



# Ministry News

May/June  
2016

Over 20 years of recruiting, training & supporting Christians for senior care home ministry



## Comfort and Healing from the Wounded

*“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God.”*

~ 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

People who have been deeply wounded are often the most sensitive to others who are hurting. Those of us who turn to Jesus and receive His comfort become a blessing as we pass this comfort on to others who are struggling as we did. Although we trust in Jesus and look forward to our eternal home with Him, mourning is a very appropriate response to our present sorrow and loss. Many mighty men of God mourned and grieved: the righteous Job, Jeremiah the prophet, king David and the other psalmists, the apostle Paul and our Lord Jesus Himself, who was a “man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.” He told us, “Blessed are those who mourn; for they shall be comforted.”

Most of our friends in the care homes are in mourning because of their significant losses; not only of spouses, but of life as they knew it and retirement as they planned it. Most of us who minister to them have been given a deep compassion for them because of our own experience of suffering and loss.

*Our mourning is not continual despairing; for in our valleys of loss and grief, our God of all comfort meets us with His loving words of life. As we turn to Him, He gives us the grace and courage to press on in His love.*

As you show great kindness born out of the comfort you have received from the Lord, you have a transformative impact on the lives of residents. As you share the grace of Jesus with them, His redemptive love meets them at the point of their deepest needs! What a joy to see how the Lord comforts and even transforms these wounded hearts, from despairing to hopeful; from anger to peace; from fearfulness to contentment.

*I am honored to serve with you in this great mission field. Please always remember what our Lord has said:*

*“Whoever is kind to the needy honors God.”*  
~ Proverbs 14:31

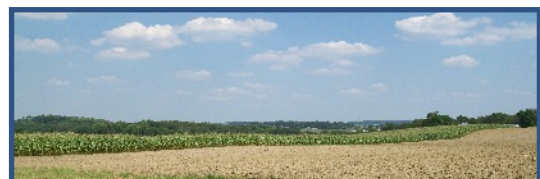
We know of many instances where residents, who were despondent from the blows of life's painful trials, received strength and encouragement through the love and promises of Jesus. They are then able to share these treasures with others - like wounded soldiers reaching out to share the healing love of God with fellow wounded soldiers. It is a *great joy* to see and hear the examples of compassion residents have shown each other. In the following pages, we have included a few stories of some of these wounded healers.

~ Chaplain Bill



*“If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus.”*

~ Philippians 2:1-5



Bert had a warm and engaging personality. Until last year, he was very healthy for a man in his late 80's. He was still living at home, able to care for himself. In fact, he had just taken a very nice woman (my mother - I fixed them up!) on a first date, and was looking forward to taking her out again. Then, he got a serious foot infection, followed by hospitalization, surgery and rehab in a skilled nursing facility.

Of course, he had a difficult time adjusting to leaving his home, losing his ability to walk, and being away from his friends. But he made many new friends as he brightened the lives of many other residents. Everyone wanted to hang out with him. He ate dinner every night at a table filled with his new buddies, and he never lacked the attention of women residents.

But the weeks of rehab turned into months. There were more trips to the hospital, an amputation of one leg, a partial amputation of his other foot. As he became weaker and even more immobile, he bravely tried to keep up his own spirits and the spirits of everyone who loved him; but his losses were taking their toll.

Bert had been an infrequent church-goer, but through conversations with a minister at the care home, he came to an assurance of eternal life by faith in Jesus. I saw the change in him almost immediately – a peace that I had not seen before.

Although his spiritual condition was being renewed, his physical condition continued to deteriorate. Bert was still clinging to hope of going home, but finally he knew this hope was gone. He was too weak to leave his room, and instead of going out to engage with people, he was often confined to his bed.

Julie, another resident, wheeled into Bert's room one afternoon to visit. She found him in tears. This brave man, who had been so kind to others, was overwhelmed by all his pain and sickness. He wept, heartbroken. Julie took his hand, told him it was ok to cry and wept along with him.

Julie understood Bert's pain, for she also had her foot amputated, is partly paralyzed and has little hope of returning home. She often mourns her own great pain and losses. But she has been ministered to many times by visitors from this ministry and has found hope in Jesus through her painful trials.

Both Bert and Julie turned their own pain into empathy for others. Empathy is a powerful force for emotional healing. Listening as people express their painful emotions, comforting with touch and words; these are the balms that wounded healers employ with skill and tenderness.

Thank you, volunteers and supporters, for your compassion for residents like Bert and Julie who, in turn, care for so many of their fellow residents. All of us are part of the body of Christ; sometimes wounded and broken, yet, by His grace, we continue to share in the fellowship of His healing love. ~ *Arlene Sikorski*



**Ray & Beth Kemmeter**  
From Philip & Patty Frieze

**Marianne Provenza**  
From Russ Provenza

**Lynda Shimko**  
From Don & Donna Klingensmith

**Ruth Dodds**  
From Carolyn Herrmann

**William Carr**  
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Bill Goodrich  
Hester Lewellen & Glending Olson  
Barb & Dick Carr  
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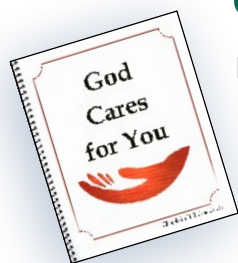
**Mary Ann Goodrich**  
From Bill Goodrich  
Brian & Rita Hassett  
Barb & Larry Pack

**John Palffy**  
From Jim & Jo Ann Rettinger

**Thelma Klimmek**  
From Bill & Kathryn Owens

**Mary Sale**  
From Tom & Sue Connolly

**Laura Aukerman**  
From Kim Aukerman



## God Cares for Her

Last month, I gave copies of the "God Cares for You" ministry book to residents at our Sunday service. Brenda received a copy and told her friend, Carla, about the wonderful book that was given to her. At the next service, Carla asked me if she might also have a book, telling me that Brenda had let her look through her copy. I pulled out a copy from my case, showed her the chapters, topics, stories and related prayers which she could incorporate into her day and also share with others.

