



Boarding Homes Ministry

Founded 1996

Boarding Homes Ministry nurtures Christian community by helping church visitors join with the residents of homes.

Today, in our towns and cities, gifted, faithful and wonderful residents of homes are waiting to extend hospitality. They will bless and encourage those who join them. *Today*, in our churches, gifted members have love, care and compassion to share. *Together*, they might laugh, praise, shed tears, share life in Christ, and celebrate new friendships. God will be glorified.



Jeffry the Cat [by William Ho] from our church school curriculum for adults and children. In Christopher Smart's poem c1760, Jeffry went to be with Christopher among the chains and isolation of a madhouse in England. The cat is presented as a model Christian: he *loves, praises, fights for justice and brings comfort*. Here, in the midst of affliction, Jeffry the cat prayerfully *stretches* up to his God.

Christian community glorifies God. It is a place of spiritual discovery. Loving community is where we might see ourselves more clearly as we draw closer to God and our neighbours.

Why is this ministry important? Residents and team members come alive in community. In Christian community the spiritual gifts of team members and residents are released. Compassion, joy, encouragement and unconditional love help humanity flourish.

Boarding Homes Ministry hopes to deepen the church's relations with those in our congregations and neighbourhoods who experience mental illness.

Who are the residents? They are gifted, wise children of God. Residents are welcoming, and bravely carry the weight of illness and isolation. They will help teach church visitors about life, and the way God moves among us.

Team members are gentle, loving, faithful Christians who listen well and delight in building new and rich friendships. They let their faith come alive.

Visits to a home are gentle and caring. There is no pressure. The goal is for the community to genuinely meet each other in a venue of love and Spirit. Conversation, laughter, worship, and the ills of the day all blend together as the community creates a hospitable space where God and friends are taken seriously.

Team members are simply members of the body of Christ, faithful and kind. They listen well and love. *And team members are urgently needed! "Being part of a team is not so much ministry – it is lifestyle."* [Team Member]. Consider linking with a home! Contact your elder or minister and live out your faith joyfully. *You can make a difference.*

The 2011 E.H. Johnson Award for ministry at the cutting edge of mission was presented to the home communities of Boarding Homes Ministry. It recognized the importance of building small neighbourhood ministries which celebrate life in Christ.

"We take heart from each other."
[Resident] *"A kind word can save a life."*

"Prayer and conversation can calm the spirit, and make room for reflection."
[Team Member]

"I feel peaceful when somebody calls me by name." "We are family."
[Comments from a community held in Jesus.]

"Love transforms."

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