



# Stephen Ministry Matches Super Bowl Experience

STEPHEN MINISTRY IN ACTION

“Before I retired from coaching, my team was in the Super Bowl six times. I thought nothing would ever match that. But being a Stephen Minister has also been one of the greatest experiences in my life,” says Bill Arnsparger, who coached for 23 seasons in the NFL. His last stop was as defensive coordinator for the San Diego Chargers. After he retired from coaching in 1994, he trained to become a Stephen Minister at Torrey Pines Christian Church in La Jolla, California.

During his coaching career, Arnsparger heard about Stephen Ministry several times. “I knew it was important, so I waited until the right time in my life to get involved,” Arnsparger says. “The hours I’ve invested in Stephen Ministry have brought me closer to the Lord and to others in my congregation.

“I find serving as a Stephen Minister very rewarding. It’s an opportunity to work with people and really help them. Each care receiver inspires me to build my faith. I always benefit from our time together.

“I’ve learned that I can’t always predict and plan what each visit will be like. I work to be open to new developments, and I hang in there when new problems come up. I know I



Bill Arnsparger spent 23 seasons as an NFL coach, with stops in Baltimore, Miami, New York, and San Diego. He then became a Stephen Minister at Torrey Pines Christian Church in La Jolla, California.

can’t just write a prescription to make my care receiver feel better. My job is to listen and to care. God takes care of the rest.”

Asked about similarities between Stephen Ministry and football, Coach Arnsparger says, “Stephen Ministry builds confidence, both in the Stephen Ministers and in the care receivers. Stephen Ministry takes teamwork; in supervision we need to work together to provide the best care possible—to our care receivers and to one another. Each opportunity to care is a new challenge, a new experience, just as each game is.”

Men sometimes wonder if Stephen Ministry is right for them. Coach Arnsparger shows that following Jesus in giving and receiving care is truly a “sport for real men.”

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Coach Bill Arnsparger | Stephen Minister

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