

# Launching a Care Corps Against Hate

By Frank Eiklor

## INTRODUCTION

What would you do if a Jewish cemetery in your community was desecrated with swastikas and other Jew-hating graffiti sprayed on the gravestones of Jewish dead? What would you do if haters deliberately marred a Jewish synagogue in your neighborhood? What would you do if a Jewish store owner in your community had the words "Kill the Jews" scrawled across his establishment? What would you do if a Jewish neighbor or black neighbor had crosses burned on his, or her front yard and the words "Jews not wanted" or anti-black or other hate slurs made conspicuous?

*A true Christian can never have the spirit of Cain*

The "what if" incidents could go on and on, because they are happening in real lives - today in the United States of America. A true Christian can never have the spirit of Cain by sluffing off attacks against his Jewish neighbors (or anyone targeted by haters) with a smug "Am I my brother's keeper?" response to God. Nor can a true Christian merely offer a "prayer without care" when meaningful action is obviously called for.

*Nor can a true Christian merely offer a "prayer without care"*

Our own response to God in the face of ugly and growing antisemitism, bigotry and hate is to accept the command given us in I John 3:18, "*My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth*". That kind of care can best come from groups of Christians representing their local churches - rather than an individual trying to be the Lone Ranger but being dismissed as rather ineffective.

## WHY CHRISTIANS SHOULD BE INVOLVED IN COMBATTING HATE

Of all people called to the front lines in the fight to alleviate the suffering of others, Christians are bound by what Jesus said when he was asked in Mark 12:29-31 which was the greatest of the commandments. He answered, "*The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord: And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.*"

*Christian love cannot be conditional.*

Christian love cannot be conditional. It must be unconditional, like that of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37). When unconditional Christian love is confronted with the pain of others, it does not ignore the pain by looking away, nor does it avoid the pain by crossing to the other side of the road.

Genuine compassion takes immediate, direct action to ease the pain, protect the injured party from continued assaults, and restore the health of the battered ... regardless of the cost in effort, time, money or other personal sacrifice. Proverbs 24:10-12 issues a strong warning against the shoulder-shrugging, lethargic "but I didn't know" attitude that shuns involvement.

***Genuine compassion takes immediate, direct action!***

It is only appropriate and obvious that one will seek to defend his or her own loved ones, whether or not they are in complete theological agreement. The same unconditional love which we show to our family must be given to all people, including the Jewish people. After all, where would Christianity be without the Hebrew Scriptures which tell us about the God we worship- the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob? Where would Christians be without our Savior, Jesus, who came as a Jew?

***... this plan for Christian action speaks to the evil of antisemitism and works with any related hate crimes.***

The best way for the Christian Church to repent for past persecutions of the Jews is for individual Christians, representing the Church at large, to put away apathy and indifference concerning attacks on the Jews and replace such with a firm commitment to daily exhibit God's love by learning more about Christianity's Jewish roots, appreciating Jews as individuals, and defending them from those who would do them harm.

So in this basic "how to" work booklet, let me give you the few requirements to launching such a Care Corps after I first tell you it's as easy as A, B, C. (And while this plan for Christian action speaks specifically to the evil of antisemitism, it also works with any related hate crimes.)

**A. RECOGNITION OF THE NEED**

With hate incidents against Jews and others increasing at an alarming rate and hate organizations even teaching that the Holocaust never took place, the need for the Christian Church to stand is NOW. The question is sometimes asked: "Should antisemitism be ignored?" This question was discussed some sixty years ago. Passivity towards antisemitism was chosen as the wisest policy. History records the result of that tragic assumption.

***All of these caring human beings recognized the need to take a stand. So must we.***

The late Martin Niemoller, a German Protestant pastor, provided a warning and a confession in his famous statement which could be considered the best answer to the question "Should antisemitism be ignored?" Niemoller stated that when the Nazis went after the Jews and then the other groups, he didn't speak up. By the time the Nazis came for Niemoller and his fellow Protestants, " ... no one was left to speak up."

