



## They Spoke The Word Boldly...

This title is the continued theme found in the book of Acts. Starting from the time Jesus' disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit (in Chapter 2) all the way to the book's final verses. The work of all disciples was to get the Word of God into the ears of anyone who might listen.

Just before He ascended to heaven, Jesus told His disciples that they would be baptized by the Holy Spirit, who would empower them to be His witnesses. And that is exactly what happened: God poured out His Spirit upon them, and immediately they began preaching, and all heard the word in their own tongue. Thousands repented, were baptized and became followers of Christ. There were many blessings, healings, wonders and miracles. Every time the Gospel was proclaimed, people came to believe. **God's plan was unfolding!**

Then something else started happening. The devil rose up in opposition to stop the preaching of the Gospel. From the time the disciples began proclaiming the name of Jesus in Chapter 2, until the very last verses in Acts, there is an ongoing pattern:

- Jesus' disciples proclaimed His word
- People were saved, healed and became followers of Jesus
- The devil would oppose them - through troubles, threats, beatings, even death
- God would deliver them through the opposition
- They would immediately return to proclaiming Jesus

Nothing stopped them! Not even death! Their words, given by the Holy Spirit, continue to speak today - through Scripture and also our sharing of them.

The devil knows that the Gospel is the power of God for the salvation of those who believe. He knows that if he can stop this power of God from flowing through us, or distort it, or embellish it with lies or water it down, he can prevent people from being saved and eternally blessed.

Friends, I speak to you as a co-laborer, a fellow missionary. For over 30 years I have seen the word of God touch and transform thousands of people. I have also experienced the devil rising up to stop us.

He does this in two primary ways (as he in Acts):

1. He uses people to oppose our efforts. They threaten, persecute, cause troubles, and even kill.
2. He seeks to distract us with worries, desires for riches and pleasures; choking out our focus, time and energy.

But, we overcome such opposition by the Blood of the Lamb and the Word of our testimony.

We overcome because we choose to abide in Christ; laying aside the temporary in order to store up treasures in heaven.

In patience and love we persevere, overcoming evil with good; knowing that:

It is the **Word of God** ~ revealed by the **Spirit of God** ~ shared by the **people of God**

and then received through prayer in which people are saved, transformed, blessed and renewed; giving hope and peace in Jesus. Untold treasures...

We must never forget that our primary mission in the care home is to share the Word of God, resulting in love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

Our lonely neighbors need this eternal treasure from us. This is the ultimate goal of God Cares Ministry: to help nursing home residents grow closer to Jesus through the sharing of God's love, His word and through prayer. This is what we recruit Christians to do - this is why we provide training and resources - and for those who do this, we offer support. *May God be glorified through all of us!*



*Let us join together in prayer for each other, that **by the power of God's Holy Spirit we would fight the good fight of faith, never letting anything stop us from proclaiming God's word to make disciples for our Lord Jesus Christ.** ~ Chaplain Bill*

## Significant Changes

Evelyn's illness makes her feel afraid, causing her to be quiet and to not make eye contact when people speak to her. Sometimes when we ask if she wants to come to our Bible Fellowship, she just stares past us or expresses fear about something that she is thinking about. We find it good to not coerce her into joining us, but rather spend a few minutes holding her hand and talking about something pleasant.

Occasionally Evelyn will accept our invitation to join us, but she is usually very quiet and at times visibly anxious. At the end of our time, when we take her back to her room, she may quietly say "thank you", or sometimes she just stares at us. She has a gentle and sweet spirit, but we can't always tell if she is enjoying our time together.

Tonight there was a significant change. Evelyn was so *different* than the person we know. We asked her if she wanted to come to the Bible Fellowship and she willingly agreed, although she sat quietly through the songs. However, when we asked our audience if they had anything that they were thankful for, our quiet friend blurted out that she was thankful for her grandparents. What a surprise!

Later, after the Bible Fellowship, one of the team members knelt next to her to talk. To my amazement, I heard them praying *The Lord's Prayer* together and then singing "*Jesus Loves Me*".

