



Application Booklet for Affiliation

August 1, 2008

Dear Potential Somebody Cares® Member:

Synergism is a phenomenon we encounter in nature where the result of the union of parts exceeds the sum of those parts. In other words, the effect of “one plus one” far exceeds “two”. I am personally grateful for your commitment to the Lord, to the Body of Christ and your burden for the lost. When churches and ministries such as yours join together for the cause of Christ, the synergistic result of their cooperative efforts on the community far exceeds that of their individual efforts. This is “unity with a purpose”. This is the Somebody Cares® movement.

The concepts God has developed in the Somebody Cares® network form a key. It is a very special key – one that has been 20 years in the making. It is a key He forged through the cooperative efforts of many believers co-laboring across racial and denominational lines with a purpose: to see God honored and souls added to His kingdom – for His glory and His alone.

This application booklet explains the various relationships available in the Somebody Cares® network so you can consider what how God would have you connect.

If you believe that it is time for unity with purpose in your area and would like to pursue the development of a Somebody Cares® chapter, Somebody Cares® center, or a ministry partnership with Somebody Cares; please read through this booklet and begin the appropriate application process. We would be happy to meet with you and the other local ministers who would be part of the founding group in person or over the phone if that would be helpful to you. If travel is required, we ask that travel and lodging be provided by the host city.

Thank you, and if you would like more information, or if you have questions after reading this booklet, please feel free to contact us at our National Headquarters in Houston, TX.

Your fellow servant,

J. Doug Stringer
Founder and President
Somebody Cares®
A ministry of Turning Point Ministries International

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Somebody Cares®

We at Somebody Cares® believe in **unity with a purpose!** To facilitate this, Somebody Cares America/International (SCA/I) **leads, equips, empowers and encourages the Church to become a unified and tangible expression of Christ to the world for lasting impact.** A 501 (c)3 non-profit organization, SCA/I was founded by Doug Stringer and birthed out of Turning Point Ministries International.

Somebody Cares values: unified prayer, active compassion, evangelism, discipleship, grass-root efforts, servant leadership, moral integrity/Godly character, and authentic relationships. Through cooperative, grass-roots efforts, communities are being transformed and the Church is coming together as one. SCA/I believes that as Christians we need *to become part of something bigger than ourselves;* which is the basis for the growing network God is drawing together to bring transformation to individual lives and communities.

Joining the Network

SCA is always excited when like-minded churches, ministries, individuals or organizations desire to join the network. There are various types of membership including: Ministry Partner, Somebody Cares Center, and Somebody Cares Chapters. Each carries unique relational responsibilities and benefits but ALL bring Glory to God!

In order to assist you in determining which type of relationship would serve you and your community best, a brief description of each is included below.

Somebody Cares Chapters

Somebody Cares Chapters are networks of churches, independent compassion ministries missionaries/missions organizations, evangelists or other individuals in ministry, market-place ministers/businessmen, and laity who join together to serve their community on a regular basis through compassion, prayer and outreach events. These networks desire a synergistic relationship with SCA and want to have a visible connection by using the Somebody Cares “Community Name” as their network/coalition/organization name.

Chapters have some permission to use the Somebody Cares logo and other trademarks in accordance with SCA/I guidelines. Chapters are invited to attend various trainings (in person, via phone or on-line), are included in disaster response initiatives (if they desire), and have access to counsel, training resources, and other relational support when needed, and are visited periodically by SCA/I representatives. They are listed in the SCA/I website. And they also have permission to use their Somebody Cares association for fundraising, promotional and outreach purposes in accordance with guidelines. Chapters also help promote Somebody Cares activities and training resources to others and offer assistance to the network as they are able. The registration fee for initial start-up of a Chapter is \$2,500 upon approval of the Board. **This includes admittance for 3 chapter leaders to the required Somebody Cares chapter training.** Chapters have an annual renewal fee of \$1,500 and are responsible for donating a minimum of 2% of funds raised using the Somebody Cares marks back to SCA on a monthly or quarterly basis.

Somebody Cares Centers

Somebody Cares Centers (to be referred to as SCC(s)) are individuals or entities who have their own ministry/church identification but desire to partner with SCA in regards to their compassion ministry within their communities. Somebody Cares Centers want to have a visible connection by using the Somebody Cares Center name, logo, and other trademarks. A SCC understands that this partnership forms a powerful bond which will create a synergism that can't be accomplished when standing alone. A SCC understands that the fruit of this relationship will ensure greater effectiveness in bringing transformation to their community.

SCCs are invited to attend various trainings (in person, via phone or on-line), are included in disaster response initiatives (if they desire), and have access to counsel, training resources, and other relational support when needed. They are listed on the SCA website. And they also have limited permission to use their Somebody Cares association for fundraising, promotional and outreach purposes. SCCs also help promote Somebody Cares activities and training resources to others and offer assistance to the network as they are able. SCCs have an annual registration fee of \$250 or \$500 (depending on the size of the organization), and are responsible for donating a minimum of 2% of funds raised using the Somebody Cares marks back to SCA on a monthly or quarterly basis.

Ministry Partners

Ministry Partners are churches, organizations, individuals in ministry, businessmen, professionals (athletes, musicians, medical etc...) which desire a synergistic relationship with SCA/I but do not need to or intend to use the Somebody Cares name, logo, or other trademarks for fundraising, organizing, promotional or other purposes. Ministry Partners are invited to attend various trainings (in person, via phone or on-line), are included in disaster response initiatives (if they desire), and have access to counsel, training resources, and other relational support when needed. And they are listed on the SCA website. Ministry Partners also help promote Somebody Cares activities and training resources to others and offer assistance to the network as they are able. Ministry Partners are asked to be financial donors to SCA with a minimum annual contribution of \$250.

SCA/I is committed to doing all we can in order to equip, empower and encourage Somebody Cares Chapters, Somebody Cares Centers and Ministry Partners so that lives and communities can be transformed in Christ's name.

Core Values of the Network

Any network must have foundational values to which members subscribe and to which they adhere. The core values of the Somebody Cares Network are Unity, Servanthood and Faith. Those who are a part of the Somebody Cares network are called to embrace them.

The Call to Unity

Somebody Cares America recognizes that unity is the vital ingredient to any relationship. Unity in relationship can be best described as having 'three cord strength'. Without the inter-twining of the three cords, the strength of the relationship can be easily broken. These three cords are: *Common Trust, Common Vision, and Common Information*. SCA pledges to embrace and protect these three vital cords of unity with all network partners.

The Cord of Common Trust

The ability to trust someone, beyond any doubt, is next to impossible without God's grace. *Common trust* begins within our hearts when we willingly choose to trust. The biblical principles upon which we base our willingness to trust is best put forth in Paul's letter to the Corinthian believers:

1 Corinthians 13:1-7

13:1 If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.

2 And if I have the gift of prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.

3 And if I give all my possessions to feed the poor, and if I deliver my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing.

4 Love is patient, love is kind, and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant,

5 does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered,

6 does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth;

7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. NASB

The Bible challenges us to trust one another in all things. All Somebody Cares Chapters, Centers and Ministry Partners are charged with the responsibility to protect the *cord of common trust* between you and SCA/I. There will always be matters that need clarification but if the goal of common trust is embraced by SCA/I and network partners the relationship will remain strong.

The Cord of Common Vision

The great diversity in the Body of Christ is indeed a reflection into the heart of God. In fact, that diversity is one of the many strengths of the Body. The Bible is very clear that even though there is exciting diversity in the Body, members of the Body must embrace the *cord of common vision*.

From its earliest days Somebody Cares America/International has embraced the principle that the most effective way to bring God's transforming love to any community is through acts of compassion. Nothing is closer to the heart of God than caring for the orphan, the widow, and the disenfranchised (James 1:27).

Those who are part of the Somebody Cares network are required to embrace the *Cord of Common Vision* which is best represented in the great commission of our Lord, Jesus Christ. It was He that commanded his disciples to go into the entire world and make disciples by teaching them the very things that He had taught. He also commanded them to baptize their converts in the name of the Father, the Son, Jesus, and the Holy Ghost (Mathew 28:19-20).

