



# MINISTRY NEWS

25 years of equipping the Church to share the love and word of Jesus in senior adult care homes

March/April 2020

*As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it. ~ Isaiah 55:10-11*



## NEWS BREAK...

It is amazing to me how the virus has captivated the attention of the entire globe. Indeed, the prospect of sudden death has a powerful influence, and as we “flatten the curve”, the fear of

economic collapse is capturing man's attention.

I have been very carefully reading my news source, seeking to understand the big picture and what we are to do during this challenging season. Based on my primary news source, the answers to my questions and the direction I was seeking have become very clear. I would like to share what I have found:

- This is not a time to turn our focus away from our Creator. It is time to look to Him and follow His direction.
- He has promised to protect and direct all who abide in Him and acknowledge Him in all their ways.
- Since God is for His children, nothing can stand against us.
- God is telling all His children who hope in Him, “Fear not, I am with you, you are Mine.”

### So what do we do?

- It is not time to step back. It is time to move forward and invest! Invest into the most secure treasures. Yes! The treasures that no thief can steal, no rust or moth (or plague) can destroy. Invest into what God sent His only begotten Son to procure: the souls of all people.
- Sharpen your plows by deepening your time alone in God's Word and in prayer. Embrace by faith all that Jesus tells you.

- Break up the unplowed ground by allowing the Lord to reach deeper into your soul, removing the stones and bad roots in order to plant His Life-giving Word in you.
- Then, take what God gives you from His grace and Word and plant it in other's hearts. Share it with those who have fearful hearts—who need real hope and peace in this difficult journey.

Friends, this is not time to wait out the season. It is our opportunity to shine the light of Jesus with creative acts of love. Indeed, this is a season when many hearts have opened up to the grace of God. Those hearts need the Word of God, and we are God's servants for such a time as this!

Though the effects of this virus may last a long time, your acts of faith and love will last forever! They will be remembered by the people you have loved and helped to find hope in Jesus. They will also be remembered by the One who sent you to rescue them with His Word. Seeds that are planted in this time will grow a harvest for the glory of God!

### Now that's Good News!

Therefore do not let this undesirable climate stop you from planting the seed. Even small mustard seeds of active faith will yield a great harvest—because God will make it grow. God bless you, my farming friends! ~ *Chaplain Bill*



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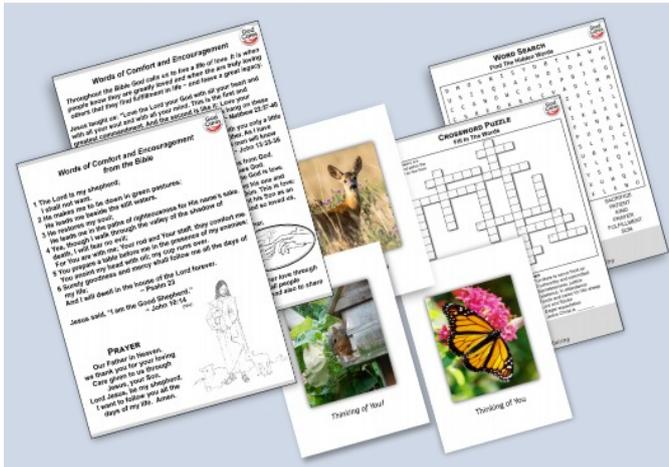
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Enhancing Trust

## SEEDS OF TRUTH AND LOVE

Although we are unable to visit inside the nursing homes, there are still several things we can do to provide comfort and encouragement to the residents. We have created several resources to help you:



1. **Words of Comfort and Encouragement** – Several large print handouts with Bible verses and a related prayer on topics of concern to residents. They include a word puzzle on the back side that follows the Scripture themes, encouraging readers to reread the verses. These handouts have a text block which you can personalize before you email it to your Activity Director to print and pass out to all the residents. Several Activities Directors have shared their appreciation:

### IN ADDITION

Since the care home staff are the ones who have access to the residents during this lockdown season, it is important to do what we can to bless and help them. As we help them, they and the residents under their care will be blessed. We have talked with several Activities Directors who have expressed their needs and concerns. They have shared that this is a different time and that they must adjust with a different approach to care. It is challenging to say the least. Residents also have to adjust. Some do well, but some are afraid and confused. Most homes have had to close dining rooms, stop all group activities, and prohibit outside visits. Residents must remain in their rooms. Some have only continued focus on their TVs. It really helps when there is something else for them to focus on besides the news and some of the less encouraging shows. **Residents need to hear what God is saying to them in the midst of this challenging season of their lives.** In addition to the resources mentioned above, Activities Directors have urged us to pray for all staff, from laundry to nursing aids, to nurses, to dietary, to activity assistants and administration. We have nowhere near enough of us to meet the needs!

- These are **FABULOUS** - Thank You!! We'll gladly take whatever you can share. ~ Barbara
- They are being very well received and I am using them for one-on-one Bible studies. ~ Cindy
- Oh my gosh! You cannot know how wonderful it is to receive these Scriptures and prayers! If you have others, I would absolutely love them. Thank you again for helping us and for loving our residents! ~ Kim

2. **Bible Service Messages (with beautiful hymns interspersed)** – Since many homes are able to cast videos onto the residents' TVs, we have created service messages that include hymns with the words so residents can sing along. Though the first two messages focus on Easter, they are timeless in the Gospel message.
3. **"Thinking of You" Greeting Cards** – Four choices of beautiful cards you can download to personalize and send to your friends. These cards include encouraging Scriptures on the inside left panel.

