

March / April

2011

Volume 17 • Issue 2

God Cares News



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I Feel Used – How About You?

*Equipping
Christians
to help
meet the
spiritual
needs of
people in
long term
care
homes.*



It is exciting to read about the miracles Jesus performed while He walked among us. Many of them involved the actions or sacrifices of one or more people who brought needy people to Jesus, obeyed directives given by Him, or interceded in behalf of

someone. Consider the following:

- The paralytic whom Jesus healed was brought to Jesus by friends who believed in Him.
- When Jesus turned the water into wine, He had the servants first fill the stone jars with water.
- Before he called Lazarus from the tomb, Jesus had His disciples roll away the stone.
- A boy sacrificed his loaves and fish before Jesus miraculously multiplied them to feed the multitude; and it was His disciples who distributed the meal.

Those who participated in Jesus' miracles were generally not giants of the faith, but they did have two important qualities: They had enough love for the people needing help that they did all they could for them, Also, they had enough faith in Jesus to look to Him to trust and obey His directions.

Our King Jesus is alive and well! He is the same today as He was 2000 years ago. He still calls us to participate in His great works. As you go, in the Name of Jesus, to share His love and Word with your friends at the care home, He is personally present with the intention to perform the miracles of salvation and transformation. But please always remember, He does this only in the homes where His servants go. Souls are not saved in the care homes where Jesus Christ is not appropriately represented and the good news is not respectfully proclaimed. Yet these miracles are the fruit you and I can expect through a properly established ministry.

When we are doing things God's way, He flows through us to accomplish the things we can never do in our own power. Jesus promised that if we abide in Him and in His Word, we would bear much fruit. See **John 15:1-17**.

So let us press on, dear friends, growing strong in Christ and humbly serving in His Name. We will see much fruit and our Father will be glorified. God Cares Ministry is here to serve you as you reach out to serve our friends in Jesus' Name.

*Chaplain Bill Goodrich
Servant/President*

Of all the things we can do on this earth, there are only a few things that will still matter fifty years from now, indeed, even a million years from now.

From Glory to Glory

As most of you know, we are poising ourselves to expand the services of God Cares Ministry from a primary focus in northeast Ohio to cover the USA. In February, we sent out an invitation asking for our co-laborers to partner with us in prayer. This prayer team development is the first step of our expansion process. I had hoped for eight to twelve friends who would commit to praying for us on a weekly basis. Below is a picture from our March 5th gathering with nineteen of the forty-five who pledged to pray at least once a week. We shared an overview of our vision, a time of personal prayer for each other, a tasty lunch and some great fellowship. I praise and thank God for our prayer team!!! You are essential!!!



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From Glory to Glory continued

Our next step was to add to our Board of Directors a team of advisors, who have national ministry experience, to help us wisely and prayerfully reorganize our infrastructure. The Lord was gracious to send humble and willing servants who gave excellent advice and a commitment to help us step forward.



From left to right, Dan'l Markham of Joni & Friends Int., Brad Fisk of Fisk Media (who formerly worked at Focus on the Family), Rich Walters, of Bold Endeavors, and Chaplain Bill.

Not shown in the picture was another friend, Chris Callahan who, with his wife Sheri, has over 20 years experience in leading a very large nursing home ministry in the Cleveland area.

God continues to send people to not only help us expand, He continually has people from across the USA contacting us for help in starting or enhancing their nursing home ministries. Over 17 years ago the Lord began a glorious work of saving and transforming souls throughout northeast Ohio. As He leads us to enlarge our borders, we maintain the goal to be faithful to help prepare and support those whom He sends into this harvest field. May God's Kingdom come and His will be done in every care home -- for His Glory! *B.G.*

Friends Regardless of Faith

One of the first things I remember being taught at a God Cares Workshop was that developing caring friendships is at the very core of effective ministry in a care facility. The importance of these caring and trusting friendships was made clear to me when I met with a resident whom I will call Mary.

I started to visit with Mary three years ago and on my first visit I was told to leave my Bible and scripture papers outside of the room. Mary made it very clear that she did not want to hear about "religious stuff". For the first two and one half years we visited for an hour or more and talked about things she enjoyed, like sports, Oprah, etc.. Finally she opened up about some of her personal heartache, but only occasionally and for short periods of time. Prayer was not allowed in the room either, which hindered my desire to help her in those most difficult times.