SCA/I recognizes that every Chapter, Center and Ministry Partner will have its own distinctiveness, but must embrace a heart for the hurting and lost as one of their core values. This is what is meant by embracing the *cord of common vision*.

SCA pledges to assist partners through its wide variety of resources in order that they may be as effective as possible in reaching the hurting and lost of their region.

The Cord of Common Information

Common information is the third cord in the *cords of unity*. Any relationship calls for complete transparency. When a relationship is based upon common trust and common vision, the flow of common information is quite natural. Common information is understood to be anything that is vital to the unity between SCA/I and a local partners. When common information flows between SCA/I and the many Chapters, Centers and Ministry Partners, the likelihood of miscommunication will be greatly diminished. SCA/I will provide on-going information to network partners on training opportunities and resources as well as network connections and prayer concerns among other things. Network partners should provide updates on activities, outreaches, ministry opportunities, and prayer concerns among other things.

The Call to Servanthood

“While men reach for thrones to build their own kingdoms, Jesus reached for a towel and washed men's feet.” J. Doug Stringer

Somebody Cares America/International, as an organization, embraces the principle of *servanthood*. SCA/I exists for the distinct privilege of serving the Body of Christ and those less fortunate in society. A servant

makes no demands, claims no honor, nor expects the accolades of man (Matthew 20:28; Philippians 2:6-8). Those who join the Somebody Cares network must understand and live out this principle as well.

The Call to a Common Faith

Somebody Cares America is a Christian, evangelical organization that embraces the doctrine of historic Christianity. SCA recognizes that the Body of Christ is much diversified in its theologies and methodologies. As stated earlier, this diversity should be seen as strength rather than a 'stumbling block'. Our statement of faith is considered 'main stream evangelical' and allows for diversity.

Statement of Faith

- We believe in one true God, eternally existent in three persons: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. These three persons have the same nature, attributes and perfection.
God the Father—God has revealed himself as the eternal, self-existent creator of Heaven and Earth. In Him is perfect love, forgiveness, justice and eternal life.
God the Son—Jesus Christ is God's only Son. Christ was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary and lived a perfect, sinless life. He performed many miracles, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified as the substitutionary atonement for the sin of mankind, was buried, and on the third day His physical body literally rose from the dead. Then He ascended into heaven and now sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. His present ministry is intercession on our behalf and from there He will come to judge the living and the dead.
God the Holy Spirit—God works in the present and continues to minister through His Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit indwells, convicts, forgives, regenerates, cleanses and empowers the Christian believer for a life of holiness and useful service to God and humanity.
- We believe the Old and New Testaments of the Bible to be the authoritative, inerrant and complete Word of God, inspired by the Holy Spirit. The Bible reveals God's truth to people of every age.
- We believe that man was created in the image of God, but was separated from God by sin. We believe that all men will be judged, and that accepting Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord is the only way that Salvation can be attained. We believe that Jesus Christ is the only savior for mankind. He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life, and no one comes to the Father except through Him. Therefore, we believe in Salvation by grace, a free gift from God apart from works.
- We believe in the forgiveness of sins. God graciously justifies and regenerates by the Holy Spirit all who trust in Christ through repentance from sin and confession of faith.
- We believe in resurrection for all men – those who have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ to eternal life in Heaven and those who choose to reject Jesus Christ to eternal damnation.
- We believe in the holy Christian church. The church is the people of God, comprised of all those who believe in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. The church is the body of Christ, visible in the world wherever Christian believers, in obedience of faith, worship together, hear the word of God preached and live daily as disciples of Christ.

Relational Opportunities in the Network

There is huge power in networking which grows exponentially when the focus and goal is Christ. Those involved in the SCA/I network gain the opportunity for:

Prayer Support

All Chapters, Centers and Ministry Partners are encouraged to communicate their prayer requests to SCA/I. Our intercession ministry stands ready to assist you at any time. You may make your request by calling the office or by email at prayer@somebodycares.org. You may also email other members of the SCA network.

Collaborative Synergism – A Net that Works

“Become a part of something bigger than yourself.” The SCA slogan underlines the significance of our relationships.

As a part of this vast network of churches, ministries, and other organizations, we are linked together to fulfill the ‘Commission’ (Matthew 28:19). The Bible clearly states that the power of multiplication is enhanced when men of God pool their energies, talents and, at times, their possessions. That is why the Somebody Cares network is created to be a NET THAT WORKS rather than a traditional network through which little, if anything, is accomplished.

Doug Stringer says “we should not come together in unity for unity’s sake. We must come together in unity for His purpose.” So Somebody Cares works to “mend the net” of believers so we are ready for the greatest in-gathering yet to come! God is increasingly giving us missions that can only be accomplished by working together with other believers. When we unite together, seeking God’s strategy and power, there will indeed be amazing fruit. Uniting together we must commit ourselves to His purpose and prepare people for His coming. This is our privilege and calling.

Being a part of this network becomes very relevant anytime you plan an outreach or have a disaster in your community. You can benefit from this network if you need wisdom, practical assistance, or prayer.

Opportunities to Serve/Lend Support

Those who are part of the Somebody Cares network also have the opportunity to reach out and offer assistance to other members of the SCA/I network. You may be contacted by other members needing your help. It is evident that words like, *servicing*, *giving*, and *receiving* best describe the opportunities among the member-SCA/I network.

Relational Responsibilities to the Network

In order meet the rising costs of providing support to the growing Somebody Cares network, SCA/I is challenging all of our networked partners to assist us in meeting our monthly and annual budgets. Please notice the following monetary policies we are now suggesting:

Processing and Annual Renewal Fees

(a). *Application Processing* fee: \$75 for all new applications

(b). *Annual Fees:*

Somebody Cares Chapters - \$1,500 (\$2,500 the first year)

Somebody Cares Centers - \$500 (if budget >= \$50K) \$250 (if budget <\$50K)

Ministry Partners - \$250

If supporting SCA/I is already a part of your mission's budget, and it meets or exceeds the annual fee, your annual fee can be waived. Please contact SCA/I if this applicable.

Compassion Outreach/Special Event Donation (First Fruits Offering)

Somebody Cares America/I suggests a donation of 2% or more of the money raised using the Somebody Cares name and or trademark by Chapters and Centers be sent to SCA/I. The 2% or more donation is suggested when fundraising for on-going compassion ministry or a specific event meets the following criteria:

- When a Somebody Cares logo or trademark was used in fundraising for the event.
- When the partnership with SCA was included visually or in written or verbal attempts to raise funds for the event.
- If the money raised was community-based and was not part of an organization's regular missions account.

The 2% or more donation of funds raised should be forwarded on to SCA/I on a monthly or quarterly basis.

SCA/I believes there is tremendous blessing for individuals and organizations that follow the biblical admonition of giving a First Fruits offering of all they receive. The requested donation outlined above is born out of that belief. To see a broader explanation of the First Fruits Offering please see Appendix.

Intentional Relationship Building

Since the SCA network is built upon authentic relationships, each network partner must be intentional in fostering a growing relationship with SCA/I. This includes attendance in at-least one SCA/I sponsored conference, summit or outreach each year as well as participation in at least one phone conference quarterly with SCA/I representatives. SCA/I will endeavor to make as many involvement opportunities available as possible so that it is easy to connect with the network and build these relationships with the national team as well as other network members.

A Brief History

How it all began...

The concept of Somebody Cares® began in the early days of Turning Point Ministries International (TPMI). In 1981, Doug Stringer took to the streets armed with a passion for souls and a simple business card that read, “*Somebody cares. Call 24 hours a day.... A true witness rescues lives. Prov. 14:25.*” A phone number was given to call for help. The business card, along with Christian literature and tracts, was distributed by individuals and through the various outreaches of the ministry.

Cooperative efforts in the Body of Christ...

