



## *Caring and Compassion Conference*

Christian Health Care Center

September 17 and 18, 2010

## WORKSHOP LEADER BIOGRAPHIES

### ***Keynote Speaker***

Rev. James Kok, DMin, is Director of Care Ministry for Crystal Cathedral Congregation in Garden Grove, CA. He has been an ordained minister of the Christian Reformed Church in America for 35 years and speaks extensively throughout the United States and Canada. During his ministry Rev. Dr. Kok has specialized in the training of lay men and women, pastors, and theological students in the art of caring and counseling, first at Pine Rest Christian Hospital in Grand Rapids, MI, and now at the Crystal Cathedral. Rev. Dr. Kok is an accredited supervisor in clinical pastoral education, a program which trains seminarians in the pastoral side of ministry. He has conducted Caring and Kindness conferences at the Crystal Cathedral for more than a decade. His conferences have drawn participants from throughout the United States and the world.

### ***Workshop Leaders***

■ **Karl Benzio, MD**, psychiatrist, biomedical engineer, recovering addict, international speaker, and media guest expert, is the founder and director of Lighthouse Network, a non-profit organization that equips individuals to spiritually, psychologically, and biologically renew their minds. Dr. Benzio established Lighthouse Psychiatry in Doylestown, PA, to provide psychiatry and counseling services utilizing a Christian approach to mental health, addiction, life skills, and personal-growth issues. He has developed a BioPsychoSpiritual approach to therapy and has taught at pastor's conferences in Uganda and Kenya, as well as spearheaded a unique Katrina relief effort.

*Workshop – Addiction Recovery*

■ **Rev. Kathy Jo Blaske** is a chaplain at Christian Health Care Center, ministering to seniors in independent living, assisted living, and adult day care. Prior to her present position, Rev. Blaske served as Minister of Christian Education at Third Reformed Church, Holland, MI; Minister for Leadership Development in Albany Synod; and as a specialized interim minister. She has a breadth of pastoral experience related to deaths at all age stages from children to seniors and to diverse causes of death, including suicide, disease, accident, and age.

*Workshop – Approaching Death with Faith*

■ **Christine Byma** is a master's-level art therapist in the outpatient drug and alcohol and mental-health programs at Sobriety Through Outpatient Inc., Philadelphia, PA. She facilitates both drug and alcohol and dual-diagnosis art therapy groups using a variety of media including, but not limited to, painting, drawing, sculpture, collage, and 3-D work. She also participates in a perinatal and post-partum depression training provided by Drexel University, Philadelphia. She is affiliated with the American Art Therapy Association, New York Art Therapy Association, and Delaware Valley Art Therapy Association.

*Workshop – The Role of Art Therapy in Healing*

■ **Rev. Peter H. Carey, DMin**, is pastor of Wallington Presbyterian Church, Wallington, NJ, as well as director of its Parish Nursing Interfaith Program. He is the staff Protestant chaplain at St. Mary's Hospital, Passaic. Rev. Dr. Carey's doctor of ministry degree developed the concept of the spiritual volunteer to visit hospice patients. He offers ongoing grief counseling, education, and support groups to the community.

*Workshop – Journey Through Grief*

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■ **Rev. Kathleen Edwards Chase**, with a spiritual foundation in meditation and experience in contemplative Christianity, finds the thread of commonality in religions that emphasize self-awareness leading to action. Rev. Chase is the senior pastor of First Reformed Church of Pompton Plains in North Jersey and the former pastor of Woodstock Reformed Church, Woodstock, NY. She holds a journalism degree from the University of Oklahoma, a master of divinity degree from Princeton Theological Seminary in New Jersey, and did post-masters work at the University of Utrecht in the Netherlands.

*Workshop – The Force of Kindness: Compassion In Action*

■ **Pastor Susan Dorward** is a commissioned pastor in the Reformed Church in America and chaplain of Eastern Christian Children’s Retreat, Wyckoff, NJ, a residential organization for individuals with developmental disabilities. Her ministry experience began with a prayer ministry in her local congregation. This ministry included healing touch, anointing with oil, guided meditations, and other methods of prayer to draw people closer to God.