A few people did speak up under fire.

- ✓ The ten Boom family - Corrie, her parents, and sister - was a noted example. They made a difference.
- ✓ Raoul Wallenberg became a virtual one-man-army helping tens of thousands of Hungarian Jews escape the Nazi death machines.
- ✓ While other countries only watched the persecution and deportation of their Jewish citizenry, the Danish leadership - including king and clergy - set such a powerful example that Danish citizens rescued thousands of Jews from Hitler's madness. When Nazi officers attempted to intimidate King Christian X into participating in their "final solution to the Jewish question," the king said, "There is no Jewish question in this country. There are only my people."
- ✓ Bulgarians share with the Danes the decent distinction of having protected their Jewish friends and neighbors from the Nazis. Bulgaria, as a country, refused to cooperate with the murder of its Jewish citizens.

All of these caring human beings recognized the need to take a stand. So must we.

## B. REPENTANCE FOR THE DEED

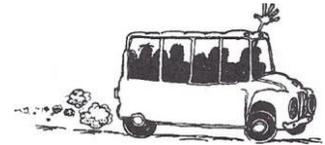
Christianity's roots are Jewish, but one wouldn't know it by some 1700 years of a legacy of hate left the Jews-often in the name of Jesus and perpetrated by the entire spectrum of "Christianity." St. John Chrysostom raged "Since the deicide, the Jews have been delivered into the hands of the demons...they are only fit to be butchered ... " Martin Luther who, when his message was rejected, turned on the Jewish people with such bitterness (ordering his followers to burn synagogues, Jewish homes and Jewish holy books) that Adolf Hitler and Nazi propagandist Julius Streicher would, centuries later, quote Luther in their planned annihilation of the Jews.



Few Christians and even fewer ecclesiastical bodies spoke out when Hitler tested the waters with laws that victimized and ghettoized the Jews prior to the mass murders of the Holocaust. Only later did Christian leaders like Niemoller observe that those who come for Jews today, come for Christians and other victims tomorrow.

*Today's Church must repent for our failure to build a bridge of unconditional love!*

Today's Church cannot undo the past, but we can repent for our own failure to build a bridge of unconditional love to the Jews by determining not to allow today's bigotry to go unchallenged. Some of the hate signals that marked the Nazi era are present today in America and elsewhere - including a foiled (by the FBI) skinhead plot (July of 1993) to start a race war in Los Angeles.



History does indeed repeat itself and amplifies sober warning signals that "those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it" (George Santayana) and "the only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing" (Edmund Burke).

*...the only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing!*

Some two hundred hate organizations are known to operate in the United States. Many communicate through high-tech online systems in their dedication to removing Jews and other "racial inferiors" from the country. Most disguise their hate under Christian pronouncements. The Holocaust is even denied by organizations such as the Institute for Historical Review, based in Southern California.

The problem of present-day antisemitism is real, not imagined, and is often unreported by the media, simply because many victims are either afraid to speak out or don't believe anyone would care if they did.

## C. RESPONSE TO THE CREED

We know all of the scriptures well - the Good Samaritan, loving our neighbor as our self, faith

without works being dead, etc. **Now God gives us the opportunity to live what we believe by saying to our Jewish neighbors and others, "We're determined that you'll never, never stand alone again."** That takes deeds as well as rhetoric. In Manalapan Township, New Jersey, in October 1984, Christians provided the author with the inspiration for the development of the first organized Christian group against antisemitism. After haters drove a tractor through the wall of a new synagogue, an interdenominational group made up of more than a thousand caring Christians and other concerned citizens joined New Jersey's Governor Thomas Kean in standing at the side of their Jewish neighbors.

The perpetrators were informed by word and deed that an attack on the Jews would be considered an attack on other decent people. The Jewish synagogue was repaired with Gentile help. Antisemitism retreated from such an outpouring of concern and indignation.