Over time, relationships formed with other ministries and churches that were active in attempting to reach their communities with the love and gospel of Christ. Eventually, joint outreaches grew out of these relationships, including Jericho Marches (prayer walks and witnessing) at rock concerts, Jericho Drives around the city, seasonal outreaches providing benevolence assistance, street feeds during the holiday season, evangelistic outreaches utilizing music, drama and a gospel presentation. It was exciting to see the Church of Houston working together. A particularly poignant time of unity was birthed out of a season called “40 Days at Prayer Mountain” during which the Body of Christ in Houston joined together for 40 days of prayer, fasting and worship. After that time churches across the city began to see new converts coming through their doors at a rate not seen before. A principle was in action, **the kingdom of God is built on relationship and evangelism is the outcome of relationship**. The cooperative efforts were and continue to be effective. As TPMI continued their involvement in local outreaches, networking grew with area ministries, particularly those working at a grass-roots level.

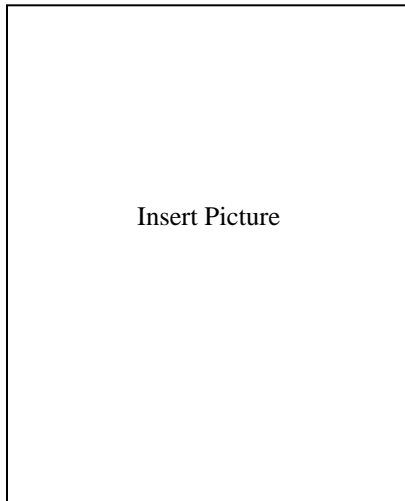
Somebody Cares® Houston...

Somebody Cares® Houston was not only the natural, but also the necessary outgrowth of the relationships established over the years. Originally established as the local outreach arm of TPMI, the on going evangelistic and discipleship efforts continued and networking with area churches and ministries grew.

Somebody Cares® America...

Seeing the effectiveness of Somebody Cares Houston on the nation’s fourth largest city, pastors and ministry leaders around the nation in relation with Doug Stringer and TPMI requested information on starting SCA chapters in their own areas. Not long after, inquiries began coming in from other countries as well. As of 2008, SCA /I chapters now range from coast to coast across the United States as well as in the Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Europe, and South America!

Outreach Arms of the Network



- **Benevolence**
Food pantry and assistance ministry (depending on availability) to needy individuals and to area residential discipleship programs.
- **Community Assessment and Outreach Planning**
SCA/I has a community assessment tool to help identify specific needs in your target community as well as walk you through a process for planning effective outreach to that community.
- **Somebody Cares and Doug Stringer Outreaches**
Special events designed to facilitate and enhance the work of the local church; from Bible distribution campaigns to open air meetings.
- **Disaster Response and Training**
SCA/I respond to disasters on a local, national and international scale. When one community suffers, members of the network in other communities rally to provide assistance to those responding to needs where the disaster occurred. Another key component SCA/I offers is training in disaster preparedness so that the church is ready to let the next disaster “be an opportunity for our testimony.”
- **English as a Second Language (ESL)**
English language classes offered for those whose native tongue is not English. This is an opportunity to minister to felt needs, promote crime prevention, and share the gospel of Jesus Christ to a “foreign” mission field within our own country.
- **Hands On Training**
Ongoing hands-on discipleship and ministry experience through interaction with affiliated churches and ministries. Opportunities include one-on-one evangelism, short-term service opportunities to prepare those who want to serve full-time, door to door prayer and witnessing, and outreaches at special events, malls, parks, etc. No experience necessary – led by individuals in various areas around the city.
- **Holiday and Periodic Outreaches**
Special events and special outreaches during holiday seasons offer those in the Church the opportunity to reach out to lost people through benevolence and the Word of God.
- **Jericho Marches and Drives (Prayer Initiatives)**
From prayer walks around concerts to prayer drives around the city or specified areas, discerning and tearing down spiritual strongholds that keep it in bondage.
- **Lifeskills Training**
Computer classes and other employment related training offered in a loving and supportive environment help those who are unemployed or under-employed gain the job and life skills necessary to support themselves and their families -- giving them a new way of life and hope!
- **Multiplication**
As a community that wants to join the SCA/I network identifies and establishes relationship with key ministers and pastors already reaching out in the community, a meeting time is set. A representative or representatives from the home office for Somebody Cares® can come address the group and cover

the key concepts that make the Somebody Cares movement such a powerful force in transformation. SCA/I can help facilitate the vision for that community and under gird existing efforts and strategies to network the Body and reach the Lost.

- **Networking Locally/Nationally/Internationally**

No one church or ministry can do it all. So Somebody Cares® created a Compassion Referral Directory available to all network partners so when needs arise Somebody Cares really can be the net that works!

- **Prayer Line**

One of the primary outreach tools that launched SCA/I was the distribution of cards offering 24 hour prayer. That is still an integral part of the SCA/I DNA. One of the network partners is the Somebody Cares Prayer and Compassion Referral Hotline which offers a plan and training for setting up a volunteer prayer line in your community if you so desire.

- **Speakers Bureau for Outreach Seminars, Church and Youth Services**

SCA/I offers a number of speakers who can share the vision and their experience with your church or groups. Topics may range from casting a vision for SCA/I like partnerships to Urban Missions, to working with at risk youth, to how your church can establish any one of the programs offered by one of our chapters or ministry partners.

- **Youth Guidance Consultants (YGC)**

A program designed to reach at-risk youth in the school setting; offers classroom and hands-on training in dealing with at-risk youth. Adopted by the HPD Community Outreach Division as an effective method for dealing with these types of youth.

What Others Are Saying...

“How thrilling to see how God has unified His body in Houston, largely under the inspiration and leadership of Doug Stringer and Somebody Cares® to win people to Christ. Doug is helping to lead a movement in that wonderful city that is truly unprecedented, and a real model to other cities. You will be encouraged as well as be sobered with their insights and practical steps that lead to genuine spiritual awakening.”

The Late Dr. Bill Bright
Founder and President,
Campus Crusade for Christ International

“Congratulations on the distribution of 50,000 area-specific Bibles and your kick-off event. I sent a copy of the new Bible to Mayor Lanier and know that he will appreciate your efforts on behalf of all Houstonians.”

Kim Ogg
Director, Houston Mayor’s Anti-Gang Office

“Doug’s endeavor to reach out to others is creating relationships with those who are like-minded. These relationships are establishing a network that is spanning the United States while gaining the attention of not only the church, but governmental agencies as well.”

Hank Marion
Senior Pastor, New Haven House of Prayer
Houston, Texas

“Doug Stringer is the driving dynamic behind Somebody Cares®. Under the touch of the Spirit of God, he has moved into an arena of divinely given influence that has affected the uniting of hundreds of congregations... and brought about immensely wonderful and awesomely powerful things... as God views “powerful”. Doug Stringer is a voice for unity... believing today’s cities and their need can be conquered for the glory of God.

Jack Hayford
Senior Pastor, Church on the Way
Van Nuys, California

“I would like to personally congratulate you on being selected to the 1995 Barbara Jordan Leadership/Humanitarian Award for Religion. This is an important honor and reflects admirably on you, your fine character and many outstanding abilities. On behalf of Harris County Precinct Four, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to you for your leadership efforts in our community.”

Jerry Eversole
County Commissioner, Precinct Four
Harris County, Texas

“The Lord has given Doug Stringer and Somebody Cares® a blueprint that is transforming the fourth largest city in America and spreading around the country and the globe. It’s time for a marriage of heart commitment to Jesus with the fulfillment and purpose found in unity and servanthood. Doug and Somebody Cares® embody them both and shows how it can happen to you and your church.”

Che Ahn, D. Min.
Senior Pastor, Harvest Rock Church
President, Harvest International Ministries
Los Angeles, California

“I’m very encouraged by the approach that this ministry and other ministries are taking. I firmly believe that this is the hope of this generation.... I know I speak on behalf of all the law enforcement officers of this department in encouraging you to continue your work.”

Former Police Chief Sam Nuchia
Houston Police Department

“The concept of reaching your city is exploding across the globe and has caught up with one of its pioneers. Doug Stringer has been implementing and carrying the vision of a citywide church in Houston for almost twenty years. Doug Stringer was a city reacher before city reaching was cool.

Daniel Bernard
Executive Director, Somebody Cares® Tampa Bay

“I appreciate your work with the Police Department and the Council on gangs. I think that’s some of the most important work anyone could do.”