As Evelyn was being taken back to her room, she said to me, "I am so thankful that I came tonight. You are a blessing and this was a blessing for me." Her countenance was totally different - she was thanking and praising God for this opportunity to be in fellowship with us. What a blessing we all experienced!

Sometimes I marvel at how a window of grace and peace opens for our frail friends. When that window opens and God's love and word shines in, we see new life. ~ B.G.



## Loving Memory

**Kay Shaeffer  
Betty Strauss**

From Dale & Marge Mertz

**Emma Bass**

From Pleshette Bowman

**Marilyn Barrett**

From Judith Evin

**Eddie Owens**

**Herman & Thelma Klimmek**

From Kathryn & Bill Owens

**Stella Kozicki**

From Susan Adkins

**Ruth Dodds**

From Carolyn Herrmann

**Grace Moorman**

From Dorothy DiSanto

**Marian Orne**

From Patricia Orne

**Elizabeth J. Strauss**

From Marie Fulthorpe

**John Palfy**

From Jo Ann & Jim Rettinger

**Lucille Ewing**

**Lois & Lawrence Pack**

From Barb & Larry Pack, Jr.

**Trudy Gombas**

From Bob & Rosemary Thomay

**Mary Ann Goodrich**

From Bob & Rosemary Thomay  
Carolyn Herrmann

**Rachel Cook**

From John & Susan Exoo

**Franklin Krempasky**

From Frank & Violet Krempasky  
& Family

### IN HONOR OF:

**Bruce & Lois Brace**

From Idylwild Farms

**Doug & Deborah Feller**

**Sandy Schneppe**

**Iona Mansfield**

**Bill & Cathy Goodrich**

**Arlene Sikorski & Scott Cornman**

From Kris & Larry Looney



## A Change of Heart

About a year ago, Ron became a resident of the nursing home we visit. His disposition is like that of a respected college professor. He still reads books and likes to have philosophical conversations.

The first time one of our care team members asked him if he wanted to come to our Bible Fellowship, Ron laughed and asked, "Why would I want to do that?" Then, thinking it might be interesting, he said, "Okay, I'll give it a try."

He never spoke or sang throughout the hour, and when I was shaking his hand at the end, he kind of chuckled in sarcasm and said, "Well, it was interesting." This event has re-occurred many times throughout the year. I also learned that Ron was from a religious background that is not aligned with the Christian faith. Since we continue to invite him, he continues to attend and enjoy our "interesting talks" from the Bible.

But we have been seeing a gradual change in Ron. He now usually finds his way to the Bible Fellowship on his own, and has begun singing the old hymns with us. Occasionally, he will even join us in prayer during our group prayer times.

We patiently wait for the Holy Spirit to open Ron's heart and eternally change him into a child of God. The continual fertilizing of God's word and the watering of this thirsty soul is transforming this man's heart and mind. He is only a prayer away... ~ B.G.

### Help Us to be Good Stewards

We love sending *God Cares News* to you! But, we realize that some of you may no longer be interested in receiving it. Would you help us to be good stewards by letting us know if you no longer wish to receive it? Otherwise, we'll keep it coming...

*"He chose to give  
us birth through  
the word of truth..."*

*~ James 1:18*

Last year, we decided to make a few changes to compensate for a lack of staff and resources. One of the changes was to not have PowerNight, our annual volunteer appreciation dinner. My thought, rather, was to combine it with our fall celebration dinner in October. Well... we observed something very important: omitting PowerNight was *not* a good change. So, we “ex”-changed that decision.



**This year, on May 20<sup>th</sup>, we will resume PowerNight.** We will include an afternoon training session with special guest Dr. Dennis Sullivan of Cedarville University. Dr. Sullivan presented the afternoon training in 2009, giving us excellent help on end-of-life issues. He is returning with many fresh and helpful insights and principles from God’s word.

Full details will be in our next newsletter. But please ~ mark your calendars to save the date. I am so looking forward to re-uniting with our co-laboring missionaries for an evening of inspiration, encouragement, and empowerment! ~ *B.G.*

### Thanks for Sharing With Us...

The wife of a recently admitted resident shared with me, “I am so thankful that there is someone who comes and talks about Jesus. He has always been our hope, and now, especially, we lean on him.” ~ *Elaine Edkin*



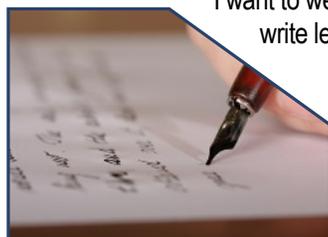
### Knock, Knock, Knock...