*Antisemitism retreated from such an outpouring of concern and indignation.*

Using the example set by the New Jersey citizens as a blueprint, I challenged a group of ministers in the Boston area where I served to stand with me against hate. Many more Care Corps were also launched around the country and in Canada. Through trial and error, we found that the simplest and best unit for withstanding hatred and building bridges of love and friendship is a Care Corps that represents each individual church. All you have to do is follow these ...

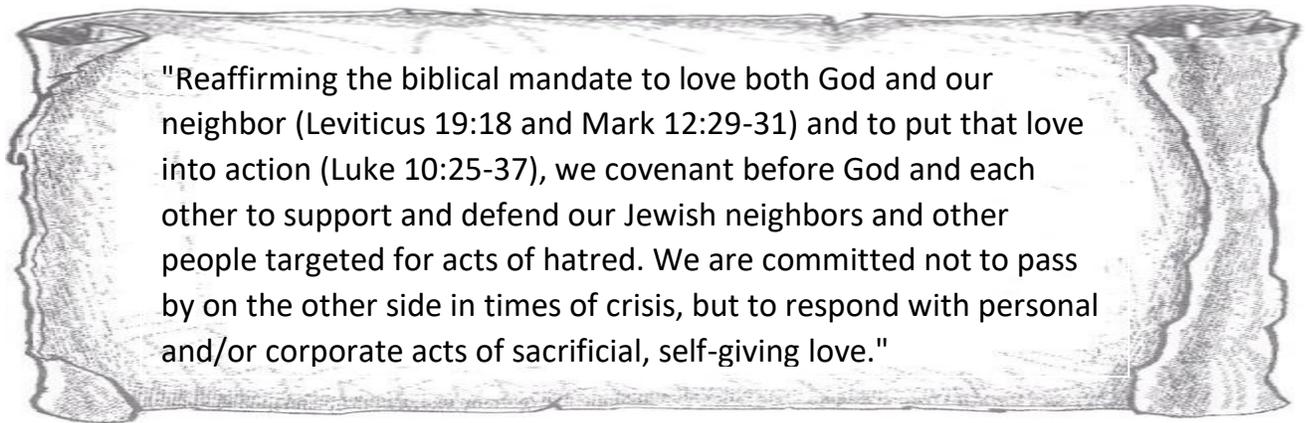
### **10 Simple Steps – for Launching a Care Corps Against Hate**

1. ***Every great happening starts with one person.*** Accept the privilege and responsibility from the Lord to be the one He uses as a seed that will be planted in your own church that will grow into a fruitful tree. You already have the most important foundation for a Care Corps – one caring person – yourself.
2. ***Discuss the idea of a Care Corps with your pastor.*** If you like, I'll send you a copy of my book explaining more fully the problem of antisemitism, and you can give the book to your pastor (no cost to your or your minister). Tell your pastor that the Care Corps Ministry can be added to the activities of your church and can be your responsibility with no added burden to him. Put him at ease by explaining that you realize that this will not be something that every member in your church will feel impressed to do, but that you'll be seeking a Care Corps of 6 to 12 people who can represent your church in caring for your Jewish or Gentile neighbors who have been victimized by hate. Invite the pastor to be a part of the Care Corps or, at the least, to give you his blessing and encouragement.
3. ***Begin to talk to those who feel as you do and start building toward your half dozen or more caring Christians.*** Perhaps you have these Christians in abundance in your church, or maybe you are a lone voice who will have to begin a prayerful search, asking God to work in the hearts of those who will one day choose to help you.