At the next service, Carla approached me with much enthusiasm and thanked me for the book. She said it was a tremendous help to her, and she asked to speak to the congregation about her experience. Carla walked to the lectern with her walker and began her testimony. She said that the book allowed her to discover her purpose in this new stage of her life. Through "God Cares for You", she was able to finally recognize why she was at the nursing home. Now she is confident that God has called her to a special place and given her a greater knowledge of her journey with Him. She intends to use that knowledge to bless others. ~ *Ed Noftz*



Helen knew she was lacking something. She just didn't know how or where to find it. She had been married and then widowed. She had raised two children, but was no longer hearing from either of them. Having outlived most of her friends and family, she felt isolated. The body she lived in was declining. The facility she lived in was confining and seemed like anywhere but home. She felt the people around her were only there because they were paid to take care of her. She knew the difference between "being taken care of" and "being cared for."

When we first introduced ourselves to Helen, she made no eye contact. Her caregiver had said "she doesn't really talk." We let Helen know that we were content to just 'be' with her and if she wanted to express anything that we were "all ears." We asked if we could pray and share some words with her and then return again next week. She paused and gave a reluctant nod.

The next two visits were no different. We greeted her and left after a time of providing prayer and a presence. A month to the day after we met, we approached her the same way. This time she looked up and said, "I missed you." This led to her sharing her life story with us and our sharing the Story of Life with her. She embraced Jesus through the Gospel message and was placed as a child in His family. Her spiritual growth has made an indelible impact on the staff and other residents as she not only verbalizes her faith but joins in singing His praises as a freed captive.

Join us in praise to our great God for "placing the lonely in families" as He has for Helen. Her daily testimony is that God has set her free from bondage and has given her neighbors to love! ~ *Dave and Teri Compton, Love Your Neighbor Ministries, Gresham, OR*

## Brighten the Corner Where You Are

Gladys had known sorrow and many trials throughout her life. Her husband was one of the young men who lost their lives at Pearl Harbor. This along with other issues led her into very deep despair and careless living. After some years, a woman began to share God's promises in the Bible, and helped Gladys find peace in Jesus.

Several years ago, we started visiting the nursing home where Gladys lived. She told us that living in "this place" was not her desire, nor were the many physical problems that she had. However, she wanted to make the best of her situation and was praying for an opportunity to serve Jesus.

After a few months of visiting, we were given permission to start a Bible study. Gladys loved it! She took it upon herself to invite other residents. She would go around during the week telling them how helpful the Bible study was and invite them to come. When our team would arrive to set things up, she would be the first in the room with a roster and highlighter to take attendance. If fellow residents expressed interest in the Bible study, Gladys made sure we knew to bring them. Her prayer and intent was for the others to be as blessed by hearing the Word of God as she had been. Because of her involvement, we had to move to the largest room in the building to facilitate the over 50 residents in attendance!

Gladys helped us for several years. Eventually, she became so weak that she could hardly sit up; so she would rest during the day to save her strength for the evening Bible study. Her love for God and the people around her compelled her to look beyond her ailments and make the most of her situation. The nursing home became *her* mission field.

Because of her labor of love, hundreds of people in that home found hope and peace in Jesus. They are now in heaven with Gladys. ~ *B.G.*

“For God,  
who said,  
‘Let light shine  
out of darkness,’  
has shone in our  
hearts  
to give the light  
of the knowledge  
of the glory of  
God in the face of  
Jesus Christ.”

~ II Corinthians 4:6





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“... for when I am weak,  
 then am I strong.”  
 ~ II Corinthians 12:10

**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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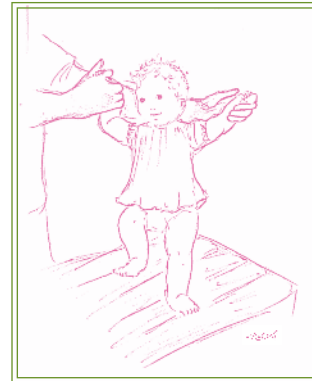
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**Would you like to:**

- Learn how to get started in care home ministry?
- Discover how your church can adopt a care home?
- Learn how to effectively share God’s love with lonely residents?
- Re-ignite or re-start your ministry care team?



Then you are invited to our **“First Steps”** coaching event on **June 11th** from **9 AM till 11:30 AM** at our office in Avon Lake. In this informal, yet informative small group session, Chaplain Bill will guide you toward a fruitful ministry.

Register online at [www.GodCaresMinistry.com](http://www.GodCaresMinistry.com) or by phone at **440-930-2173**



*Thank You*



for all your ministry and support of the care home mission field. You are changing many lives as you bring peace and comfort to residents in their last days, as well as hope for all eternity. We appreciate you and pray for you often. **God bless you!**