... “Hi, my name is Carter and I’m a neighborhood friend. I want you to know that a nursing home resident has been praying for you. She wrote this card to encourage you today.” I then handed her the letter. “Is there anything specific I can pray for you?”

That’s how I first came to know this young mother who lives several blocks from my house -through our letter-writing outreach we call “*Wind for Wings*” (uplifting the hearts of people to soar, as Isaiah the prophet says, on wings like an eagle). It was started by one loving nursing home resident’s desire to give. She faithfully attends our nursing home church services, and wanted to be an instrument in the hands of God. So, I asked her to write letters of prayerful encouragement to people in my low-income neighborhood.

These letters provide me with an immediate “relational passport” into people’s lives. Getting a prayer-filled letter from an elderly person is so touching that people have already said, “This made my day!” That opens so much opportunity for speaking of Christ and His love. I can hardly think of a better or quicker path to someone’s heart than prayer written in love to a stranger.

I want to welcome you to join us by inviting your resident friends to write letters. I will prayerfully share them in my city, and as I travel.



For more information on how to write these letters (it’s very simple!) See the Winds for Wings blog at [www.GodCaresMinistry.com](http://www.GodCaresMinistry.com)

May God give you joy in His service. ~ *Carter Knight*

### Become a Ministry Friend

How is God Cares funded? This is a question I have been asked many, many times. I am excited to share that, **“God Cares is funded by many Ministry Friends.”**

What is a Ministry Friend? People who believe in our cause and give donations to help nursing home residents find hope and peace in Jesus.

We have trained Christians from over 200 Churches who are faithfully ministering to over 8,000 residents.

Our goal for 2017 is to train and equip 50 new churches, who will each adopt a nursing home in their community.

We will need approximately 154 new Ministry Friends in order to reach this goal.

Our *Ministry Friends* give a monthly donation of \$20.35 (or an amount that is significant to them) for recruiting, training and supporting care teams that adopt nursing homes.

Will you become a Ministry Friend so that over 1,500 more residents can have a friend to help them find life in Jesus?

We make it easy, through the enclosed envelope or our secure website:

[www.GodCaresMinistry.com](http://www.GodCaresMinistry.com)

May the LORD bless you for caring and sharing in Jesus Name. ~ *B.G.*

**Acts 20:35 ~**

***In all things I’ve shown you that by working hard in this way, we must help the weak, and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how He himself said, “It is more blessed to give than to receive.”***



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*“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.”  
~II Timothy 2:15*

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

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## Learn to Minister to Nursing Home Residents

For those who are interested in ministering in nursing homes and to the frail elderly, we offer a day of inspirational training.

We have found that those who attend and read the *“Nursing Home Ministry”* handbook have significantly greater success in their outreach. These workshops also give us a chance to meet fellow servants in this mission field, which is always a delight!

**Some comments from our last training:**

*“It was an excellent class.”*  
*“Very informative and applicable to not only the nursing homes but any ministry.”*  
*“Good sessions. Loved the Biblical goals for growing in Christ, excellent illustrations.”*



**In one day, you will gain a Biblical perspective on:**

- God’s calling and passion for the nursing home mission field
- Helping residents grow closer to Jesus
- Preparing and sharing life-giving messages
- Ministering through the limitations of dementia

So invite a friend and register today to learn effective time-tested ministry principles!

**Saturday, March 11<sup>th</sup> 9:00 am - 3:45 pm** at Riverwood Chapel in Kent, OH

**Please register by March 5<sup>th</sup>**

Cost is \$25.00 (includes *“Nursing Home Ministry”* handbook; *“God Cares For You”* ministry book; training outline & lunch!) Scholarships are available.

To register or for more information, go to [www.GodCaresMinistry.com](http://www.GodCaresMinistry.com) or call (440) 930-2173