About six months ago we had a serious discussion about her illness and her relationships with her family. Our time that day was very intimate and as I went to leave I asked if I could shake her hand. Mary never liked to be touched so this was not an easy thing for her to consent to. However, she encased my extended arm with both of her hands and thanked me for coming. I spontaneously said "God bless you". She responded back with "And God bless you". This blessing, I often speak was new for her and her response was a thrill to me!

I recently noticed that Mary's memory had started to falter and I was concerned about her salvation. I was given a new learning tool to help teach people about Jesus and His importance in our lives. Remembering that I was not allowed to bring a Bible into the room I prayed then ask her to help me evaluate this tool and give me her opinion. She read each page, including the scripture and talked to me about each page. It was obvious to me that she knew that Jesus was her Savior. After some sharing about her beliefs, I asked her why she never wanted to talk about her faith with me and her answer stunned me. "If you knew that I believed in Jesus, you would not continue to visit me and be my friend." She explained that once a Christian finds out you're saved, they stop visiting so they can go save others. She did not want to lose her only visitor.

We sometimes take friendships for granted, but with the residents we need to be sure that our friendships are genuine and continuous, regardless of their faith. If we want them to trust us and come to us for spiritual support, we must be willing to wait on them, in hope that we may help them take Jesus' hand. *By Elaine Edkin*

Creatively Serving

I just wanted to share the success we are having with our nursing home ministry. We have been in the home for the last 4 weeks. We are receiving such a blessing with our visitations. God has led us to do something really unique. We have a volunteer in our group who is very talented with the guitar. We were unable to find a good location in the home to perform so the Lord gave us a better option – playing in the rooms of residents that can't get out of bed. He sings very gently and he talks about the Lord as he plays. He is such a blessing to our group.

This past Sunday another church came in with a large band to set up in the eating area. People who were mobile were able to attend. But God didn't forget the residents that couldn't, as He sent us to provide a personal service in their rooms. This experience of serving God is like no other! I thank the Lord for God Cares Ministry and for how He is allowing us to serve Him.

*Chris Fisbeck,
St. Ann, MO.*



BOARD of DIRECTORS

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& Temp. Treasurer:**
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A Servant At Heart

I trust most every ministry has one or more people whom God sends to give significant "behind the scenes" support. Those of you who knew my wife Mary Ann, know that she was without question one such treasure. Yet there was also another one whom God sent to us, John R. Palffy Jr.

I met John when I worked at ALCOA back in the early 1990's. John managed a near-by department in the same company and, occasionally, we worked together on major projects. Through time and a few cups of coffee, John began to take a genuine interest in me and the nursing home ministry work I was doing. When God began to speak to me about resigning from my enviable position and starting a regional nursing home ministry, I shared my vision with John. He was one of the few who believed with me that God was real enough to do the miracles needed. John also promised to stand with me, and HE DID, until a few weeks ago when the Lord suddenly took John home.

John served as a helper on our ministry care team for several years. After a few promotions, he was required to travel and could not continue his visits. But that did stop him from being actively involved with this mission field. He helped to establish our annual Legacy Picnics, participated on our board of directors for a few years, and creatively shared many resources to help us grow. Several years ago, my wife wrote a story about John:

"John is more than a helper. He's a very busy and important man in the large corporation where he works. When he can, he takes time to come a long way to see the people at the nursing home and help them get to the church service. He is so cheerful and kind, they all love him and he loves them.

One week, after being touched by a Christmas message, "Jesus is the Light of the World," John decided to make the residents a present. He made 50 freestanding plaques of wood, routed the edges, painted the name of JESUS in gold and put a gold painted Christmas tree light on top of each one. I can't even imagine how many hours of work and love went into them.

Many of the residents put the plaques on top of their TV's. Now, a few years later, I go into the rooms and still see the name of JESUS shining in gold on top of some TV's. I praise the Lord over and over. Every nurse, caregiver, family member, and doctor who enters that room sees the name of JESUS prominently displayed. What a continued blessing for all of us. Thank you, John.

By, Mary Ann Goodrich (2005)

In closing my thoughts, I must share that this active love was not only characteristic of John, it is something that is active throughout his entire family. His wife Fran still serves on our board and on our care team, in one way or another, his children, sisters, and even his dear mother have contributed to this mission field.