These free resources are available on our website: [GodCaresMinistry.com/meeting-the-challenge-of-the-hour/](http://GodCaresMinistry.com/meeting-the-challenge-of-the-hour/)  
Videos are also available on our YouTube channel: [Youtube.com/user/GodCaresMinistry](http://Youtube.com/user/GodCaresMinistry)

### ~ YOUR GENEROSITY ~

You are supplying a very significant need for God's elderly children in care homes. Whether they live long or die soon, our goal is to be sure that they belong to *Jesus*, and we rejoice when we know that they made it home safe.

May He who supplies your seed increase your supply and increase the harvest of your righteousness. May you be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and may your generosity continually result in praise and thanksgiving to God. ~ Chaplain Bill Goodrich

#### Other items of need:

- More Scripture handouts with words of hope
- Coloring books
- Clean humor, cartoons, knock knock jokes
- Seasonal word searches
- Inspirational or nature photos...
- A card, or a quick note so they know you are thinking of them
- CD players with inspirational or classical music
- Craft ideas and supplies
- Facetime chats and ministry

Be sure to check with your Activities Director before proceeding with your plans, as guidelines differ from home-to-home.

## MORE IDEAS TO SHARE

We have heard from several of our co-laborers in the nursing home mission field who have shared what they are doing to support staff and bring comfort and encouragement to residents of the homes they have adopted. Of course, many have shared the resources mentioned on page 2. Additionally, they have given residents and staff the following:

- Cards, flowers, and food delivered to staff
- Face masks for residents and staff
- Pictures colored by children
- The *God Cares for You* ministry book
- Our Daily Bread devotionals
- iPads given to homes for video visits
- Prayer gatherings with care team members via conference calls and Zoom
- Large-print handouts with personal notes that include their phone number
- A church received Easter Lilies from a nearby grower and had their care teams deliver hundreds to care homes they have adopted
- Yard signs with encouraging words and colorful drawings



## CHURCH AT GARRETT, INDIANA

It has been very difficult for us to not be able to visit our nursing home family, but even in these times, God has provided ways to serve His children. Here are a few:

We have started to meet each Sunday morning outside the nursing home residents' windows with our homemade signs of love and encouragement, to sing hymns and pray for them. Seeing their faces filled with smiles and joy is a blessing for all of us.

Our Pastor now provides televised sermons which we make available on DVD, too. The nursing home plays them throughout the entire facility and many are hearing them who have not attended our weekly services. Many of our church family are continuing to deliver cards of hope, love, and comfort. We are also sharing the handouts from God Cares' website. Each week the staff copies and distributes to all our nursing home family (residents and staff).

We continue to send cards to the loving, dedicated staff and pray for them, the residents and their family members who miss them. **Matthew 25:40 tells us, "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'"** May God's Glory be seen in our efforts and may many be led to their Savior, Jesus Christ.



## IN THE MEANTIME:

For most of us, it is very difficult not to go to the nursing home to minister to our friends. We want to do something for them, but we can't. But wait! There is something you can do for the residents. Since so many things are canceled, and you have some unplanned time, you can use your normal visiting time to learn valuable principles from Scripture that will help you thrive in your nursing home outreach.

### Two ideas:

1. A book discussion with *Nursing Home Ministry – Where Hidden Treasures are Found*. We are offering this handbook cost-free (only pay shipping and handling) until May 15<sup>th</sup>. Use the coupon code: MEANTIME at checkout.
2. Take the online training program, *Living Waters in A Dry Land*. This eight session seminar filmed before a live audience

will add value and fruitfulness to your outreach. We are offering a 50% savings until May 15<sup>th</sup>. Use the coupon code: FRUITFULNESS at checkout. This training program includes an accompanying workbook, the *Hidden Treasures* handbook and a *God Cares for You* ministry book. Think of the value that you and your care team will bring to your resident friends from this time of fellowship, prayer and sharing ideas that will increase your ministry's fruitfulness!



**Bob Cochrell**

From Carol Cochrell

**Mary Ann Goodrich**

From Carolyn Herrmann

**James Trowbridge**

From Lucy A. Trowbridge

**Debbie Wolcott**

From Jeanette E. Schugens

**Rachel Cook**

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**Charlotte Schumacher**

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**Anna Thomay**

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**Kathryn Kinkus**

From Dale & Marge Mertz

**Wilhelm and Mary Fast**

From Anna Wildner

**Laura Aukerman**

**Carl Aukerman**

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**Legacy Picnic Fund**

**John Palffy, Jr.**

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He is showing up everywhere  
people call to Him!*

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25  
years of God's  
amazing grace*



## **A TIME AND A SEASON:**

We have been working diligently to prepare seeds for you to plant during this challenging season. Let us not miss the opportunity to shine the Light of Jesus through creative acts of love!

We have talked with several Activities Directors who have shared how valuable these seeds are to the residents *and* staff. Many have offered several suggestions for helping to bring cheer, and minimize boredom and isolation.

Remember, God Cares Ministry is here to serve you as you serve God's elderly children in the care homes.

*Good seed that is planted in God's wisdom, which is peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy, impartial, and sincere, yields a harvest of righteousness, peace, and joy!*

## **A PASSAGEWAY TO HOPE**

Do you realize that Psalm 91 holds over a dozen amazing promises from God? These promises are all based on how true verse 1 is in our lives. Verses 9, 14, and 15 reveal what our part is, and the other 12 verses reveal what God's part is.

Friends, there is peace, protection, hope, and life in the midst of this challenging journey. Even back when God had His servant pen Psalm 91, He knew about today's challenges. He loves us and therefore gave us His promises. Indeed, our Creator has prepared a refuge for us in this day!

***"You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you," declares the LORD...***

***~ Jeremiah 29:13-14***