



# Ministry News

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



## Seeing Beyond the Clouds

Although the Lord pours out many wonderful blessings upon His children, He also allows us to experience many troubles and sorrows. At times, our prayers, desires and dreams seem to drift into hopelessness...

and our vision of God can become obscured by dark clouds. This is sometimes seen as God's disfavor or judgment on us, but we must realize that it is through such storms that we must let down our anchor of hope and hold firm to the promises of God.

David was anointed as king. Yet he experienced many struggles. In Psalm 13 he cried out, "How long, O LORD? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me?"

The Apostles experienced great fears and loneliness; sometimes even while in Jesus' presence. Once, while they were crossing a lake, a furious storm came up, so that the waves swept over the boat. But Jesus was sleeping. Because of the danger, the disciples believed they would drown. They must have thought that Jesus was unaware or unconcerned about their present reality. They cried out, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?" Mark 4:38.

Jesus experienced the darkest clouds of all as He hung on the cross. He quoted from Psalm 22:1, "My God, My God, Why have you forsaken me?"

### What is Happening in those Dark Clouds?

Has God left us to our enemies and the storms of life? Not at all! But sometimes the clouds can hide our view of the bigger picture. For instance:

Some believe that while Jesus hung on the cross, the Father turned His back on Him, because He could not bear to look at all the sin that He took on Himself. I have not found anything in Scripture to affirm that Father God ever turned His back on Jesus, especially at His greatest time of need, on the cross. In fact the contrary seems to be more pronounced; from the very same Psalm which states, "For he has not despised or disdained the suffering of the afflicted one; he has not hidden his face from him but has listened to his cry for help." Psalm 22:24 God has also promised all of His people, "Never will I leave you, never will I forsake you." Deuteronomy 31:6 & Hebrews 13:5

## The Hope of Easter

We have these promises from our Heavenly Father, and we must know them and trust His faithfulness.

- Like King David did, who ended most of his psalms with words of faith and hope: "Find rest, O my soul, in God alone; my hope comes from him. He alone is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I shall not be shaken. My salvation and my honor depend on God; he is my mighty rock, my refuge." Psalm 62:5-7
- Like Abraham did, in the midst of what seemed impossible: Against all hope, in hope, Abraham believed. Romans 4:18.
- Like the Apostles proclaimed, when Jesus' words surpassed their understanding: "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life." John 6:68.
- Like Jesus, while dying on the cross, cried out: "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." Luke 23:46.



We must realize that these dark clouds are part of the plan. In them, our sinful nature is being put to death, so that by God's power, we can rise in victory over the things of this world.

Let us therefore, embrace our cross as we fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, and in due time, the Son will dispel the dark clouds and you will see the glory of our King on your Easter day! B.G.



*What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us?*

He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all — how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?

## Still Bearing Fruit...

I was presenting a lesson on calling and gifts at a retirement home. I told my audience that all believers had a calling from God and all are gifted for that calling.

After the meeting, a woman named Anna came up to me in her wheelchair and told me she did not agree with me. She was nearly 80 years old and had had polio earlier in life and was confined to a wheelchair. She said there was nothing she could do to help others, so I must be



mistaken. I told her she obviously could talk and seemed to have no difficulty hearing. I also said I thought she was capable of praying. She did not see any value in those things and left, still disagreeing with me.

She did not return to the Bible study for a month. When she did come back, she wheeled right up to the front and said, "You were right." I had forgotten what I was right about, so she reminded me about what I had said about calling and gifts. She had spoken with her pastor and he had agreed with me; this left her thinking about what she might do.

She remembered being in a nursing home for a short period, about six months before, and that there were people there who were never visited. So, she wheeled her chair from her apartment down to the nursing home, a distance of about a half-mile. She went into the office and asked if she could visit some of the people who had few visitors. She was given a list of room numbers and names and she began her visits.

She told me she was making her visits two afternoons a week. She had asked the administrator if she could pray with the residents and was told she could if they gave her permission. So now she was using the gifts that I had identified weeks before. She was talking and listening and praying.

After a few months, Anna stopped attending the Bible study. None of the other attendees could explain her absence. Several months later I was visiting someone in the nursing home where Anna was making her visits. I discovered the reason she had stopped attending the Bible study. Now, instead of two afternoons a week, Anna was spending all day, every day, talking and listening and praying.

So, if you think you are too old or frail to do what God has called and gifted you to do... you might want to talk to Anna.

*Ron Vander Ark*

P.S. The nursing home is so appreciative of Anna's ministry that they now pick her up in their van.

*The righteous will flourish like a palm tree, they will grow like a cedar of Lebanon; planted in the house of the LORD, they will flourish in the courts of our God. They will still bear fruit in old age, they will stay fresh and green, proclaiming, "The LORD is upright; he is my Rock, and there is no wickedness in him." Psalm 92:12-15*

## Need training but you live out of town?

Chaplain Bill is available to provide live training seminars anywhere in the USA. However, due to travel expenses, lodging, etc., it may be more cost effective to consider our *Living Waters In A Dry Land* Training Curriculum.

This kit includes everything you need to successfully train a group of 8 people; DVDs, workbooks, a facilitator's guide, recruiting videos and much more. Visit [www.GodCaresMinistry.com](http://www.GodCaresMinistry.com) or call 440-930-2173 for more details.



### **Patrick Convery**

From Tim & Peggy Convery

### **Mary Ann Goodrich**

From Russ Provenza  
Brian, Kim & Joshua Grosik

### **Lawrence & Lois Pack**

From Barbara & Larry Pack, Jr.

