

CANINE FOR CHRIST CRISIS RESPONSE GUIDELINES

As you learn about a tragic event in your community, please pray for the victim's, families, first responders and community. Next, pray that God will give you the wisdom, strength, compassion and kindness to minister in the midst of such hurt. He will prepare your heart for what you are about to experience. Remember Canines for Christ is the "ministry of presence" as we come along side of people in the midst of their pain and suffering.

As events unfold, always keep a close eye on media reports to find out where the victim's are being treated, and where the staging area is for the reunification of family members. Also, do not forget about the police, fire fighters, first responders and 911 dispatchers as these are our "Hidden Heroes" who see and experience trauma we will never see.

On this, your mission to respond, first, remember that about 70% of the people all around you, everywhere could be dealing with a personal crisis, even over and above this traumatic event. Number two, we're followers of Christ. We're all ambassadors and ministers of God's hope. And third, the Bible tells us, "As the Father is sending Jesus, He is sending you."

So, what do you do? When you are prepared, bring your vested dog, your ID's, cards and wear your C4C shirt and then you can participate in the ministry of emotional and spiritual care through listening, practical assistance, and offering hope to demonstrate God's love. The dog will open doors for you to touch people with God's amazing comfort, compassion and unconditional love. He will show you what to do...and you do not need to say much..just show them that you care. Chaplain's Statement: "Building caring relationships with the hope of gaining permission to share the life changing good news of Jesus Christ." Don't go in waving the Bible. That comes later. Love Them. Help Them. Offer Hope.

Consider STRESS FIRST AID (SFA), a flexible, multi-step process for the timely assessment and preclinical care of stress reactions or injuries in individuals or units with the goals to preserve life, prevent further harm, and promote recovery.

-Primary Aid focuses on safety and calming to save lives and prevent further harm.

-Secondary Aid guides individuals, peers, leaders, and caregivers to work together to promote recovery or facilitate appropriate referral for, further evaluation or treatment.

SFA Evidence Support: "Five essential Elements of Immediate and Mid-term Mass Trauma Intervention

1. Promote sense of safety
2. Promote calming
3. Promote connectedness
4. Promote sense of self and collective efficacy
5. Promote hope

7C's Stress First-Aid Model

1. CHECK: Assess, observe, and listen PRIMARY AID
2. COORDINATE: Get help, refer as needed
3. COVER: Get to safety ASAP

4. CALM: Relax, slow down, refocus
 5. CONNECT: Get support from others
 6. COMPETENCE: Restore effectiveness
 7. CONFIDENCE: Restore self-esteem and hope
- SECONDARY AID

Crisis Response to Violence

1. Resulting trauma can affect anyone, even those not there
2. Be there for the victim – Presence
3. Respect Autonomy if they wish to be left alone
4. Do not use clichés No small talk Use your gifts
5. Do not assume you understand what the victim is feeling
6. Do not minimize the victim's pain or its meaning
7. Prevent isolation "You're not alone" (support, "normalize" response)
8. Most importantly, pray for the victim – with them if they would like