

# Stephen Ministers: The After People

People often ask, “What exactly is a Stephen Minister?” One way to put it is that Stephen Ministers are the *After People*.

## *Stephen Ministers are there:*

... *after* the phone call you hoped you'd never get.

... *after* the divorce papers are served and the bottom falls out of your life.

... *after* the funeral, when everyone has left and the emotions you've held at bay come crashing in on you.

... *after* the doctor says, “I'm sorry, but there's nothing more we can do.”

... *after* the nursing home director shakes your hand and says, “Welcome to your new home.”

... *after* the last child honks the horn, waves, and drives away—and the house suddenly seems empty.

... *after* the gavel goes down, the handcuffs go on, and your loved one is led away.

... *after* the baby arrives, demanding more of you than you ever dreamed possible.

... *after* you find a pink slip with your final paycheck.

... *after* your family and friends have heard your story one too many times, but you still need to talk it out.

Stephen Ministers are the “After People.” They are ready to come alongside you—or your friends, neighbors, coworkers, or relatives—and provide comfort and support for as long *after* as needed.