

Care for the Carer Campaign Brief: Aug 2011

Our culture has made much of the guy who scores the winning try and the girl whose face and figure adorns Cosmopolitan. It makes much of celebrity weddings and economic status. Simply stated it disproportionately celebrates success, excess and triviality. But, looking through a biblical lens, the true heroes are those who extend care to the helpless, comfort to the grieving, clothing to the naked and hope to the hopeless. They see the day when all poverty, injustice and pain will be Prov. 19:17 'He who is kind to the poor **lends** to the LORD, and he will reward him for what he has done.' We must learn to make much of those, who are giving their lives in gospel faithfulness to the poor and hurting in our city. This means being highly intentional about our "care for the carer" strategy. *Rigby Wallace*

Care for the Carer campaign – celebrating the real heroes

Carers are the people who dress the wounds (physical or emotional), provide encouragement and practically assist others, on a regular basis. They care for one or more people who are ill, destitute, in a crisis, they care for the elderly, young and/or care for people unable to fully care for themselves adequately. Generally, these carers are not paid, or if so, paid low wages.

On the 10th September Common Ground Church will be honouring 100 carers, by hosting an event, to celebrate and thank these dedicated heroes and heroines in and around our city. At the event carers will be presented with small gifts, exposed to inspirational truth infused talks, spoilt with delicious snacks, and entertained with upbeat music in the hope that they will leave feeling encouraged, acknowledged and blessed by our church.

We're launching the campaign this **Sunday, 21st August** at all congregations. Small group champs were briefed this Monday past on the campaign so if you have a champ, be sure to team up with them in mobilising your group to respond.

How you can get involved as a Small Group or as an Individual?

This opportunity has been created with not only carers in mind but small groups too, giving individuals in your small group the chance to reflect on some of the pain in our city and acknowledge people serving tirelessly into it.

1. **Purchase a gift bag** for R100 which will cover the costs of the Care for the Carers event. The bag will contain a profile of a carer & a note where you will be asked to:
 - a) Pray for the carer
 - b) Write them an encouraging note in the card provided
 - c) Fill your gift bag with gifts up to the value of R60
 - d) Return the gift bag to the Common Good Involvement Desk (after the Sunday service) or drop it off at the church office during the week

For R160 you can be a part of ensuring a carer is extravagantly and personally blessed! For a group of 10 people it's just R16 per person.

2. **Sign up to volunteer at the event** as either:
 - a) **A member of the events team**
Help set up for the event, clean up afterwards, usher carers to their table, serve tea & coffee at the event & help sort gift bags before the event.
 - b) **A table host**
Host a table of carers on the day: Make carers feel welcome, interact with the carers at your table & pray for them if the opportunity arises.
 - c) **A driver - transport carers to the event**
Fetch carers prior to the event from the organisation they work for & drop them back at their organisation after the event.

Keen to volunteer or purchase a bag? Sign up at the Common Good Involvement desk on Sunday, 21 August or Sunday 28 August or email sue.franzoso@commongood.org.za