*Workshop – Healing: Body, Mind, and Spirit*

■ **Rev. E.J. Emerson**, an ordained minister in the Reformed Church in America, has significant personal experience as a patient, family member, friend, and clergyperson to patients with cancer and other life-threatening and/or disabling illnesses. Pastor of the Reformed Church of Keyport, Rev. Emerson also works as a technical writer for a worldwide biotechnology laboratory-equipment manufacturer. She holds a master’s degree in French (with studies in France) from Middlebury College in Vermont and a master of divinity degree from New Brunswick Theological Seminary in New Jersey. Rev. Emerson has led numerous workshops on such topics as understanding the Belhar Confession, what it means to be an elder, writing poetry, and journaling. She is a former adjunct professor of English composition, literary criticism, and public speaking. Her first poetry chapbook, “The Full Heart Speaks,” was recently published.

*Workshop – I Don’t Wanna Talk About It: Dealing with Unspeakable Illness*

■ **Dave Glaser, LCSW**, has been a practicing psychotherapist for more than 30 years, with expertise in a wide range of individual, couple, and family issues. Mr. Glaser employs a practical, down-to-earth, results-oriented approach and focuses on the areas of parenting problems, stress management, couples counseling, divorce, and substance abuse. He also consults with corporations and the US government on health issues. Previously, Mr. Glaser directed a busy children’s mental-health clinic, coordinated substance-abuse services for a major suburban hospital, and managed the employee-assistance program for numerous national corporations.

*Workshop – Teenage Depression and Suicide*

■ **Rev. Howard L. Hinman** is an ordained United Church of Christ minister. He served in parish ministry for 26 years in Montana, New England, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey before becoming the Director of Pastoral Care at Chilton Memorial Hospital, Pompton Plains, NJ. His work with terminally ill patients has included end-of-life spiritual care centered on life story, forgiveness, repentance, and the meaning of life. Rev. Hinman holds a master of divinity degree from Union Theological Seminary, Richmond, VA, and a master of arts degree in counseling from Saint Joseph College in West Hartford, CT. He is a board-certified chaplain of the Association of Professional Chaplains.

*Workshop – An Empty Place at the Table: Reflections on End-of-Life Spiritual Care*

■ **Anne Lisciotto, LCSW, MSW**, a therapist at Christian Health Care Counseling Center, Wyckoff, NJ, has worked in the field of mental health for the last 10 years. Prior to her current position, Ms. Lisciotto was a psychiatric social worker on an adult inpatient unit at Bergen Regional Medical Center.

*Workshop – An Overview of Depression*

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■ **Michael A. Manna** received a law degree from Boston College Law School and is the senior partner specializing in elder law at Michael A. Manna & Associates, PC, Ridgewood, NJ, and Pearl River, NY. He has extensive experience as a lecturer on legal topics and is a member of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys and the Elder Law Committees for the Bergen County Bar Association and New Jersey State Bar Association. Mr. Manna has served on the faculty of the New Jersey Institute for Continuing Education, an organization dedicated to the education of attorneys.

*Workshops – Elder Law/Medicaid  
Questions and Answers on Current Elder Issues*

■ **Amy Matthews** is the Associate Director of Late-stage Dementia Care, Education and Outreach, for the Alzheimer's Association Greater New Jersey Chapter. She is responsible for all professional and family education programs on moderate- to late-stage dementia for 14 counties. In addition to her bachelor's degree from Mount Vernon College, Ms. Matthews has a certificate in aging from Brookdale Center on Aging of Hunter College. She has a diverse background, including positions as an in-home care provider, activity director, education and training coordinator, and executive director of an Alzheimer-specific assisted-living facility.

*Workshop – Defining Dementia*

■ **Roland A. Petit** is the author of “*Transformation for Life: Healing and Growth for Adult Children of Alcoholics and Others.*” He has led, and continues to lead, scores of self-help groups; is a lay minister of pastoral care at First Reformed Church in Pompton Plains, NJ; an ordained elder in the Reformed Church in America; and has been an interfaith minister and communications/training and development manager at one of the world's largest corporations. Mr. Petit has served on the presidential award-winning CONTACT crisis-intervention hotline and has been on television in the U.S. and Japan. He also has appeared in various printed publications. He holds a master's degree from Fairleigh Dickinson University.

*Workshop – Delivering Healing and Growth for Adult Children of Alcoholics*

■ **Janet Pfeiffer**, internationally known speaker and award-winning author, is an instructor and program director at a battered-women's shelter and day-care center. She is a former columnist for the *Daily Record*, hosts her own cable-television show, is a former co-host of a radio talk show, and has been a contributing writer to numerous magazines. A leading authority in the field of anger management and conflict resolution, Ms. Pfeiffer serves as a consultant to such companies as the U.S. Army, U.S. Postal Service, AT&T, Hoffman-LaRoche, Rutgers University, Carnival Cruise Lines, United Way, YWCA, New Jersey Education Association, CareOne, and William Paterson University. She has spoken at the United Nations, Notre Dame University, and YWCA National Week Without Violence Campaign, and is a member of the National Police Suicide Foundation. Ms. Pfeiffer is a frequent guest on radio and television, and is the founder of The Antidote to Anger anger-management support group.

