

- D. Sunday morning breakfast
- E. Training classes
- F. Children's Crusades

III. The Hurting: Ministry of Caring for the Forgotten

"Many are homeless today not because of lack of shelter of a dwelling but because of a lack of care and compassion of a spiritual home."

- A. Street ministry to drug abuse and prostitution
- B. Jail ministry
- C. Clothing and personal hygiene items
- D. Daily hot meals and showers
- E. Shelter
- F. James 2:1-4

CONCLUSION:

The local care ministry must be based on and maintain the right motives. The ministry of care must begin with the pastor, his staff and inner circle just as it was with Jesus in His ministry of care.

Local churches must realize that God has given them their community/city/region. The hurting will not come to the Church; the Church must go to them. To have a care ministry, the people of the Church must have empathy with the hurting and realize we have all been in a place of need.