4. You don't have to wait until you have at least six people to get started. ***Even one other person of like mind can get things rolling—certainly in prayer study together.*** I'll be glad to furnish you with study materials to broaden your knowledge level and inspire you to action. Ask the pastor to include this "Care Corps" as one of his regular announcements in church and request that it be included periodically in the church bulletin, emails or on the website and social media. Gaining visibility and credibility as a bonafide ministry arm of the church will cause others to seek you out in order to become part of such an obviously important ministry.
5. ***Make your Care Corps responsible for not merely reacting against antisemitism and related hate crimes but also acting out a concerted effort*** to let Jewish leadership in your area know that you're around should they need you. And don't forget to remind them that your support is "unconditional with no hidden agenda"—because the Jewish community especially is suspicious (with good reasons) toward "Christian friendship." Develop friendships with other minority leaders and don't forget to be aware of attacks against other churches in your area—a senseless crime sadly on the increase.
6. ***Get a simple "telephone tree," email or text group going*** with members of the Care Corps so that you can touch base at fast notice.
7. You must ***have at least one of two members of the Care Corps who keep up on the daily news happenings***—print, radio and television, web and social media. Anti-Semitic actions or other hate acts are generally reported very quickly by the media and need the same fast response from your Care Corps.
8. ***When there is an incident, have your group speak as one voice as you tackle the problem.*** Later in this booklet, I will give you a detailed plan for not only the type of incidents to respond to, but also how to get in touch with the media should that be necessary. Remember the four point plan that works best in effectively combatting hatred against your neighbors: a) informing the media of your church's opposition to such hate, b) helping to clean up any damages and comforting the victims, c) calling for the apprehension of the perpetrators, and d) seeking to help those hooked on hate to find new life through an encounter with Jesus.
9. Remember, you are speaking on behalf of your local church, not as some isolated, individual Christian. This can certainly bring a warmer response from the Jewish community (or black, white, Asian, Latino or native American) and it will also ***be a positive testimony to the media that there is a Christian church that does more than preach and teach—they also reach out to neighbors in need.*** And that is often "the missing witness" in our world today.
10. Don't put anyone in your church on a guilt trip if they choose not to get excited about your stand against anti-Semitism and hate. Just ***humbly thank the Lord that He has touched your heart to respond to "the apple of His eye"***—the Jewish people—as well as His "other sheep," Gentiles scarred by the ugliness of bigotry. And keep your eye open for other helpers whom God will call, like Esther, "...for such a time as this" (Esther 4:14).

## A COVENANT OF CARE AND BROTHERHOOD

The following is the wording of the Covenant of Care which has been signed by hundreds of Christians who have stood up to be counted as supporters of the Jewish people and other victims of hate crimes. You can use this covenant with your own Care Corps.



There are several general forms of antisemitism and related bigotry which each Care Corps can expect to encounter. And *there are several responses which Care Corps members have found to be effective in letting those who attack others know that they are confronting not merely a frightened individual or group of people, but an awakened, alert, and active Christian community that will not be silent.*

One of the first acts of the Care Corps after formation can be to confer with Jewish and other minority leaders to learn their thoughts and feelings concerning hate attacks. However, it is also important that the Care Corps not determine its Christian response to acts of hate based solely on whether or not the plan has the sanction of the Jewish or Gentile community. While each Care Corps should exhibit sensitivity to the danger of over-reacting or under-reacting to hatred aimed at Jews and others, the greatest danger is not reacting.

*The Care Corps should provide a "measured response"- responding proportionally to the magnitude of the verbal or physical attacks made against your neighbors.* Following are actual incidents that occurred, and which elicited the responses I now recommend to you:

### *Incident*

A newspaper or magazine prints a letter or article which expresses contempt for Jews or other people.

### *Response*

A letter, written in the name of the Care Corps, should correct the bigoted statements with truth and show solidarity with the targeted community or individuals.

***Incident***

Persons calling in to a radio talk show fill the airwaves with antisemitic jokes or slogans and generally exhibit a mocking attitude toward Jews.

***Response***

A Care Corps member can call the "talk show" and protest such jokes, slogans, or attitudes. By speaking words of truth in a polite, firm manner, you can set the record straight and not allow bigoted or ignorant people to spread damaging propaganda in your area.

***Incident***

White-supremacist or other hate groups pass out racist literature in your business or residential area.

***Response***

One Care Corps held a "march for brotherhood" and encouraged other neighbors to stick together.

***Incident***

A swastika or other anti-Jewish (anti-black, etc.) graffiti is scrawled on a synagogue, business, school or home in your community.

