ABOUT THE BOOK…
A Compassionate Journey: Coming Alongside People with Disabilities or Chronic Illnesses by John G. Cook offers readers insights into the journey of people with a chronic illness or disability. It outlines a helpful perspective on caring in the face of long-term need and guides readers in the practice of compassion. “When we reach out to those who are suffering,” writes author John Cook, “we find Christ already there, waiting for us to come and visit, waiting to bless us.”

Endorsement from Rev. Theodore Verseput, retired pastor and former Director of Disability Concerns…
“If we carefully scrutinize the life of Jesus, we see that a large part of his time, teachings, and actions were centered on persons who had some form of disability or chronic illness. If Christ’s church is to follow in his footsteps and reflect his love to the world, it must certainly emphasize this type of ministry. Most Christians seek to do this but so often lack the ability and understanding to do so. A Compassionate Journey can be a significant aid in fulfilling this important ministry, and I heartily recommend it as a tool for study and training for pastors, council members, and study groups.”

Office of Disability Concerns
Christian Reformed Church
2850 Kalamazoo Ave SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49560
Phone: 1-888-463-0272

Christian Service Ministries
offers networking, resources, and training opportunities for church leaders in the areas of care giving and community outreach.
Christian Service Ministries is a ministry of the Chicagoland Christian Reformed Churches.

The Church Connection Initiative at Trinity

The Church Connection Initiative at Trinity works with local churches to reinforce their mission and equip their leaders and lay members with the instruction, knowledge, and opportunities necessary to enhance their service in God’s kingdom. The CCIT is a catalyst for collaborative, cross-cultural learning that strengthens local churches by offering resources focused on four areas: preaching, worship, leadership development, and service. The CCIT is a partnership of Trinity Christian College in cooperation with Calvin theological Seminary, Calvin Institute of Christian Worship, supported by the Lilly Endowment.

TRINITY CHRISTIAN COLLEGE
6601 West College Drive, Palos Heights, Illinois 60463
866.TRIN.4.ME | www.trnty.edu

WORKSHOP LEADER
Rev. Mark Stephenson, Director of Disability Concerns Ministry for the Christian Reformed Church in North America

A workshop for pastors, council, care-team members, Stephen Ministers, and everyone involved in congregational care-giving
People who develop a long-term illness or disability must adjust to major changes in life. This group includes older people whose abilities can diminish significantly with increasing age. A close connection to God and to other people can help such people accept their new reality and move on to experience growth and well-being.

Mark Stephenson, director of Disability Concerns Ministry for the Christian Reformed Church, is an ordained minister who served as a parish pastor for seventeen years. He and his wife, Bev, have four children. Their daughter, Nicole, is severely, multiply impaired.

ACCOMMODATIONS
1. Large print materials available on request.
2. Van Namen Recital Hall is wheelchair accessible. Enter the northeast door on the north side of the parking lot.

PART 1
Understanding Long-term Needs
• Presentation on living with a disability or chronic illness
• Interview and discussion with Pastor Ken Dignan, Director of Congregational Life at Eagle Rock Community Church, who lives with severe deformities caused by polio contracted when he was 14 months old. He has written a book called Til Healing Comes in which he shares insights on how to handle a disability or serious illness from a biblical perspective. He has also written Ryan’s Story about his son’s struggle with depression and bipolar disorder.

PART 2
Practicing Compassion
• Presentation and discussion on coming alongside persons with disabilities or chronic illnesses

WORKSHOP TOPICS

REGISTRATION

A COMPASSIONATE JOURNEY WORKSHOP

Name____________________________________
Home address_______________________________
City, State, Zip______________________________
Home phone________________________________
Email ____________________________________
Church/Org ________________________________

Registration Deadline: November 8, 2008

COST
$20 Individual registration
$15 Group of 5 or more
• Scholarships available upon request
• The first 60 registrants will receive a free book (A Compassionate Journey by John G. Cook)

TWO WAYS TO REGISTER
1. On-line: www.christianserviceministries.org
2. Mail: Jan Visser
   Christian Service Ministries
   P.O. Box 17
   Oak Forest, IL 60452
   (Checks payable to: Christian Service Ministries)

QUESTIONS
Jan Visser
Phone: 708-307-2370
Email: jvcsm@sbcglobal.net