### **Marian Palffy**

From John Palffy, III

### **All Those Who Have Passed**

From Maggie Gray

### **Thelma Louis Klimmek**

From Bill & Kathryn Owens

### **Mattie Anderson**

From Lenah Robles

### **John Palffy, Jr.**

From John Palffy, III  
Jim & Jo Ann Rettinger

### **Allene Honeycutt**

From Todd Orshoski

### **Rachel Cook**

From John & Susan Exoo

### **Laura Aukerman**

From Kim Aukerman

### **Barb Glancy**

From Robert Glancy

### **Troy Keith Morrow**

From Diane Morrow

### **\*IN HONOR OF\***

### **Our Piano Player, Marci**

From Todd Orshoski

### **God Cares Ministry's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

From Elaine Edkin

## God Leads His Servants



Yesterday at church I was praying about direction in my life and what new ministry the Lord was opening for me. After church, a very dear friend, Ellen, asked me to go to the nursing home with her.

When we arrived, the residents had just finished playing Bingo. I met Ellen's friend Alice, an 83 year old woman, who is still as sharp as a tack, and I fell in love with her immediately. Jesus shined in her - she was joyous and cute as a bug. We asked if we could read scripture with her and oh, she was so happy, but her ground rule is that we use the King James Bible. This was no problem - I was happy to read *any* version of God's Word. I sat down and read to her John 15, and as I read she repeated the words and we discussed the scriptures. She knew the Word.

I really enjoyed this. After I finished, she wanted to read more. I paused, looked around and saw the sad faces in the room at the other tables, so I got up and asked others to join us, telling them that we would love to share some words from Jesus. Others came to the tables. I love how the Holy Spirit prompts us and guides us, enabling us to shine His glorious Light upon these people. (I am so excited just typing this and remembering the day) I will continue to visit... happy happy joy joy.. thank you Jesus!!!

Mariann Z.



### "Is That for Me?"

He sat in the front row of the large common room during the weekly volunteer music and prayer gathering one evening. He said that he was cold, and the song leader got up from the keyboard and asked the busy nurse if there was an extra blanket. The nurse went down the long hallway and came back with a blanket. As she headed toward him with it, he realized she was bringing it for him, and his face lit up. He asked in surprised delight, "Is that for *me*?"

Oh, to be the recipient of an unexpected blessing – we all long for this, all our lives. It was such a simple thing – the bringing of a blanket down a hallway. But what a difference it made to this man. He was given the comforting warmth of a blanket, and then was able to relax and enjoy his time at the gathering.

Jesus said that anyone who gives even a cup of cold water to one of His friends will not go unrewarded. The nurse who brought that blanket will receive a reward from Him.



And not only did this man get a blanket to bring momentary physical comfort, he also received the emotional comfort that comes from being cared for. And even more, he received the good news of the unconditional love that covers his soul and spirit with the warmth of an eternal, undying Grace.

*"Is that for me?"*

Yes, sir, it is for you; both the blanket and the Grace. Arlene Sikorski

### You Are Being Used!

As God Cares Ministry enters its 20<sup>th</sup> year, we would like to express our sincere gratitude for your support, active love and prayers, which along with God's mercy and grace have allowed us to exist and grow.

Through your efforts, countless numbers have been touched by the Love and Word of Jesus! We estimate that this month alone, over 8,000 care home residents will be ministered to by the missionaries we have trained.

**Thank you** for being a part of this mission field! Heaven's population continues to grow because you care and share.

B.G.



*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](http://GodCaresMinistry.com)  
where you can:

- ♦ Find current and past newsletter articles
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- ♦ Get full details & register for upcoming training programs
- ♦ Download Large print Scripture portions
- ♦ Share your nursing home ministry stories



515 Moore Rd., Suite 3  
Avon Lake, OH 44012  
Info@GodCaresMinistry.com  
www.GodCaresMinistry.com

*Here is a trustworthy saying:  
If we died with Him, we will also live with Him;  
if we endure, we will also reign with Him.  
If we deny Him, He will also deny us;  
if we are faithless, He will remain faithful,  
for He cannot deny himself. 2Tim. 2:11-12*

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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 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.

Return Service Requested

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*Training for Life Changing Visits:  
Sharing Jesus One-to-One With Those Who Are Shut In*

God Cares Ministry will be providing two training sessions in May, focusing primarily on one-to-one visitation. Topics will include:

- \* Building a solid foundation for care home ministry
- \* Developing caring friendships through one-to-one visits
- \* Understanding and helping to meet the emotional & spiritual needs of our friends
- \* How to lead our friends to Jesus

There is no cost for these seminars. *However, registration is required.* You can register online at [www.GodCaresMinistry.com](http://www.GodCaresMinistry.com) or by calling us at (440) 930-2173; or you may call the church contact number listed below.

Two Events

**Church at Garrett**

1370 South Randolph Street  
Garrett, Indiana 46738  
**(260) 357-1829** (Leave message)

**Saturday, May 3rd**

*(Please register by Apr. 28th)*  
11:00 a.m. – Registration  
11:30 to 12:00 Noon – Light Lunch  
12:00 to 2:15 p.m. – Training Session



**New Promise Church**

8671 Euclid Chardon Road  
Kirtland, Ohio 44094  
Contact Kim Saywell  
**(440) 221-8580**

**Saturday, May 31st**

*(Please register by May 26th)*  
8:30 a.m. – Registration  
9:00 to 11:30 a.m. – Training Session