



Ministry News

July/August
2014

19 years of recruiting, training and supporting Christian volunteers for nursing home ministry



**The Word of God
shared in love
and
embraced through prayer
will transform a life
FOREVER!**



I long to see you so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to make you strong — that is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith. ~ Romans 1:11-12

As laborers in the nursing home mission field, we recognize the enormous importance of sharing the Word of God with our resident friends, helping them to get closer to Jesus.

Those living in care homes have a number of common emotional and spiritual needs that, when properly addressed through Biblical stories and principles, allow them to find hope and peace in Jesus.

How good and encouraging it is to have timely and relevant answers from the Bible when a friend is seeking truth about the challenges he or she is facing!

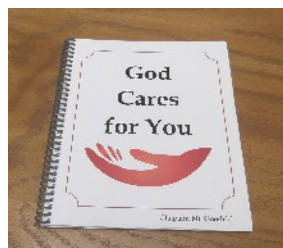
Just as many of the trials, fears and pains are common to our lonely neighbors, so are the answers in God's Word. He knows how to help them, and He sends us to lead people to Him by sharing His promises in a spirit of loving kindness.

I watch with great joy as they take Jesus' hand in prayer and He (through time) transforms their hearts.

It has been one of my deep desires to make many of the answers available in a book that could be given, or read to residents during one-to-one visits and/or used by those who share a message in group settings.

Good News!

I am excited to share that the long-desired book has been written! "God Cares for You" is large print, packed with relevant Bible verses and has lots of colorful pictures. It is uniquely sized and spiral bound for easy use by persons with special visual and physical needs.



The chapters in "God Cares for You" are:

- Living with Change
- A Lasting Hope
- Walking with God
- Forever Friends
- Finding Peace
- A Greater Purpose
- Amazing Grace Forever

As a final step before mass publication, we are seeking volunteers who would be willing to participate in a *field test*. Participants will share this book with a few residents in the nursing home they visit, and provide us with feedback from a list of questions. **Would you like to participate?** Here are the requirements:

- Contact us to receive as many as 4 books
- Read and become familiar with the contents
- Take book (s) to the home you currently visit and share it with residents
- Follow up with residents by asking questions and talking about what they have read (or what you read for them)
- Share your findings/experiences with God Cares

I would like to thank those of you who are able to participate in this project. Your input will be deeply appreciated, and you will be helping to spread the Gospel of Jesus to untold numbers of residents for years to come. Please contact us at 440-930-2173 or info@GodCaresMinistry.com to request your copy(s).

There is a limited quantity of these *field test* books available and we are beginning this project at once, so please contact us ASAP if you would like to help with this project. ~ B.G.

Summer Fun



What a wonderful time we had at our 13th annual Legacy Picnic! I'll let the attendees tell you about it themselves:

The residents...

Ella said, "I love singing along with the music and going under the limbo bar."

Pat said, "I like the music, the dancing and the food."

Betty said, "I love the dancing, the cupcakes and the friendly people."

Jim sat outside for a long time, enjoying the warm summer air and the beauty of the landscaping at the church. He was the last person to come inside, and he said that being outside was "the best part of the day," because he hadn't been out of his room in so long. He said the second best part was the music.

The volunteers...

Jill, a first-time volunteer said, "Scott from my church invited us. It's awesome! I only wish we would have invited more people from church to come, too. They would love it."

Kathy, another first-time volunteer, said, "This is phenomenal. I saw the invitation in the newsletter, called the office to offer my help, and Kim signed me up to volunteer. You can be sure I will be inviting residents from my care home next year."

Cheryl said, "It's a very emotional day, but very rewarding. It's great to make the residents happy."



The nursing home staff...

"We love this picnic. Every year, we look forward to that invitation letter. This year we got the letter in February, and I held it up and waved it at my co-workers, and said, *Yippee!!*"

"It's wonderful to see the residents smiling and laughing. They love the entertainment. The volunteers are excellent, upbeat, friendly and helpful. We all feel the love of God and Jesus."

"The service is great, the smiles...the volunteers go overboard. It's so important for the residents – it makes them into "one community." It's important that they know they're not forgotten."

"Oh, our

residents love this - the music, the decorations, the food - all of it."

The families...

"What an amazing ministry...there are so many lonely, suffering people, and this ministry goes out to them...it's amazing

Jesus...

"When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or sisters, your relatives, or your rich neighbors; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous." ~ Luke 14:12-14



Our Annual Legacy Picnic is held to bless residents of local care homes

and

In Loving Memory of our *Legacy Partners*

John R. Sr. & Marian Palfy
 Rachel Cook
 Kenneth Lyke
 Robert McGreggor
 John Rowan
 Clyde Hartman
 Maria Henry
 Carol Horn
 Norm Roglin
 Carol O'Rourke
 Evelyn Svozil
 Richard & Margaret Ziegler
 Carol Sekerak
 John & Jennie Svozil
 Arthur & Vivian Zenkert
 William A. Cahil
 Genevieve Z. Matras
 Robert D. Goodrich
 Lucille A. Ewing
 Mary Ann Goodrich
 John R. Palfy Jr.
 Del Ingram
 J.P. & Mary Alice Sides
 Erwin Sikorski

Note: July/August Memorials will appear in the Sept./Oct. newsletter.

