

## CRISIS MINISTRY TO ISBC CHURCH FAMILY

*“Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.” Psalm 23:4*

### **Statement of Policy and Procedures:**

Crises take on many faces. Usually we associate crises with “bad” situations such as deaths, illness, and other significant losses. However, there are other situations that create significant stress that are generally considered to be “good” events. Examples of good crises are birth and adoption of a child, weddings, birthdays, anniversaries, moving to a new house or other significant changes in lifestyle. Each crisis situation (good or bad) is a ministry opportunity for our church.

While we attempt to treat each situation with appropriate equity of ministry response, we cannot meet needs that are not known to us. Therefore, it is most important that the church office, deacons, Sunday School Class or Department Directors, and/or church pastoral staff be informed of these crisis situations as soon as possible.

.01 Ministries of this nature are targeted primarily to church family members and their immediate families. As used in this document, “Church Family Members” are people who are official church members AND those persons who are *de facto members* by reason of long-term regular attendance. For example, some individuals and families regularly attend Indian Springs Baptist Church and participate in most activities (except those requiring church membership) but have not opted to formally become members. These individuals and families would be classified as *de facto members* and would be ministered to in the same way the church ministers to those who are officially members. (As a note of clarification, *de facto members* are not eligible to serve as Sunday School Teachers, Deacons, Trustees, nor would they be allowed to vote on church business issues.)

.02 The term “immediate families” would include spouses, children, siblings, and parents (there are occasions when an aunt, uncle or grandparent had filled the parenting role and these would be considered the same as parents). The breadth of inclusion of immediate family members depends on the ministry opportunities. For example, those immediate family members to which the church would respond might be different for “deaths of family members” than that for “illness of family members.”

.03 In the chart that appears on the next page, typical examples of ministry opportunities are shown along with response normally taken and to whom the ministry is directed. Because Sunday School Classes are usually most aware of ministry needs, the first response is best handled by the adult class (or department in the case of Pre-school, Children, or Youth Sunday School Departments) most closely associate with the impacted member.

### CRISIS MINISTRY CHART

SITUATION	MINISTRY	FOR WHOM	BY WHOM
Weddings	Bridal Shower	Members*, children of members	Sunday School Class: of Bride or Parents of Bride or Groom. Friends
Births/Adoptions	Baby Shower	Members, children of members	Sunday School Class: of Mother. Friends of Mother
	Meals to home		
Birthdays	Announcements	Members	Office Staff
Anniversaries (By request only)	Announcements	Members	Office Staff
Illness and Surgery	Prayer Ministry Requests Pastoral/Deacon Visits	Unlimited  Members, spouses, children and parents in the home. Upon request: other relatives	Office Staff  Pastoral Staff and Deacons
	Meals to Home	Members and immediate family living in their household.	Sunday School if Member attends SS; otherwise, Food Committee
Death	Prayer Ministry Requests Pastoral/Deacon Visits	Unlimited  Members, spouses, children and parents in the home. Upon request: other relatives	Office Staff  Pastoral Staff and Deacons
	Meals to Home	Members and immediate family living in their household. Parents living in this area.	Sunday School if Member attends SS; otherwise, Food Committee
	Memorial Gideon Bibles	Members, spouses, children, siblings, and parents	Office Staff

\* Each occurrence of Members would also include *de facto members*.

.04 Examples:

1. Mrs. Smith is a member of ISBC and is a member of the Grace Sunday School Class for ladies. Mr. Smith is not a member. Mr. Smith has a heart attack and is hospitalized. The Grace Sunday School Class would normally take food to the Smith home to assist the family during this time of crisis. Prayer Requests are distributed by the Office Staff. Visit in the hospital and/or home by the Pastoral Staff and/or Deacon on Call.
2. Mrs. Jones is also a member of Grace Sunday School Class. Her daughter Melanie is a senior in college and does not attend church at ISBC. She plans to be married. The groom is from another town. The Grace Sunday School Class would normally plan, promote and sponsor a wedding shower for Melanie.
3. Mrs. Smith's mother who lived in Blountville passed away. The Grace Sunday School Class would take a meal to the Smith home during this crisis time. The Office Staff would send out a Prayer Request. A pastor or deacon would normally visit in the home or at the time the family receives friends or family.
4. Mrs. Jones' son is also away at college in Knoxville. He was hospitalized for minor surgery at Baptist Hospital in Knoxville. Traditionally, no meal would be taken to the home. Prayer Requests would be made by the Office Staff.
5. Mr. Jones is a member of Men's Bible Class. His father who lived in South Carolina passed away. Condolences would be included in the Sunday Bulletin and flowers (or memorial gift) sent to the funeral home.
6. Betty teaches in the Children's Department. Betty had surgery and will be recuperating at home for about one week. Meals and other helps would be taken to Betty's home by her fellow teachers in the Children's Sunday School Department. (Coordination of such arrangements can be handled by co-teachers or by the Department Director.)

In general, ministry (other than flowers or memorial gifts) is handled by a Sunday School Class associated with the impacted member. In the event that a "crisis situation" arises involving a Sunday School Teacher or worker in the Pre-School, Children's or Youth Sunday School Departments, the Department Director would be the most likely person to know of the situation and should rally fellow teachers in that Department to respond as they would in an Adult Sunday School Class.

If the impacted member is not in a Sunday School Class, two approaches are possible:

1. The Food Committee would arrange for meals to be taken to the home at appropriate intervals until the crisis is abated.
2. The Food Committee would find an appropriate Sunday School Class that would be willing to take on this ministry.