Former Mayor Bob Lanier
City of Houston

“I saw the seeds being sown through Doug’s ministry years ago to what has now become ‘Somebody Cares®’. We will continue to see it work as Somebody Cares® America spreads to cities across the nation and possibly around the world.”

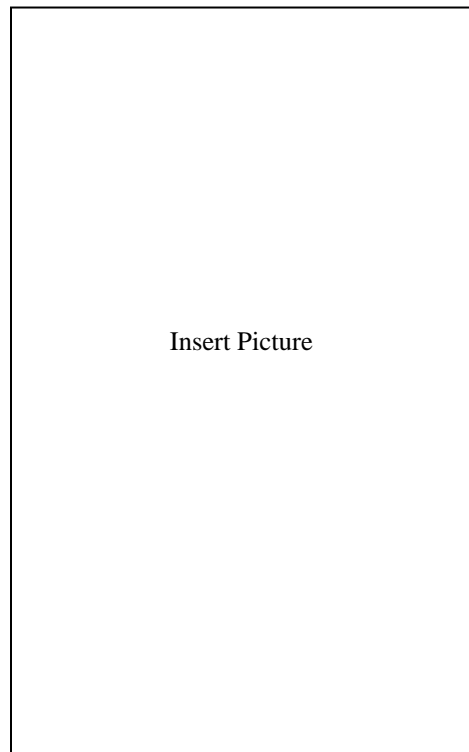
Roger L. Helle
Executive Director, Teen Challenge of the Mid-South,
Chattanooga, Tennessee

“As Chief of Police, my primary responsibility is providing the citizens of Houston with the best possible law enforcement services. I look forward to this challenge every day. I am certain that Mr. Stringer’s latest production, Coat of Many Colors, will not only benefit me in this capacity, but in my personal life as well. I wish you and Turning Point Ministries International the best in your endeavors.”

Chief of Police C. O. Bradford
City of Houston Police Department

“Somebody Cares® Houston is drawing the broadest range of Christian leaders together that the city of Houston has ever seen. Pastors from every ethnic background and denominational tradition are coming together. The result – God is uniting His church in Houston and a revival is underway.”

Jim Herrington
Director, Mission Houston



“My life as a Christian has been strengthened because of the network of the Somebody Cares® Advisory Committee I serve on. I need to be accountable and these brothers are important in my life. I have someone I can be directly accountable to and someone I can pray with. I feel God directing me and changing my life.”

Max Torres
CrossRoad Youth Ministry

“As a member of the Houston media, I believe it is very important for the Body of Christ to be well informed of God’s work through His people. Somebody Cares® Houston/Somebody Cares® America provides such a vehicle through the dedicated leadership of Doug Stringer who is one of the greatest proponents of Christ-centered unity in our generation. Somebody Cares® is one of the largest, most far-reaching and valuable networks available to the Christian community that I’m aware of. Further, it is a powerful tool in the hands of Almighty God as He works in and through us to achieve unity with a purpose.”

Kimberly Kossie
Community Relations Director KSBJ Radio
Houston, Texas

Becoming A Somebody Cares® Chapter

As defined earlier in this booklet, Somebody Cares Chapters are networks of churches, independent compassion ministries missionaries/missions organizations, evangelists or other individuals in ministry, market-place ministers/businessmen, and laity who join together to serve their community on a regular basis through compassion, prayer and evangelistic events. These networks desire a synergistic relationship with SCA and want to have a visible connection by using the Somebody Cares “Community Name” as their network/coalition/organization name.

In order to form a Somebody Cares Chapter in your community you must complete the application process and be approved by the Somebody Cares America/Intl Board. It is only after SCA/I Board approval that you may begin using the Somebody Cares name, logo and association as established in the operational guidelines provided to each approved Chapter.

Application Process

1. Letter of Intent – The first step in the application process is to send a Letter of Intent including the proposed community you desire to cover and your contact information as well as signed copies of the Somebody Cares Statement of Faith and Covenant of Unity to:

Somebody Cares
Network Development
PO Box 570007
Houston, TX 77257

(Keep a duplicate copy of all forms you submit to SCA.) . Feel free to call us for assistance also.

When the Letter of Intent is received someone from the Somebody Cares office will contact you to answer questions and help you through the rest of the process.

2. Complete Application – The next step is to complete the Chapter Application in detail. We have included a series of worksheets on the following pages to assist those desiring to start a Somebody Cares Chapter. The worksheets correspond with the enclosed video and will help formulate a solid core group which can help you complete the application. Once completed, send the application, along with a \$75 processing fee to the same address as your Letter of Intent.
3. The processing fee of \$75 must accompany forms. If forms are faxed they will not be processed until annual fee is received.
4. Participate in a phone or in person review with a Somebody Cares representative. The representative will also call references to get a full picture of the community and the groups desiring Chapter status.
5. Applicants who meet all SCA requirements will be recommended to the Board for approval.
6. Once Board approval is received, applicant will be notified and the initial year’s fee of \$2,500 AND SIGNED Licensing and Operating Agreement are then due. (Review agreement in Appendix).
7. The new Somebody Cares Chapter will receive a certificate of membership as well as a Somebody Cares Handbook upon receipt of the annual fee.

Worksheet #1 Mending the Net

Please view the Somebody Cares Documentary video as well as read the Somebody Cares book and then fill in the following blanks.

Somebody Cares® is a belief that _____ people across the world.

Somebody Cares® is a _____ of Jesus that shows the lost that there is hope in Christ.

Somebody Cares® serves the community with the _____ of Christ.

Somebody Cares® _____ the Body of Christ in “unity with a purpose”.

According to founder J. Doug Stringer, Somebody Cares® identifies rather than creates what he calls “_____ ministries” – those who are active in the community, ordained of God, but who may be without the necessary resources. Each SCA member brings their _____ to the table, helping one another.

Personal Moses Ministry List

List at least five area churches with whom you have relationship.

| | |
|-------|-------|
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |

List at least five area churches with whom you *do not* have relationship, but who are know to you to be active in the ministry of the gospel in their neighborhood.

| | |
|-------|-------|
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |

List at least five ministries in your area with whom you have relationship or known to you. This could include Benevolence/Assistance, Drug and Alcohol Rehab, Residential Discipleship Programs, Evangelism Ministries, etc.

| | |
|-------|-------|
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |

Plan of Action

Although we recognize and encourage reliance upon the Spirit of God in all endeavors, we have found that there must be a basic plan of action in all endeavors. It has been said, “Fail to plan, plan to fail”. In this section you will find a basic outline to be followed in establishing and developing the groundwork for a SCA chapter in your area. The Plan of Action is broken into three parts:

- Prayer – individual, corporate and city-wide prayer strategies,
- Planning – committees and monthly meetings, and
- Programs – outreaches and resource referrals (This part is included in the Somebody Cares Handbook that is sent to Chapters approved for association.)

Prayer

Everything Starts With Prayer

Historically, since the day of Pentecost, there has been no great move of God that has not been initiated by the prayers of the saints. Each SCA chapter must be founded and framed in prayer.

Preparation

Whoever would undertake such a task must first prepare his/her own heart in prayer. Next, seek the Lord for those He is raising up. During Prayer Mountain, we adopted the slogan P.U.S.H. – Pray Until Something Happens. Founding members must be committed to praying through, individually and corporately, until the community experiences breakthroughs.

Identify those pastors, ministry and prayer ministry leaders who are committed to praying for your community. There may be some who are affiliated with pastoral association prayer groups. These may be individuals with who you are in relationship, or that are known to you but not in a specific relationship. Please list them below as the Lord brings them to your mind. (Use back if necessary.)

| | |
|-------|-------|
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |

These are the ones you will ask to join in prayer about the formation of a Somebody Cares® chapter.

