

HEALTH CARE MINISTRY AS CRISIS INTERVENTION

The divine directives for Christian faith are to love one another, to love one's neighbor, and to love one's enemy. In the health care setting, this means benevolent intervention with the health care staff, with patients and family members, and even with antagonists to the health care system (i.e. disgruntled patients, relatives, medical professionals and administrators, lawyers, politicians, etc.). Benevolent intervention will open doors for speaking God's word of grace, the good news of Jesus. The goal of benevolent intervention is first to meet the individual's immediate needs and second to meet the individual's deeper, spiritual needs. This is "The Whole Gospel to the Whole Person by Whole People."

The basis for intervention is God's own involvement in the world through the incarnation of Jesus. In order to imitate God's healing work in a world disrupted by disease and death, pastoral care workers seek to restore broken persons to wholeness through caring involvement. Showing God's kindness to others who are hurting will enhance the process of transformation and reconciliation that will bring about healing.

To facilitate this intervention, pastoral care teams will evaluate the needs of the health care system or facility. They will utilize in-house, community, and local religious helping professionals to develop a comprehensive pastoral support system—a healing team mobilized to produce maximum effectiveness. Furthermore, pastoral team perspectives on ethical, moral, medical, and spiritual concerns will give important guidance to administrative and medical personnel for the development of policy and the implementation of programming. In these ways, pastoral care teams can demonstrate God's *agape* ("love) to those who seek healing from pain and suffering and God's *paraklesis* ("encouragement") to those who provide such healing.