

ENGAGING SPIRITUAL CONVERSATIONS

Concern for a Parent

“My family lives in the community where you live. They are going through a rough time right now. I want to help more but live too far away to be there often. My relatives are not religious. They are bitter toward life. Mom plays the piano. If someone asked her to play, that might be the simplest ‘ploy’ to get her involved. If you have any suggestions other than prayer, I’d appreciate it.”



This kind of conversation or letter leaves a responsive spiritual person feeling awkward if not used. The request, while expressing concern, equates to triangulation and manipulation. While prayer appears to be ruled out, prayer has been employed and found wanting.

Here is a possible response to the concerned adult child:

I sense your love for your family whose concerns you carry. I am willing to reach out to them if you wish. I want to offer friendship and encouragement with open disclosure as to how I came to make contact with them. Please provide contact information.