*Workshops – The Healing Power of Forgiveness  
Be Not Afraid: Turning to God in Times of Fear and Uncertainty*

■ **Jonathan Picache** is managing partner of ComForcare Home Care Services in Northeast Bergen County. This franchise provides in-home assistance with activities of daily living for seniors and disabled individuals of all ages by licensed, bonded, and insured caregivers throughout Bergen and Passaic counties and the surrounding area.

*Workshop – Keep Them Home and Keep Them Safe*

■ **Ellen Ratmeyer** is the Coordinator of Consistory Training and Ministry Services for the Reformed Church in America (RCA), working in the RCA's New York office. She is responsible for the development of training and resources that encourage consistories to sharpen their ministry focus, develop new skills, and stimulate new ministry concepts. Ms. Ratmeyer also supports the ministry of RCA chaplains. She is a certified spiritual director and an ordained elder. Her own yearning for a deepening spirituality has provided a growing interest in nurturing the spiritual well-being of others.

*Workshops – The Ministry of Prayer  
So You've Been Asked to Make Visits*

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■ **Sonia C. Reyes, LCSW**, graduated from Adelphi University and has post-graduate certification from Fordham University for the Treatment of Sexually Abused Families and their Perpetrators. She specializes in childhood emotional trauma, incest, and dissociation. Ms. Reyes helped develop and provides in her private practice a therapeutic cognitive behavior-modification group for adult female incest survivors. She is a member of the National Association of Social Workers, International Society for the Studies of Trauma and Dissociation, and Association for Prevention of Sexual Abuse of Children.

*Workshop – How to Help and Safeguard Your Child from Abuse*

■ **Rev. Andrew Rienstra, DMin, and Mae Rienstra**, have volunteered many years in various county and statewide organizations to assist the mentally ill, drawn to the work because of their experience with their daughter, who was diagnosed with schizoaffective disorder. Rev. Dr. Rienstra is the retired senior pastor at First Reformed Church, Pompton Plains, NJ. He has a doctor of ministry degree from Princeton Seminary in New Jersey and served for 32 years as an Air Force chaplain on both active duty and in the reserves. He has also served as chaplain to the Pequannock police department and first-aid squad, and presently serves as senior pastor to retired Reformed Church pastors in North Jersey and Pennsylvania. Mrs. Rienstra was a real-estate agent and assisted New Bridge Services in securing housing for clients.

*Workshop – Dealing with Family Mental Illness*

■ **Al Santino** has been serving in community-development ministries in the New York City area since 1986. From 1986 to 1990 he worked with Here's Life New York, the inner-city arm of Campus Crusade for Christ, developing discipleship ministries and support groups for people with life-controlling problems. In 1990, he founded and was director of Help House, a residential program for men recovering from substance abuse, homelessness, prison consequences, and related issues. In 1999, he helped launch the Bronx Christian Study Center, which provided a biblical curriculum as well as GED tutoring and remedial education for adults. In 2004 he became Church and Community Consultant for the Northeast region of the Christian Reformed World Relief Committee. This includes serving as director of the Northeast Community Transformation which helps equip churches and holistic organizations for the work of community development and social justice. He has a master's degree in biblical studies and a doctor of ministry degree from Erskine Theological Seminary. He and his wife are on the leadership team of Open Door Fellowship, a new church plant in East Harlem, NY.

*Workshop – It Takes a Community to Bring Healing*

■ **Marion Spranger, RN**, is Assistant Director of Parish Nursing Interfaith Training and Outreach Inc., based at Wallington Presbyterian Church, Wallington, NJ. For 15 years she has worked to develop a model of holistic care that provides services to community members in need. Ms. Spranger has taught courses on parish nursing, volunteer training, and stress and coping. In the past she has been certified as a hospice nurse and has community-health experience. Currently she runs two prayer groups/prayer chains and is deeply committed to encouraging spiritual growth.

*Workshops – Equipping the Volunteer*

*Staying Whole in the Midst of Brokenness*

■ **Yvonne Zuidema, MSW**, has served as President of United Way of Passaic County since 2000. She is a graduate of Calvin College in Michigan and has a master's degree in social work administration from Rutgers University in New Jersey.

*Workshop – Resources When You Don't Know Where to Turn*

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