Steps to Success:

1. **PREPARE:** Your group may be small in the beginning. Select those you know will be diligent and serious. Always remember the kingdom of God is built on relationships.
2. **INVITE:** Send your initial invitation to those ministers with whom there is an existing relationship or whom you know have a desire to network with other ministries. Include some of the gatekeepers of your community, leaders who are working on the front lines as well as those who are supportive of such work. It is fine to send a letter of invitation to this meeting, but be sure to follow up with a phone call or personal visit.
3. **PLAN:** Make sure those you invite agree with the essentials of the Christian faith. If they cannot agree with the Statement of Faith included in your packet, they should not become a part of your group. (It may seem unnecessary to include this, but in our city, some pastoral groups include non-

Christian religious sects. Some of these say they are Christian, but on further investigation have their beliefs rooted in eastern religions.)

4. **ASSIGN:** Through prayer, a Coordinator should be identified for the chapter. Prayer covering should be established as well and a group of intercessors should be identified at the onset. Prayer is fundamental and essential. Intercessors may not be in the foundational group of your SCA chapter, but should definitely be enlisted to cover the formation and progress of the group, even in these preliminary stages.
5. **ACT:** Pray not only for the organization of a SCA chapter, but the timing. Set goals, but be willing to wait on the Lord for final direction. Remember everything begins in prayer. Prayer strategy and coverage should be determined and discussed at your first Somebody Cares® chapter formulation meeting, at which time it will be imperative that you begin to pray over your city. Additional prayer strategies for the city are included in the Somebody Cares Handbook provided to approved Chapters.

Beginning with the first exploratory prayer meeting, begin filling in Worksheet #2, found on the following page. This will help you identify those to invite to the first chapter meeting, as well as provide you with a guideline for expanding your contacts as the chapter grows.

When everyone is convinced that it is God's will and timing for your city to begin a Somebody Cares® affiliate chapter, please take the time to fill in the Application included in the Documents folder of this packet. Please be sure to include the signatures of more than one pastor, minister, and/or leader of that area.

Worksheet #2 Contact List

Please complete the following to help you know who to contact when planning the organizational meeting for a local Somebody Cares® chapter.

What is your reason for starting an affiliate chapter of the Somebody Cares® America/Intl Network? “For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.” (I Cor. 3:11) Jesus Christ must be central. True unity and the synergism necessary to reach any community will come as Jesus Christ is kept as the central focus of our efforts.

Which churches/ministries are recognized as the gatekeepers of your city? Identify and include those ministries who are impacting the community and who are known for their ability to network with existing churches and ministries. These “gatekeepers” should at least be in the organizational group, if they are not the originator(s) of the project.

| | |
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| <hr/> | <hr/> |
| <hr/> | <hr/> |
| <hr/> | <hr/> |

Which groups are actively reaching their communities? Those ministering on the “front lines” would include ministries, which are actively involved in outreach to their community. These groups have moved from the planning stage to the implementation stage. It would be advisable for the primary organizational members of an SCA/I chapter to be those who are already active.

| | |
|-------|-------|
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Which groups function as support groups? A church or ministry organization that is supportive of front-line ministry. These organizations are instrumental in communicating the vision and objectives of the Somebody Cares chapter. These organizations also are instrumental in targeted outreach projects. Assistance can include distribution and production of physical resources such as bibles, food and clothing distribution, media and others.

| | |
|-------|-------|
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You may either write on the back or you may want to use additional sheets as the Lord brings more individuals and organizations to mind.

Planning

From the initial prayer group, as well as from any others that are brought in over the course of your prayer time together, will need to come the Advisory and Steering Committees. These committees should be made up of local gatekeepers crossing denominational, racial and cultural lines.

The Advisory Committee

This committee should be made up of people who believe in what Somebody Cares® is doing. Though they may not be actively involved in the hands-on efforts, they desire to be a part by offering advice based upon their area of expertise. (*See sample letter, Appendix page i.*)

The Steering Committee

This committee will actually direct the course of your local Somebody Cares® chapter and will be instrumental in completing the Application. The Steering Committee will be expected to do the following:

- Decide how the local chapter is to be governed and organized.
- Attend quarterly Advisory Committee meetings. These meetings would coincide with the monthly Somebody Cares® ministers meetings.
- Attend as many of the monthly Somebody Cares® ministers meetings as possible.
- Participate on the Somebody Cares® Speakers' Bureau – to assist with requests to address groups locally and in other cities (expenses are covered by city/organization requesting a speaker).
- Assist in the expansion of the local Somebody Cares® chapter – helping to generate new members from those known in the community to be reaching out at a grass-roots level.
- Help with periodic calls and visits to current members of the network, making sure they are complying with guidelines and seeing areas in which they need assistance. A written report from these visits would be submitted to the central office of your Somebody Cares® chapter.
- Expect to give feedback and input to the national organization.
- *See sample letter, Appendix page ii.*

Initial Organizational Meeting

Once the Advisory and Steering Committees are in place, a date should be fixed for the initial meeting. Be sure to set a date that does not conflict with any known events or seasons (for example, there would not be a very large response to such a meeting during high activity outreach seasons such as Christmas.) Please find a sample letter for the initial meeting in the *Appendix, page iii.*

- **Create a Database**

The initial contact list from Worksheet #2 will provide the basis of your local SCA/I database. As participants and contacts are made for the organizational group and Advisory and Steering Committees, add their names to the database. Ask them for additional contacts, personal relationships that they believe might be interested in joining your local SCA/I group. Busy pastors may want to suggest an associate pastor or member of their congregation who can attend in their stead. At each meeting of your local SCA/I chapter, attendees should be encouraged to spread the news and invite others to attend.

- **Choosing the Location**

In the beginning, SCA/I formulation meetings should be held in neutral locations such as hotels or other multi-purpose meeting facilities. As the chapter develops and natural hesitancy and reservations decrease, individual churches may host the meetings to promote unity among participants and further tear down dividing lines.

- **Organization**

During the planning stages of the initial meeting, members of the Steering Committee should be designated to handle all areas of concern, including:

- Coordinator and Assistant Coordinator
- Set up at meeting site (sound equipment, display tables, etc.)
- Communications (Invitations to the initial meeting should include a list of Advisory and Steering Committee members to give invitees a point of reference. Follow up calls should be made.)
- Resources (Information packets should be made available explaining Somebody Cares® and the local chapter.)

- **Goals**

The initial meeting(s) should specifically provide a venue in which participants can find out as much as possible about Somebody Cares and the potential of having a local SCA/I chapter. Be sure to

- Inform other members of the services you are able to provide for the group. Clearly communicate that nothing is or will be done for the gain or benefit of any particular ministry. The goal is to work together for a common purpose – unifying the Body in their efforts to reach the Lost. It is an opportunity to bring the tools and resources you or another ministry may have to the table to assist others in their efforts. For example, offer information and materials free of charge, such as the Gang Identification and Intervention manual, newsletters, books, etc.
- Once approved as a Chapter you will be able to display the group logo, business cards, banners, etc. Make it clear that all participants will be able to utilize these tools as long as they adhere to standards of the organization. No personal fund raising will be allowed under the covering of the local Somebody Cares® chapter. (*See example, Appendix, page iv.*)
- Set up and present a Statement of Faith, Mission Statement and Covenant of Unity. For examples of these, see your Documents folder. It is important to bring unity to the Body of Christ; therefore these documents include the essentials of the faith upon which mainline denominational, evangelical and full-gospel denominations agree.
- Allow for a time of feedback and interaction at the end of the meeting. More than likely, there will be some needs that can be fulfilled and the intent of the affiliation can be demonstrated. Encourage lunch meetings afterward.
- Decide upon date of next meeting. Try maintaining continuity, for example: third Thursday of every month.

Worksheet #3 provides a checklist for your initial meeting.

