

Care Receivers Speak

Here are testimonies from recent LCAC Care Receivers on their experiences with Stephen Ministry:

1. "To anyone needing encouraging information about Stephen Ministry, I can highly recommend this. My needs were mostly emotional and marriage related. I spent one year with one Minister, meeting once weekly with the occasional breaks for holidays and other urgent commitments. Each meeting was useful, sometimes painful, but always promising something better. My minister was very patient and a very good listener. If she was not sure about a certain issue, she would recommend where to find the advice I needed. Each week, we designed a plan of action. I kept a journal and marked each item: completed, in progress or failed, when we met again. After two years, my behaviour changed, my life turned around and I now feel like a new person thanks to God and my Stephen Minister."
2. "Having a Stephen Minister in my life has been such a blessing. With finances being tight, and paid counselling sessions now an occasional treat instead of an ongoing routine, this ministry has really filled a need in my life. The Stephen Minister walks with me; listens to me; thoughtfully shares; and prays with me. Meeting with her is something that I really look forward to. It is a gift to be on the receiving end of heartfelt care, and I am so thankful that I was matched with someone so skilled. I would recommend Stephen Ministry to anyone needing to process pain and difficulty in their life."

3. I recently went through a tough time and loss in my life. I wasn't sure how I was going to handle the place that I had gotten myself into. One day while in church I was dealing with confusion, condemnation and regret and someone asked if I had ever considered going to Stephen Ministries. For my particular situation I wasn't crazy about going to a female so I immediately ruled it out. This particular person suggested that LCA has male ministers as well. I was immediately interested and gave this person permission to begin the process. I gave in my name, details etc and within a short time I was contacted.

I met with a Stephen Minister for coffee at first every couple of weeks. He would ask me how I was doing, listen to me share my pain and confusion and basically walk with me on the road I was on. He gave me some homework assignments which were very helpful. Assignments to look deeper into who I was and whose I was, and more importantly, who God really is. As we walked through this time of mourning, loss, and confusion, I received more and more healing. Our meetings then moved to once a month and eventually once every 2 months until I was good to carry on without the meetings.

We still meet for a coffee every once in awhile just to catch up and enjoy each other.

Thank you to Stephen Ministries and especially to my particular minister.