

Christadelphian
Support
Network



"TO SUPPORT THE WEAK" [April 1981]

The Beginnings

- Established 38 years ago in 1981
- Response to a crisis
- Follow up correspondence in the Christadelphian Magazine

Dear Brother Nicholls,

A group of brethren and sisters are feeling concerned that some of our community, faced with contemporary problems, tend to seek help from outside agencies rather than turn to the community for assistance in a context of Christian love. There are various possible reasons for this: not knowing anyone in the meeting qualified to deal with a particular problem, a feeling of guilt that such a problem has arisen for a Christadelphian, a lack of sufficient empathy with any known brother or sister to enable one to go to them in confidence, a spiritual crisis in a previously sound brother or sister.

The sort of problems that we have in mind, and which sadly can arise, are: problems of marital disturbance, families and marriages under stress, friendships in and out of the community, old age, bereavement, loneliness, moral weakness, addition, and other recent problems arising from redundancy, unemployment and illness. Some of these problems are really desperate for spiritual strengthening. In the Lord, we ought to be able to help one another, brother or sister.

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suggested...
 or retreats. Any other...

The meeting at Birmingham on February 21, 1981, on the subject of "The Meeting by Modern Medicine" demonstrated that there are many concerned members of our community, and indeed the specific question of Christadelphian support was raised from the audience. It seems, then, an appropriate time for a wider discussion of this topic.

Paul exhorted the Galatians to "bear one another's burdens and so fulfil the law of Christ". In this spirit, can we help others to see their burdens as blessings and their problems as challenges, so that together we may all experience the Lord's saving grace?

Letters please to Brother D. Monk, "Lynam Croft", Over Lane, Hazelwood, Derby DE6 4AG.

Your brethren and sisters in Christ,

N. & M. Fitchett, M. Fitchett, S. Harris, M. Howarth, D. & M. Monk, D. & I. Parry, N. & A. Yockney

Our Mission:

Underpinned by the faith we share, the CSN aims to:

- 👤 Offer loving support and guidance at difficult times of life*
- 👤 Raise awareness of problems we face in life and encourage compassionate care in our community*

Is there a need for the CSN?

- “If we have a problem it is our responsibility to deal with it - not the Support Network”.
- “Any member of our ecclesia can approach the recording brother for help”.
- “We don’t have problems in our ecclesia”.

Why can't the ecclesia meet the need?

Reasons that have been given include...

- Lack of specialised or professional knowledge in the ecclesia
- Personal embarrassment
- Feelings of guilt
- Lack of confidence
- Fear of rejection
- Feelings of worthlessness

Where can they go?

- The Samaritans
- Their Doctor with referral to a counsellor
- The Local Authority
- Search Google?
- Nowhere

OR a brother or sister with

- professional experience or someone who has experienced similar difficulties
- ...and who shares your faith

Our Aim is

- To provide a confidential caring service which complements the existing pastoral care already available in the ecclesia
- By offering “a listening ear” and the opportunity to receive skilled support.

The Organisation

- Coordinating Committee of Trustees
- Helpline volunteers
 - Listen & suggest appropriate help(er)
- Second line Volunteers
 - Offer help and support from:-
 - Professional expertise
 - Personal experience

The Organisation Responsibilities


- Charity Commission
- Trustee responsibilities
- Safeguarding children and vulnerable adults
- GDPR – Data Protection - Managing our database of members and contacts
- Web Site update Resources and event bookings



Statement of Confidentiality

The Support Network is aware of the supreme importance of confidentiality, when calls for help are received, everything that is discussed will remain anonymous and confidential

Only excepting when there is a vulnerable adult or child at risk when we are ethically bound to disclose information



Over the years help has been sought from the CSN in all areas of life...

- Marriage & Relationships
- Families and Children
- Health & Mental health
- Employment, Financial Affairs & Debt
- Ecclesial Support

The Helpline

- A rota of 10 bros & sis
- Voicemail when unavailable
- Trained in listening skills and procedures
- Listening & supporting to establish needs
- Then refer on for specialist help & experience

- Email help: help@chsn.org.uk

- Helpline number **0800 9545 099** Option 1

The Prayerline

- A nationwide telephone network of volunteer brothers and sisters who pray for others in need
- To encourage prayer for and with each other as part of our fellowship
- All messages are treated in strict confidence with members of the Prayerline team
- Prayerline number **0800 9545 099** Option 2

Awareness Days

To increase understanding on topics and issues. Recent and upcoming subjects:-

- Safeguarding Training for Ecclesias/Camps
- Domestic Violence and Coercive control
- Life After Marriage Breakdown
- Children with Special Needs
- Caring for Others
- Relationships & Sexuality
- Loneliness

Publications

- Matters of Personal Sexuality
- Fellowship Matters - thoughts on fellowship and membership
- Dealing with Depression
- Caring Matters - Supporting the Aged
- Behind the Scenes - understanding disputes and disagreements
- Leaving Home
- Alcohol and Drug abuse
- Marriage Matters – a pre marriage resource

Getting involved

- Become a member
- Spread your knowledge
 - Tell others CSN exists
 - Put others in touch for help
- Your ecclesia to host a meeting
- Pray for those helping and those in need