



# Preventing Suicide: A Handbook for Pastors, Chaplains and Pastoral Counselors

*Karen Mason*

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# Preventing Suicide: A Handbook for Pastors, Chaplains and Pastoral Counselors

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**Preventing Suicide: A Handbook for Pastors, Chaplains and Pastoral Counselors** Karen Mason  
12th Annual *Outreach* Resource of the Year (Counseling)

What is the church's role in suicide prevention?

While we tend to view the work of suicide prevention as the task of professional therapists and doctors, the church can also play a vital role. Studies show that religious faith is an important factor reducing the risk of suicide. Yet many pastors, chaplains and pastoral counselors feel overwhelmed and unprepared to prevent suicides.

In this practical handbook, psychologist Karen Mason equips ministry professionals to work with suicidal individuals. Integrating theology and psychology, she shows how pastoral caregivers can be agents of hope, teaching the significance of life, monitoring those at risk and intervening when they need help. Because church leaders are often present in people's lives in seasons of trouble and times of crisis, they can provide comfort in the midst of suffering and offer guidance for the future.

When our church members struggle in the darkness, the darkness need not overcome them. Discover how you and your church can be proactive in caring for those at risk of self-harm.

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