



# The role of the Church

- The positive impact the church can have on the life of a widow cannot be overstated. Likewise, failure of the church to help will multiply her pain and leave lasting scars.
- The church should work in concert with the widow's family and existing support network – giving precedence to the family, unless it is determined that her needs aren't being met. If this happens, the church should clearly communicate her needs to the family, and invite them to be part of the helping process.
- Church friends should make an extra effort to stay in touch with her, and spend time with her. Invitations should continue indefinitely, even if she has turned them down in the past.
- It is often difficult for a widow to go to church alone – friends should invite her to attend with them.
- Frequent and on-going phone calls and periodic visits will demonstrate the church's long-term commitment to her.
- Providing meals for an extended period of time is a great help. Be sure to ask for her preference – she may prefer to be invited to eat with others rather than have meals delivered for her to eat alone.
- The church's Care Ministry is a perfect way to designate people to help.
- Many widows have expressed that it is especially helpful to have men be part of their support team in order to have help with jobs their husbands used to do. A man should always act as part of a team and not alone. Often, couples are an excellent option to offer help.