

WESTCITY CHURCH

Love God | Love People | Follow Jesus

PASTORAL CARE NEEDS ASSESSMENT / REQUEST

“Seeking to be helpful to another person is never easy. It may be fraught with difficulties and fears. We are frequently unsure whether we can be really helpful or whether the person really wants our help. We are also uncertain as to what might be the most helpful and beneficial. And we never fully understand all that may be involved in a person’s needs and struggles. Yet we need to be careful that we don’t make it all so complicated that we are paralyzed into inactivity. This is not to say that we should rush in with our good intentions, which might be wide of the mark. Careful listening and sensitivity are always called for. But the important thing is that we start where we can and respond to what is at hand.

This simple start might possibly lead to new opportunities and further ways to serve the other person. It takes time to build bridges of trust and openness. This is so even for people who are pressed by deep needs. It therefore takes time to come to the place where we can serve another more meaningfully.

Nouwen notes that we need “to bend ourselves to the ground and touch the places in each other that need most washing” This suggests carefulness, humility and trust. It involves a joining together. But it also involves a mutuality. Once we move beyond the crises and continue to serve, we ourselves will also receive. Those to whom we give will also enrich us.” Ringma 2000

Please be aware, the following points are only a guide to help identify the key needs of the individual / family from their perspective. Not all needs can be met by the Westcity community and many won’t be, but our role is to help bring prayerful clarity and support for the individual going forward and provide practical connection where possible.

Key points to check:

Individual

Physical needs – food, exercise, sleep quality, self-care (relaxation), shelter, safety, employment (where applicable), finances (to meet needs)

Social needs – support network, friends, family, home group, other groups within and outside church

Psychological needs – psychological health (as self-reported) – depression, anxiety, fears, nightmares

What the individual says about identified issue

Spiritual needs – structure of quiet times, prayer life, view of God, Gods view of them,

Family

As above, including:

Provision of meals, safety and security, health of relationships, family illness

Permission gained to share this concern and for the individual to be contacted -Yes / No

Persons details requesting care for;

Name: _____

Mobile: _____

Email: _____

Best time and method to contact them, eg text in evenings, call in mornings, email only

Your name and contact: _____

“A vision we give to others of who and what they could become has power when it echoes what the Spirit has already spoken into their souls” (Crabb 1997 p. 164)

DRAFT