Worksheet #3 Initial Meeting

___ Advisory Committee established

___ Steering Committee established

List those responsible in the following areas:

- Coordinator _____ Phone: _____
- Assist.Coordinator _____ Phone: _____
- Set up _____ Phone: _____
- Communications _____ Phone: _____
- Resources _____ Phone: _____

___ Database developed

Date of Meeting: _____

Locations possibilities:

| | |
|-------|-------|
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |

Final Location selected: _____

Contact Person: _____ Phone: _____

___ Invitations sent

___ Follow up calls made

___ Sound equipment arrangements and transport

___ Resources

___ Banners, logos, etc.

___ Informational materials

Monthly Meetings

Monthly pastors' meetings provide opportunities for ministers to dialogue about upcoming outreaches and needs in their own churches and ministries. These gatherings are comprised of ministers who are crossing the lines. Denominationally, there are representatives from Baptists to Lutherans, Assemblies of God to Methodists, non-denominational churches to Presbyterians. Culturally and racially there are African-Americans, Anglo-Americans, Central and South Americans, Chinese, Vietnamese, Indonesian, Japanese and Korean ministers typically coming together. Each meeting sends a message of unity – **unity with a purpose.**

Strategies for community-wide outreaches are developed as well. Working together at the grassroots level, “non-professionals” as well as full time ministers are afforded the opportunity for hands on ministry and lives are impacted with the Gospel as they see love in action. (*See sample invitation letter, Appendix, page v.*)

A planning checklist can be adapted from Worksheet #3.

Steps to Successfully Unify the Ministers

- Be sure each monthly meeting is well planned. The sponsoring group/members should be organized and on time. Be mindful of the participants' schedules!
- Allow for a time of fellowship at the meetings. Ten to fifteen minutes should suffice as attendees register and mix. Provide coffee and water if possible.
- Display the group logo, business cards, banners, etc. at all meetings once the chapter is officially approved.
- Provide a resource table where members can provide and pick up information regarding activities of the group and its participants.
- Call each meeting together with prayer and possibly a few worship/praise choruses.
- Although there should be one coordinator for the meetings (usually the local director) other members should be encouraged to participate throughout the meeting.
- Have a basic game plan, such as presentation of planned activities and projects.
- Allow for a time of feedback and interaction.
- Allow for sufficient time for corporate prayer for specific needs as well as citywide revival.
- Decide and /or announce the next meeting date. Regular meetings (e.g., monthly) on a specified day and at a specified time (e.g., third Tuesday, 10 AM) are usually best.

Somebody Cares® Chapter APPLICATION

(Include Forms A thru G)

(You may copy this application from the booklet. We will also be happy to e-mail you an electronic copy upon request.)

****When sending your application please remember to include a check or money order of \$75 made payable to Somebody Cares America.***

Desired Chapter Location (Country or City, State) : _____

Desired Chapter Name: _____

Primary Contact: _____

Contact Phones – Office: _____ Mobile: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Physical Address: _____

Briefly describe the organizational structure through which you desire to run financial, legal and other administrative functions of the requested Somebody Cares Chapter in your community.

Form A:

What is the current vision God has given the Steering Committee for a Somebody Cares Chapter in your community?

Signed by: _____

Date: _____

Position: _____

Form B:

Give a brief history of your relationship to Somebody Cares America/International.

Signed by: _____

Date: _____

Position: _____

Form C:

What is your statement of faith/core beliefs?

Signed by: _____

Date: _____

Position: _____

Form D:

List Steering Committee Members with Contact Information (Attach additional page if needed)

Name: _____ Position: _____

Business / Organization: _____

Phone – Office: _____ Mobile: _____ E-Mail: _____

Name: _____ Position: _____

Business / Organization: _____

Phone – Office: _____ Mobile: _____ E-Mail: _____

Name: _____ Position: _____

Business / Organization: _____

Phone – Office: _____ Mobile: _____ E-Mail: _____

Name: _____ Position: _____

Business / Organization: _____

Phone – Office: _____ Mobile: _____ E-Mail: _____

Name: _____ Position: _____

Business / Organization: _____

Phone – Office: _____ Mobile: _____ E-Mail: _____

Name: _____ Position: _____

Business / Organization: _____

Phone – Office: _____ Mobile: _____ E-Mail: _____

Name: _____ Position: _____

Business / Organization: _____

Phone – Office: _____ Mobile: _____ E-Mail: _____

Form E:

List Advisory Committee Members with Contact Information (Attach additional page if needed)

Name: _____ Position: _____

Business / Organization: _____

Phone – Office: _____ Mobile: _____ E-Mail: _____

Name: _____ Position: _____

Business / Organization: _____

Phone – Office: _____ Mobile: _____ E-Mail: _____

Name: _____ Position: _____

Business / Organization: _____

Phone – Office: _____ Mobile: _____ E-Mail: _____

Name: _____ Position: _____

Business / Organization: _____

Phone – Office: _____ Mobile: _____ E-Mail: _____

Name: _____ Position: _____

Business / Organization: _____

Phone – Office: _____ Mobile: _____ E-Mail: _____

Name: _____ Position: _____

Business / Organization: _____

Phone – Office: _____ Mobile: _____ E-Mail: _____

Name: _____ Position: _____

Business / Organization: _____

Phone – Office: _____ Mobile: _____ E-Mail: _____

Form F:
COVENANT OF UNITY
Somebody Cares[®] America/International

We believe Jesus Christ has one church, His beloved bride, for whom he gave Himself. The church of Jesus Christ in (Your city/country) _____ is comprised of many believers and congregations. Jesus has sanctified and cleansed His bride with the washing of the Word of God so that she might be presented to Him, a glorious church without spot or wrinkle.

Christ has committed the care, cleansing and preparation of the bride to us as shepherds. Endeavoring to keep unity of the spirit in the bond of peace, we solemnly and joyfully enter into this covenant, pledging that by God's grace we shall:

- Love God and the church fervently, doing all things in love.
- Pray for and encourage each other and our congregations/organizations on a regular basis.
- Speak well of one another at all times, especially in our preaching and teaching, putting to silence those who would be used by the adversary to spread evil reports among us.
- Hold one another accountable in regard to lifestyle, integrity and devotional life, meeting together regularly.
- Keep the bond of peace within the Body of Christ by seeking to resolve any conflict to the best of their ability in the spirit of humility and grace.
- Be real and transparent with one another, resisting the temptation to impress each other with our size, abilities or accomplishments.
- Advertise in a manner that is positive for the whole Bride of Christ and not self-promoting at the expense of other churches or ministries.
- Respect and pursue relationships with those who may be of different distinctives. We are crossing racial and denominational lines, meeting at the Cross. We believe in the essentials, unity; in the non-essentials, liberty; and in all things, love.
- Follow the Good Shepherd's example by giving our lives for God's flock.
- Prepare the Bride for the return of the bridegroom, Jesus Christ, by mobilizing our members and promoting area-wide strategies and programs designed to evangelize and impact our city and nation with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

“While men reach for thrones to build their own kingdoms, Jesus reached for a towel to wash men's feet.” Doug Stringer-Founder, Somebody Cares[®] America

Somebody Cares America/International is a Ministry of Turning Point Ministries International
P.O. Box 570007 Houston, TX. 77257-0007. Phone (713) 621-1498 Fax (713) 621-2076
E-mail: somebodycares@somebodycares.org Web Site: www.somebodycares.org

Yes, I would like to be a part of something bigger than myself and be a participating member of the Somebody Cares America Network. **(The remaining local Steering Committee members can sign the Covenant of Unity on the other side.)**

Name: _____

Church/Ministry _____ Date: _____

Form G:

AGREEMENTS

We, the undersigned, serve as a Steering Committee for the entity requesting Chapter status with Somebody Cares. If approved, we agree to:

- Pursue and maintain a strong relationship with the Somebody Cares headquarters team as well as other chapters and ministries within the Somebody Cares network.
- Have a representative in attendance at least once a year at a Somebody Cares America/International meeting, conference or outreach.
- Abide by policies and guidelines set forth by Somebody Cares America/International in the use of the name, logo and any other owned trademarks. (Once approved a License Agreement spelling out details of trademark usage will be provided for signature).
- Promptly and with the utmost integrity, send required funds and reports to the Somebody Cares office.
- Handle any disputes or offenses that may arise among ourselves or with Somebody Cares headquarters in accordance with the Matthew 18 principle in order to keep the bond of unity and peace.
- Pray regularly together for our city, nation, and the Somebody Cares network at large.

