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**Assistant Chaplain’s Online Orientation**

**Module 3:**

**Case Study 1: Dan’s Story.**

**Module 3: Case Study 1 – Dan’s Story**

During your regular visiting round at the hospital, you find a man named Dan on your list. After seeing a few other patients first, you go to Dan’s room and find he is sitting up in bed drinking a cup of tea. His wife, Marion, is in the room, but she excuses herself to get a coffee from the café and to ‘let you two talk’.

Dan is in his 60’s. He and Marion have 3 adult children and 7 grandchildren. His still works part-time as a bus-driver for a local company doing the school runs.

Dan has been in hospital for 2 weeks now after having experienced a heart attack while gardening at home. Marion was able to call an ambulance which took him to hospital in a timely manner. Although the doctors are happy with Dan’s progress and health-wise there are likely to be no significant lingering effects (he’s been told he can go home at the end of the week), the episode has shaken him.

Although Dan does not currently attend a church, he did so in his younger days (it was a Methodist church then). He professes to still believe in a God and admits to praying from time to time when life gets really tough (“I’ve prayed a lot these last 2 weeks.”) However, he describes himself as not having a day-to-day active faith.

The heart attack left him feeling worried for his family. He says that being in hospital has ‘made him think about his life’. He says he hasn’t told Marion about this, but that they have discussed when he might retire and what they would like to do.

*You know that Dan has given you some good ‘starting points’ for discussion, and by your estimation, you have about 15-20 minutes before the lunch tray arrives.*

1. What are some of the key points Dan has raised in his initial conversation with you?
2. Which point/area might you start with and how might you explore that topic?
3. Once the conversation concludes (that lunch tray arrives!), what are your options regarding following up with Dan?

**Task: Write up your responses to Questions 1, 2 & 3.**

**Save the document and email to** [**onlinetraining@ballaratchaplaincy.com.au**](mailto:onlinetraining@ballaratchaplaincy.com.au) **upon completion.**