

Assemblies of God Clergy to Counsel in Bars

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[] Senior pastor Chuck Kish of Bethel Assembly of God in Carlisle, Pa., recently began a ministry that will put clergy in local bars one night a month to listen to those in need, reports *The Patriot-News*.

Rather than patrons pouring out their souls to bartenders, Kish contends that pastors can not only listen with a nonjudgmental ear, but also shine a light on whatever dark situation is discussed—without preaching the gospel per se.

Though the fledgling ministry hasn't had many takers (or talkers) yet, it has attracted worldwide media attention and Kish remains hopeful.

"This is what the church is always supposed to do, to love people, regardless of their differences," he told *The Patriot-News*. "Jesus did it, got out among the prostitutes and all that. The story of what we're trying to do went all over the world. If all churches were doing what they are supposed to be doing, this would not have been news. Not at all."