John and his family have touched so many lives, some of whom John is now enjoying in heaven. He was a man who knew the value of serving people. And because of his active love, many people knew they were valued.

B.G



John hugging Norm at a Legacy Picnic.

Loving Memory

**Irene & Jakob
Rothenbusch**

From Dietlind Rothenbusch

Hermine Bender

From Joyce Moseley

Mary Ann Goodrich

From Mickey Carver

Marilyn Godshall

Paul & Fran Passano

Matt Baker

Marilyn Godshall

Jos. & Helen Kohout

From Ruth Dodds

Lucille Ewing

From Barb Pack

Pastor Bob Haring

From Mary Courtney

Thomas J. Tomusko

From Jean Clark

J.P. & Mary Sides

From Steve & Linda Sides

God's People

From Vina Casey

William Cahal

From George & Beverly Schultz

Genevieve Matras

From Paul & Fran Passano

Chloe

From Deb & Doug Feller

Ray & Beth Kemmeter

From Patty Frieze

Donald R. Dodds

From Ruth Dodds

Margaret Kus

From Mary Courtney

Dave Brown

From Jeff King

John R. Palffy Jr.

From Norma Paine

Anna Prasinis

Mary Courtney

Bob & Judy Sopko

Arch Costanzo

Baliotis & Kulp Families

Bill & Elena O'Rourke

Kitchen & Company

Evelynn & Robert Cavagnino

Merrick Murphy

Julie Foley

Brown Family

Tony Swegle

Robert Glaser

Koehler Family

Amy Kellogg

Brian & Rita Hassett

Deborah Limpert

Haltec Corporation

Sandy & Art Pizzano

Jack & Anita Douthit

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From Ken & Pam Evans

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Mr. & Mrs. Alan Zenkert

Lorelie & Robert Ryan

David & Mary Griffey

Laurie & Bruce Trippet

Debbie & Scott Baran

Bill & Margie Saepic

May the Lord bless you for your thoughtfulness!

We are very grateful for the financial and prayer support that has helped God Cares Ministry grow since 1994.

We are poising ourselves to enable Christians to share God's Love and Word in every care home in America.

Currently we have only two full-time staff to serve the volunteers who are ministering to over 5,500 residents.

We are praying for God to provide the resources so we can hire more staff to reach these often forgotten neighbors of ours.

Will you please partner with us through your prayerful and generous financial support?

We have enclosed an envelope for your convenience, or you may contact our office, or use our website for credit card donations.

Thank You!



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GOD CARES NEWS is the official newsletter of God Cares Ministry; edited by Founder and President, Bill Goodrich. It is published bi-monthly to encourage, instruct and inform Christians who are interested in nursing home ministry. You may contact our office for a free subscription (e-mail or US Mail) or permission to copy.

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Learn - Be Refreshed - Bear More Fruit

Do you desire to be effective in helping people in the care centers find hope in Jesus?

Do you wish to learn effective ways of preparing and sharing life-giving messages?

Do you like to learn practical applications to Biblical truths for your life and for the people you minister to?

Do you need insights to help you share God's word with a person who has Alzheimer's?

For over sixteen years God has allowed us to train thousands of people who are serving Jesus in nursing home ministries. If you desire to begin or strengthen your outreach come, or if you have a few new people on your team who have not received this specialized training, bring them along. You, and the residents you serve, will be eternally blessed as you apply the time-proven principles of God's Word.

~~~~ Our Current Training Schedule ~~~~

- April 30** Fifth Christian Church,
14109 Benwood Ave. Cleveland, OH 44128
- May 14** Bay Presbyterian Church, Registration begins 8:30AM
25415 Lake Rd. Bay Village, OH 44140

~~~~ **PLEASE PRE-REGISTER** ~~~~

**For full details and registration visit [www.GodCaresMinistry.com](http://www.GodCaresMinistry.com),  
or call us at 440-930-2173, or email us at [info@GodCaresMinistry.com](mailto:info@GodCaresMinistry.com)**

### **Registration begins 8:30AM**

Sessions run from 9:00 - 3:40  
Cost is \$10.00 at the door to cover  
lunch and training materials.

*Many resources, including large  
print Hymnals and Scripture  
portions, designed for care center  
outreach will be on display and for  
sale during these workshops.*