Steering Committee Signatures
(Additional signatures can be added to back of this page)

| | |
|-------|-------|
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |

END OF APPLICATION

Becoming A Somebody Cares® Center

As previously defined in this booklet, Somebody Cares Centers are individuals or entities who have their own ministry/church identification but desire to partner with SCA in regards to their compassion ministry within their communities. Somebody Cares Centers want to have a visible connection by using the Somebody Cares Center name, logo, and other trademarks. A SCC understands that this partnership forms a powerful bond which will create a synergism that can't be accomplished when standing alone. A SCC understands that the fruit of this relationship will ensure greater effectiveness in bringing transformation to their community.

SCCs are invited to attend various trainings; are included in disaster response initiatives (if desired); and have access to counsel, training resources, and other relational support when needed. They are listed on the SCA website, and they have limited permission to use their Somebody Cares association for fundraising, promotional and outreach purposes. SCCs also help promote Somebody Cares activities and training resources to others and offer assistance to the network as able. SCCs have an annual registration fee of \$250 or \$500 (depending on size of the organization), and are responsible for donating a minimum of 2% of funds raised using the Somebody Cares marks back to SCA on a monthly or quarterly basis.

The DNA of the Somebody Cares is “unity with a purpose”. All Somebody Cares Center should imbibe this by cultivating and supporting true relationships seeking unity in the Body of Christ across racial and denominational lines; even though they may not lead a unity effort.

If there is an established Somebody Cares ‘official’ Chapter within the same city or within a 60 mile radius of a SCC, the SCC is encouraged to establish a networking relationship with the Official Chapter. (An official Chapter is an established, fulltime network of ministries which affiliate with and operates under Somebody Cares’ legal and pastoral covering.)

Somebody Cares Center

Application Process

1. Letter of Intent – The first step is to send a Letter of Intent with a brief summary of your introduction to Somebody Cares as well as of your current ministry focus. Please also include your contact information and signed copies of the Somebody Cares Statement of Faith and Covenant of Unity to:
 - i. Somebody Cares
 - ii. Network Development
 - iii. PO Box 570007
 - iv. Houston, TX 77257

(Keep a duplicate copy of all forms you submit to SCA.) Feel free to call us for assistance also.

When the Letter of Intent is received someone from the Somebody Cares office will contact you to answer questions and help you through the rest of the process.

2. Complete Application – The next step is to complete the Center Application in detail and include a copy of your Board Minutes showing approval to pursue Somebody Cares association. Once completed, send the application, along with a \$75 processing fee to the above listed address. If forms are faxed they will not be processed until annual fee is received.
3. Participate in a phone or in person review with a Somebody Cares representative. References will also be called to get a full picture of your church or ministry.
4. Applicants who meet all SCA requirements will be recommended to the Board for approval.
5. Once Board approval is received, applicant will be notified and the initial, once a year fee of \$250 or \$500 AND SIGNED Licensing and Operational Agreement is then due. (Review Agreement in Appendix).
6. The new Somebody Cares Center will receive a certificate of membership as well as a Somebody Cares Handbook upon receipt of the annual fee.

Somebody Cares Center Application Form

(You may copy this application from the booklet. We will also be happy to e-mail you a copy on request.)

****When sending your application please remember to include a check or money order of \$75 made payable to Somebody Cares America.***

Name Church/Ministry : _____

Name of agent or legal representative _____

Contact Phones – Office: _____ Mobile: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Physical Address: _____

Employer identification number _____.

Briefly describe the size and scope of your Church or Ministry (where applicable include congregation size, annual budget, size of Board of Directors and other relevant information.)

If you are a ministry with a Board of Directors please describe how any discussions you have had with your Board members regarding affiliation with Somebody Cares.

Form A:

What is your current vision for compassion ministries or outreaches? Include current activities in this area.

Signed by: _____

Date: _____

Position: _____

Form B:

Why do you feel that establishing a Somebody Cares Center will augment your vision?

Signed by: _____

Date: _____

Position: _____

Form C:

Give a brief history of your relationship to Somebody Cares America.

Signed by: _____

Date: _____

Position: _____

Form D:

Give a brief history of church/ministry:

Signed by: _____

Date: _____

Position: _____

Form E:

What is your statement of faith/core beliefs?

Signed by: _____

Date: _____

Position: _____

FORM F:

Provide at least five references or ministries or ministers who are familiar with your church/ ministry. (Do not include staff or family members).

1. Name: _____

Position: _____

Church/Org: _____

Office Phone: _____ Other Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

2. Name: _____

Position: _____

Church/Org: _____

Office Phone: _____ Other Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

3. Name: _____

Position: _____

Church/Org: _____

Office Phone: _____ Other Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

4. Name: _____

Position: _____

Church/Org: _____

Office Phone: _____ Other Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

5. Name: _____

Position: _____

Church/Org: _____

Office Phone: _____ Other Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Comments regarding any of the references:

Signed by: _____

Date: _____

Position: _____

Becoming A Ministry Partner

As previously defined in this booklet, Ministry Partners are churches, organizations, individuals in ministry, businessmen, professionals (athletes, musicians, medical etc...) which desire a synergistic relationship with SCA/I but do not need to or intend to use the Somebody Cares name, logo, or other trademarks for fundraising, organizing, promotional or other purposes. Ministry Partners are invited to attend various trainings (in person, via phone or on-line), are included in disaster response initiatives (if they desire), and have access to counsel, training resources, and other relational support when needed. And they are listed on the SCA website. Ministry Partners also help promote Somebody Cares activities and training resources to others and offer assistance to the network as they are able. Ministry Partners are asked to be financial donors to SCA with a minimum annual contribution of \$250.

The DNA of the Somebody Cares is “unity with a purpose”. All Somebody Cares Ministry Partners should actively embrace this by cultivating and supporting true relationships; seeking unity in the Body of Christ across racial and denominational lines even though they may not lead a unity effort. Ministry Partners must also have a vibrant and growing relationship with Somebody Cares America/International. SCA/I has no desire or intention of having Ministry Partners in name only. As a relationship based ministry, relationship with ALL network partners is a vital and critical part of maintaining the Somebody Cares DNA.

If there is an established Somebody Cares ‘official’ Chapter within the same city or within a 60 mile radius of a Ministry Partner (MP), the MP is encouraged to establish a networking relationship with the Official Chapter. (An official Chapter is an established, fulltime network of ministries which affiliate with and operates under Somebody Cares’ legal and pastoral covering.)

Ministry Partner Application Process

1. Letter of Intent – The first step is to send a Letter of Intent with a brief summary of your relationship with Somebody Cares as well as of your current ministry focus. Please include your contact information and signed copies of the Somebody Cares Statement of Faith and Covenant of Unity to:

Somebody Cares
Network Development
PO Box 570007
Houston, TX 77257

(Keep a duplicate copy of all forms you submit to SCA.) Feel free to call us for assistance also.

When the Letter of Intent is received someone from the Somebody Cares office will contact you to answer questions and help you through the rest of the process.

2. Complete Application – Next, complete the Ministry Partner Application and send the application, along with a \$75 processing fee to the above listed address. If forms are faxed they will not be processed until annual fee is received.
3. Participate in a phone or in person review with a SCA/I representative. References will also be called. If you are already in relationship with Somebody Cares America/International this step may be bypassed.
4. Applicants who meet all SCA requirements will be notified and the initial, once a year fee of \$250 is then due.

Somebody Cares Ministry Partner Application Form

(You may copy this application from the booklet. We will also be happy to e-mail you a copy on request.)

****When sending your application please remember to include a check or money order of \$75 made payable to Somebody Cares America.***

Name Church/Ministry : _____

Name of agent or legal representative _____

Contact Phones – Office: _____ Mobile: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Physical Address: _____

Briefly describe the size, scope and focus of your Church, Ministry, Business, or Group.

Form A:

What is your current vision for compassion ministries, evangelism, prayer and/or unity building?
Include current activities in this area.

Signed by: _____

Date: _____

Position: _____

Form B:

How do you feel an official relationship with Somebody Cares will augment your vision?

Signed by: _____

Date: _____

Position: _____

Form C:

Give a brief history of your relationship to Somebody Cares America/International.

Signed by: _____

Date: _____

Position: _____

Form D:

What is your statement of faith/core beliefs?