That's All She Needed

Persons with dementia often have a great deal of anxiety. I love it when I can bring them words of peace and comfort to relieve them of their fears.

Last week on the dementia unit, we had just finished singing,

*Jesus loves me,
This I know
For the Bible
Tells me so,*



a song so simple that children can sing it, yet profound enough to be sung by God's oldest children. I took a moment to use this song to talk with them about God's love for them.

Violet (a highly intelligent woman who had been a physician) called out with a worried look on her face, "But how do you know it's true?"

I smiled and answered her kindly, "Because the Bible tells me so."

She smiled back, nodded and sighed with relief, and said, "Thank you."

That's all she needed to reassure her that she was safe in God's love for her. Jesus spoke with authority like no other, and words shared in love from Biblical truth have the same power today that they had 2,000 years ago - to comfort, to heal, to restore, to bring peace to troubled hearts and minds. What a great gift!

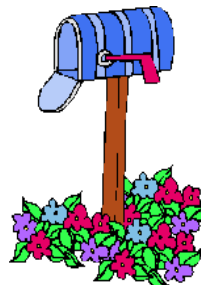
A Letter Can Do It

Recently, a care team leader told me that she was getting almost no cooperation from the Activities Department in the care home where her team serves.

Interestingly, she said, this last week was different; the staff was a little bit more attentive. So I encouraged her to write a letter thanking the staff person for all the support she gave last week. My friend did this.

A few weeks later I saw my friend and she said, "You know, I took your advice and wrote that letter and when I came back to the care home, that activities person could not do enough to thank me for the letter."

This letter has opened a door for a relationship that will include the cooperation and support needed for this team to share the Gospel. It's amazing what kindness and gratitude can do. We all appreciate compliments and positive feedback, and these are far more motivational than criticism. Maybe there's someone in your life who would like a sincere letter of appreciation?



Ministry Update

God Cares Ministry is something unique and special. We receive no government funds, or funding from the large secular charitable agencies, in order to protect our Christ-centered focus. We survive on donations from those of you who believe in reaching our aging neighbors with the words of eternal life as they near the end of their earthly journey.

Thank you for your generous gifts to this work, which increases the number of volunteers in the nursing home mission field, and enables more residents to receive the love and word of Jesus. So many are taking His hand and He is taking them home.

*The purpose of
God Cares Ministry
is to mobilize
the Church to
meet the spiritual
needs of people
in long term
care homes.*

*Our Goal is:
One care home
for every
Christ-centered
church.*

Visit our website at
GodCaresMinistry.com
where you can:

- ❖ Find current and past newsletter articles
- ❖ Sign up for God Cares Ministry News
- ❖ Order nursing home ministry books and training videos
- ❖ Get full details & register for upcoming training programs
- ❖ Download Large print Scripture portions
- ❖ Share your nursing home ministry stories



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Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. ~ Romans 12:2

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**Dated Material
 Please RUSH!!**

GOD CARES 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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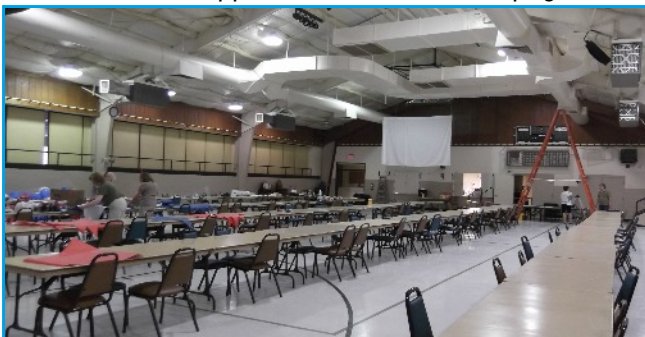
Upcoming Events

Sept. 20 - **One-to-One Visitation in Care Homes** @ Grace Church in Middleburg Heights
 Registration 8:30 a.m.; Training 9:00 - 1:00

Oct. 18 - **Reaching Beyond the Limitations of Dementia** @ Parkside Church, Chagrin Falls ➡

November 8th - **PowerNight** Our annual evening banquet to honor the wonderful volunteers in nursing home ministry. Details in next newsletter.

Look what happened to this room...on page 2



Annual Dementia Training

Back by popular demand, we are presenting our third annual dementia training seminar, "Reaching Beyond the Limitations of Dementia", with Teepa Snow and Bill Goodrich on October 18, 2014 at Parkside Church in Chagrin Falls. If you are a caregiver, friend, or family member of a person with dementia, you will be greatly encouraged and equipped by this informative, practical, and engaging workshop.

These are just a few of the comments we received last year:

- "The course paid for itself in the first 15 minutes."
- "I want to invite others next time."
- "I have attended many courses over the past 25 years as an Occupational Therapist and I will say this was the best ever. I am grateful to GCM for offering this and am looking forward to next year..."
- "Thank you for expanding my knowledge to impact a challenging population to treat, and to impact lives for Jesus."

For information about the approval status of contact hours, and event registration, contact God Cares Ministry at 440-930-2173, or visit www.GodCaresMinistry.com