



## Compassion Coalition

### Ways to Connect with Spiritual Wholeness in Christ

*“I’m constantly dealing with issues that are surface issues--needs like clothing or food, violence or drug involvement. Once we manage these problems, then real change means getting to the spiritual root.”*

*- Crystal Collins, Farragut Christian Church*

#### **Make a Difference through Prayer**

- Pray for local missionaries to be empowered with the wisdom, compassion, patience and resources to serve as God's ambassadors in Knoxville.
- Pray for chaplains ministering to people in hospitals, hospices, and other arenas where people are experiencing trauma and distress.
- Ask God to bring to mind someone who is in need of salvation or inner healing. Pray for that person daily, and look for ways to bless and encourage them, until you see a change in their life.
- As you read the local news, pray for the individuals involved in the stories. Ask God how you or your church might make a difference.

#### **Make a Difference through Your Life**

- If you are not experiencing spiritual wholeness in your own life – if you hunger for a relationship with God that brings healing, peace, joy and purpose – turn to Jesus. Whether you've never attended church or you've been a life-long member, we all need to be personally restored by the Savior.
- Connect with a foster care agency, juvenile court, or bankruptcy court and make yourself available to serve as a prayerful, loving presence – for example, showing up as an advocate for a teenager at a court hearing. You don't have to bring any special skills or resources. Just knowing that someone is there for them, ready to listen and to pray, can mean a lot to folks going through a difficult time.
- Be careful not to dismiss people who seem to have rejected Christ or the church. Who knows how others in their past may have abused, deceived, intimidated or condemned them in the name of God? Patiently continue to plant seeds of love and faith in their life, and trust in the transforming work of the Spirit.

#### **Make a Difference Through Your Church**

- Is your church ministering to the whole person? If your church already has a ministry of compassion that meets needs for food, furniture, emergency assistance, etc., consider how to adapt the ministry to address people's spiritual needs as well. One way is by offering opportunities for prayer, worship, Bible studies, spiritual friendships, and biblical counseling.
- Train church members in evangelism and spiritual counseling so that they will be equipped to share the good news of the Gospel with the people God brings into their



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path.

- "Words ring hollow without actions to back them up." How is your church backing up its proclamation of the Gospel with loving actions? Look for practical ways to show people outside the church how much God loves them, and continue walking alongside people even if they don't appear interested in your church.
- Start a ministry of intercessory prayer for individuals outside the church who need healing and salvation.
- Start a biblically-based recovery group at the church for people struggling with addictions. Two examples are Genesis Recovery Groups (contact Mosaic Community Church at 865-385-7708 for information) and Celebrate Recovery (find resources and guidelines at <http://www.celebraterecovery-se.com>).
- Reach out to those in the community who have been spiritually wounded by negative past experiences with churches or Christians. This kind of ministry requires tremendous patience, gentleness and discernment.
- Offer spiritual support to a non-faith-based nonprofit doing good work in your community – offer the services of a chaplain to clients, staff and volunteers, write encouraging notes to staff/volunteers thanking them for their work, ask for prayer requests, offer to donate Bibles and Christian literature, offer the use of church space for meetings, invite clients and staff to participate in church ministries such as youth groups and Bible studies.
- Consider whether your church has a budget and a plan for investing in the harvest field of Knoxville, alongside international missions.

### **Make a Difference as a Volunteer**

Connect with the following organization that assists people in their search for spiritual wholeness:

Knoxville Inner City Kids Outreach, Inc.: 865-523-4956, <http://www.kicko.org>

*KICKO hosts nine "Sunday" Schools every week for over 700 inner city kids, focusing on evangelism and youth discipleship.*

- Mature adults are needed to build relationships with children in the youth development program by imparting wisdom and Christian values on a weekly basis.
- Hand out promotional material, assist with games, teach, or simply love and hug the kids.
- Families: KICKO offers a great opportunity for shared family ministry – parents can help out with Sunday School activities, and kids can join in the fun and worship while making new friends!

The Royal Chaplain Corps: 865-455-7769, <http://www.royalchaplaincorps.com>

*Supports first responders and their crews, and Knox county juvenile court staff and clients. Stands ready to minister to people who are in distress due to trauma such as*



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*accidents, death in the family, divorce, or financial difficulty.*

- Ride along with a chaplain to gain a first-hand perspective on the needs in our city.
- Help with “Royal Appreciation Days” that are offered to court staff and small companies who are trying to make a difference.
- Become equipped and certified to be a volunteer chaplain or chaplain’s assistant in a time of need.
- Become part of the “Royal Prayer and Support Team” to faithfully intercede for the chaplains and the work they do.

### **Additional organizations that help people journey toward spiritual wholeness in Christ:**

Bridge Building Ministries: 865-947-2494, <http://www.joneargleministries.org>

*A ministry of God’s restoring love that seeks to heal the brokenhearted and to set people free wherever they are spiritually and emotionally held captive. Teaches the Father’s love through books, tapes, seminars, and workshops to help people experience all God has for them.*

Freedom in Christ Ministries: 865-342-4000, <http://www.ficm.org>

*Provides resources and training to churches for "Discipleship Counseling" that helps wounded individuals, struggling marriages/families, and anyone desiring greater wholeness to discover freedom based on their identity in Christ.*

Jesus Centered Ministries: 865-406-6275, <http://www.jcmmissions.com>

*Encourages churches to reach out to housing projects and low-income neighborhoods to reach the lost for Christ, through door-to-door witnessing, vacation Bible schools, Christian clowns and drama, and open air crusades.*

The Well (First Baptist Concord): 865-966-9791, <http://www.fbconcord.org>

*Helps single moms discover how Scripture serves as a practical guide to life, and encourages them to daily put God at the center of their household to receive strength and wisdom for the challenges of parenting alone.*

### **How to Learn More**

- The Royal Chaplain Corps (<http://www.royalchaplaincorps.com>, 865-455-7769) trains and equips men and women by providing various classes and certification including Nouthetic Field Traumatology.
- Teen Challenge (865-546-8933) offers biblically-based educational programs for the general public, from Bible studies to anger-management classes.



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