



## Medi-Share, a Bible-based Healthcare option, recently featured on Christian Broadcast Network

September 17, 2009—

Christian Broadcast Network recently released a story on Medi-Share, a Bible-based Healthcare option. Not-for-profit Christian Care Ministry, Inc. (CCM) has been serving the Christian community by facilitating healthcare sharing for over 15 years. Unlike health insurance, the Medi-Share program brings like-minded Christians together to share each other's medical bills—almost 40,000 currently participate. Since its inception in 1993, over \$450 million in medical expenses have been shared.

CBN reporter Wendy Griffith focused on uncovering the benefits and advantages of being a part of Medi-Share rather than traditional insurance. Most people have not heard about a health care option many Christians across the country are choosing. "Medi-Share" is a way of sharing medical bills based on the Bible.

There are approximately 100,000 Christians nationwide that belong to sharing ministries like Medi-Share, which has about 40,000 members. "We've been around 16 years and in the process we've shared almost \$450 million worth of bills. So clearly there's a history of reliability," Baldwin states. "But on the other hand, it's really Christians putting their faith in God to provide through their fellow Christians."

The story featured testimonials from Medi-Share members, Bill Jones and his wife Denise, both members of the program, who run a Christian bookstore near Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. Because they are blessed with good health, they rarely needed the traditional and expensive health insurance coverage. So they decided to try Medi-Share, a plan where Christians help each other pay their medical bills, often at about half the cost of regular insurance. Little did they know they would soon need to put this new health care plan to the test. "The immediate thing was feeling that there were people that cared and they were going to help you through this," Mr. Jones said. Mrs. Jones said the bills were also easy to manage. "The bills would come and you could see what needed to get paid and then I could bring up the web site and see that it was being processed," she said. But Mr. Jones said the biggest difference was the Christian care. "The stack of letters that we got was extremely comforting," he said. "Hundreds of e-mails and letters from strangers, pouring out their hearts to us in prayer. It is a major savings the way they run the program versus a normal health care insurance program. Mr. Jones said the bottom-line is, it's simply "a very caring group of people trying to help you."

Galatians 6:2 states, 'Carry each others burdens and in this way you fulfill the law of Christ.' This is just one of the scriptures that is foundational for Florida-based Christian Care Ministry to its philosophy and practice of helping Christians share each other's medical expenses. "It's not just

taking care of each other's medical bills," said Robert Baldwin, president of Christian Care Ministry. "It's really supporting each other as the Body of Christ should." Baldwin said their members pay a monthly "share" that is used to pay fellow member's medical bills. It could range from the low \$100s to several hundred dollars a month, depending on the family's medical needs.

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