Signed by: _____

Date: _____

Position: _____

FORM E:

Provide at least five references or ministries or ministers who are familiar with you. (Do not include staff or family members).

1. Name: _____

Position: _____

Church/Org: _____

Office Phone: _____ Other Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

2. Name: _____

Position: _____

Church/Org: _____

Office Phone: _____ Other Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

3. Name: _____

Position: _____

Church/Org: _____

Office Phone: _____ Other Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

4. Name: _____

Position: _____

Church/Org: _____

Office Phone: _____ Other Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

5. Name: _____

Position: _____

Church/Org: _____

Office Phone: _____ Other Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Comments regarding any of the references:

Signed by: _____

Date: _____

Position: _____

APPENDIX

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COVENANT OF UNITY

Somebody Cares[®] America/International

We believe Jesus Christ has one church, His beloved bride, for whom he gave Himself. The church of Jesus Christ in (Your city/country) _____ is comprised of many believers and congregations. Jesus has sanctified and cleansed His bride with the washing of the Word of God so that she might be presented to Him, a glorious church without spot or wrinkle.

Christ has committed the care, cleansing and preparation of the bride to us as shepherds. Endeavoring to keep unity of the spirit in the bond of peace, we solemnly and joyfully enter into this covenant, pledging that by God's grace we shall:

- Love God and the church fervently, doing all things in love.
- Pray for and encourage each other and our congregations/organizations on a regular basis.
- Speak well of one another at all times, especially in our preaching and teaching, putting to silence those who would be used by the adversary to spread evil reports among us.
- Hold one another accountable in regard to lifestyle, integrity and devotional life, meeting together regularly.
- Keep the bond of peace within the Body of Christ by seeking to resolve any conflict to the best of their ability in the spirit of humility and grace.
- Be real and transparent with one another, resisting the temptation to impress each other with our size, abilities or accomplishments.
- Advertise in a manner that is positive for the whole Bride of Christ and not self-promoting at the expense of other churches or ministries.
- Respect and pursue relationships with those who may be of different distinctives. We are crossing racial and denominational lines, meeting at the Cross. We believe in the essentials, unity; in the non-essentials, liberty; and in all things, love.
- Follow the Good Shepherd's example by giving our lives for God's flock.
- Prepare the Bride for the return of the bridegroom, Jesus Christ, by mobilizing our members and promoting area-wide strategies and programs designed to evangelize and impact our city and nation with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

“While men reach for thrones to build their own kingdoms, Jesus reached for a towel to wash men's feet.” Doug Stringer-Founder, Somebody Cares[®] America

Somebody Cares America/International is a Ministry of Turning Point Ministries International
P.O. Box 570007 Houston, TX. 77257-0007. Phone (713) 621-1498 Fax (713) 621-2076
E-mail: somebodycares@somebodycares.org Web Site: www.somebodycares.org

Yes, I would like to be a part of something bigger than myself and be a participating member of the Somebody Cares America Network. **(The remaining local Steering Committee members can sign the Covenant of Unity on the following page and/or reverse side.)**

Name: _____

Church/Ministry _____ Date: _____

COVENANT OF UNITY
Somebody Cares[®] America/International

“While men reach for thrones to build their own kingdoms, Jesus reached for a towel to wash men’s feet.” Doug Stringer-Founder, Somebody Cares[®] America

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Name: _____

Church/Ministry _____ Date: _____

Name: _____

Church/Ministry _____ Date: _____

Name: _____

Church/Ministry _____ Date: _____

Name: _____

Church/Ministry _____ Date: _____

Name: _____

Church/Ministry _____ Date: _____

Name: _____

Church/Ministry _____ Date: _____

Name: _____

Church/Ministry _____ Date: _____

Name: _____

Church/Ministry _____ Date: _____

Name: _____

Church/Ministry _____ Date: _____

FIRST FRUITS
Stewardship and Relationship
Based on teaching by Robert Henderson
(adapted for this manual by Jodie Chiricosta)

The First Fruits Principle is one established by God right from the start. By the time we meet Cain and Abel in Genesis 4, it is already in operation. And throughout Old and even the New Testament the First Fruits Principle and resulting outcomes are underscored. Let's take a look.

In Genesis 4 we see both Cain and Abel bringing an offering to the Lord. Cain gave an offering that was not accepted. God had no regard for the offering. But why?

Genesis 4:3-4 reveals why. It says "in the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the Lord. But Abel brought fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock." While Abel was quick to bring an offering of the first born, the first fruit of his flock, as thanksgiving to God; Cain was not. Cain waited until it was convenient for him, giving back to God was not a priority. It was just an obligation that Cain despised. Instead of humbling himself before God when his offering was not accepted; he showed his true heart, became angry and killed his brother!

After the Exodus from Egypt, God begins to re-teach the Israelites principles of having a relationship with Him. They were steeped in the practices of false religion after living in a pagan society for 400 years. One of the things God that God highlights is the First Fruits Principle. In Exodus 2 God commands them to "consecrate to me every firstborn male. The first offspring of every womb among the Israelites belongs to me, whether man or animal." In Exodus 23 He further instructs them to bring the first of their harvest, the best of the fruit of the soil. These admonitions continue on throughout the Pentateuch. Even when they entered the Promise Land, God required that He be given the first fruits of the land -- the spoils of Jericho (Joshua 6:19 to 7:26).

God was trying to teach His people that an offering of the first brings blessing on the rest. The first portion of anything is the redemptive portion. Paul explains in Romans 11:16 that "if the first piece of dough be holy, the lump is also, and if the root is holy, the branches are too." It redeems, blesses and multiplies the rest.

When God set man in the Garden of Eden, He gave us stewardship of His creation (Gen 1-2; Ps 115:16). The acknowledged amount from Abraham's tithe to Melchizedek (Genesis 14) to Jacob's offering to God (Genesis 28:22) to the priest in Jesus time (Matt 23:23) is 10%. While the origin of that percent is unknown, it can be assumed it was established by God and communicated to His faithful servants at the dawn of creation. Why 10%?

Ten (10) is the number for testing.

- Pharaoh of Egypt tested with ten plaques to turn his heart to God.
- God gave us 10 commandments. To test our obedience to Him.
- Israel tested 10 times in the wilderness.
- Jacob's wages changed 10 times by Laban to purify him.
- Daniel's dietary test in Babylon was set for 10 days in Daniel 1.
- And in Matthew 25 ten virgins were tested for preparedness.

There is extensive precedent set throughout Scripture to show that God indeed wants His people to give priority and honor to Him through giving a tithe of first fruits – acknowledging the steward relationship we have with Him.

God, Himself, modeled the principle of First Fruits in His relationship with us by giving Jesus to die and raise again, the first fruits of those who sleep. (I Cor 15: 20, 23). This displayed that God wants relationship with us. The First Fruits Principle shows the priority that relationship should have in our lives, our dealings, and our heart. It is about putting God first.

Many believers have been too non-chalant in their approach to tithing and the timing of their giving.

Think of Achan, who disobeyed God when He commanded that the spoils of Jericho be wholly His. Achan took some of the treasure that was to go to God's treasury. So instead of it being Holy and set apart for God, it became cursed. The end result was trouble on Achan and his entire household (Joshua 7).

But God is a God of mercy. When Righteous King Hezekiah brought reform to Israel (2 Chronicles 31) after years of Baal worship he ordered the people to bring in their tithe to the Lord. The Israelites brought in the first fruits of their harvest, of all the fields produced. They brought a tithe of their flocks and herds. God did not demand "back tithe" for their years of Baal worship. Rather, as soon as they began giving their first fruits again, God blessed the land, the king and the people!

We are even encouraged to seek God's blessing based on our first fruits giving (Deut. 26: 12-15). And in Malachi 3: 10 God invites us to test the First Fruits Principle when He says "bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it!" What could be better!

The First Fruits Principle is a no lose proposition when you are in relationship with the Most High God. It applies to individuals, organizations and businesses. Go ahead and try it!

(To listen to the full teaching you can order "The Caused Blessing" CD series by Robert Henderson on Dutch Sheets' website, www.dutchsheets.org under STORE).