***Response***

These types of incidents call for a "measured response." A swastika found in an inconspicuous place can be handled by getting the property owner's permission for selected Care Corps members to quietly paint it over and to watch for any repeat occurrences. Hate messages designed to be a public message should be met with a strong public response. Get the property owner's permission for the Care Corp's proposed action, alert members for group response, announce to the media that Christians will not tolerate hate in your community, and then clean up the property by repairing the damages.

***Incident***

Physical damage is done to a Jewish synagogue, business, school, or home, (or against other minority neighbors).

***Response***

The Care Corps should respond immediately with strong words and actions. The media must be informed that "Any attack against our Jewish (or other) neighbors is an attack against the Christians as well. We will resist such expressions of hate with all of our energy and efforts." The Care Corps should appeal to law enforcement authorities to use all means at their disposal to apprehend the person(s) who did the terrible act. A message of love and support should be given to the targeted community through phone calls, letters and personal visits by Care Corps members. Let them know your church cares.

Members of the Care Corps should help with repairing the damages and, hopefully, help in paying for the expenses in making the repairs (as was done at a synagogue in Fullerton, California). Remember, bold hate can only be answered by bold love.

***Incident***

A black American returns from work to find crosses burned on his front lawn and hate graffiti scrawled on his home.

***Response***

The Care Corps should offer help to the victim, ask to repair the damaged property, and inform the media so they can report the positive action against prejudice.

***Remember ...***

***While the media will report acts of hate, and the police will investigate acts of hate, it ought to be the Christian Church that takes a public stand against acts of hate.***

**EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS FOR CARE CORPS MEMBERS**

Shalom International Outreach has an extensive list of study guides, books, booklets, devotionals and other instructive materials. On this website, Visit Shalom Study Central and our Bookstore to see all we have for you. We can also send you our monthly Action Report that motivates and energizes with a message and news of God's work around the world!

Also, our More than Talk telecasts serve as classes on pertinent subjects relating to caring about people and the necessity of unconditional Christian love. For materials or other information needed, write us at the address below.

**A FINAL WORD**

This blueprint for action is not like Scripture-meant to be left unaltered and changeless. You may find better, simpler, and more effective ways to combat antisemitism and other forms of hate. ***The key is to get started now. Antisemitism, bigotry, and all color/culture prejudice must be recognized for what it is - spiritual warfare.*** In this war, there can be no Christian neutrals. A vast army sits in pews across America representing an awesome potential tidal wave of "love in action" toward all our neighbors. Thousands of generals command these Christian forces from the pulpits of the land. If only the Church will catch the moment! **We have "come to the kingdom for such a time as this" (Esther 4:14).**

We can let the Jewish people and others know they are not alone. We can alter the sad commentary that secular civil and social leaders often do more than the Church in combatting hate and racism. The Christian need to combat antisemitism and hate is not based solely on concern for our victimized neighbors but also on the concern for Christian credibility. ***Not challenging hate aimed at others is a disgrace to the Christian Church because it flies in the face of our claim to be a moral force and denies the teachings of Jesus Christ.*** Sentimental rhetoric is not enough. The urgent need for action against hate is a call to Christian conscience. A Christian Care Corps in your

neighborhood, voicing your church's resolve, is an undisguised, unmistakable message to the purveyors of hate: "NOT IN OUR TOWN!"

### **IT'S UP TO YOU**

Take this simple plan and go to work. The greatest journey always starts with a first step. Just persevere with the promise "*I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me*" (*Phil. 4:13*) and know that God has promised to bless you in His own way and in His own time as you reach out to bless the Jewish people (Gen. 12:3) as well as others. Let me know your progress so we can be a mutual encouragement.

When unconditional love is 'vocalized' more than verbalized, it can change a church, a community and even criminals bent on hate. *Expect God to do great things through your Church Care Corps. He will!*

**Share your story of taking a stand against hatred, antisemitism, bigotry and racism, by going to our contact page!**

Frank Eiklor  
and the Shalom Team