

And the King (Jesus) will answer and say to them, "Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me." Matthew 25:40



A KNOCK AT THE DOOR

Mary was alone.

She really wanted to go back home, but she came to realize that she could not.

She wanted to die.

She was confused and afraid.

She prayed timidly and despairingly, and with a touch of anger. "Why, God? What did I do wrong? Are you there?"

After several months in this state, an unexpected knock at Mary's door became a turning point...

The knock did not come easy for Jon, who had resisted the thought of visiting "that place", which represented sadness, darkness, and death—a hopeless environment for which there was no fix, no remedy. Yet, because Jon loved the Lord and had offered himself to Him, to do His will anywhere, any way, and at any cost, Mary's loving Creator was able to convince Jon to reach out.

The process of getting started had not been easy for Jon. It had required time searching online, ordering a ministry book, taking an online training seminar, and interviewing with an Activity Director at the local nursing home. Much thought and prayer occurred during this process, which took almost a month. Jon had uncertainties, but he also had a confident sense of God's leading. It was clear that God loved these unseen neighbors, and that He wanted to touch them. And it seemed like He was asking Jon to be His vessel.

Jon's day came, a day when God would fulfill his prayers, and Mary's, too. The first few minutes came with a bit of awkwardness. Jon was prepared with an opening line, but was greeted first by Mary, who asked, "Can you help me to the bathroom?" "Uh, no," he replied. "Then what do you want?" asked Mary. It was by God's grace that the next words came out of Jon's mouth. "Uh, I just want a friend to

talk to." Mary was intrigued, but skeptical. "How much does it cost?" she sarcastically quizzed. "Just a bit of time and perhaps some patience with a shy man that you never met before", replied Jon. Mary smiled. "Sold!"

About three years later, Jon sat by Mary's bedside, talking and praying with her as her life in this world was about to end. It had been an amazing journey of friendship that had extended to several other friends throughout the nursing home, who, like Mary, had an eagerness to know and grow closer to Jesus. The friendship also extended to friends from Jon's church who came for visits and even a weekly Bible study. To Jon's surprise, God was using him to significantly influence a small community of people who needed hope in their last season of life in this world.

This story is based on a true story, in fact, many true stories.

Today, there are over 1,000 senior care home missionaries like Jon who have little formal missionary education, yet they love the Lord and His elderly sheep. They are feeding them the Bread of Life and developing eternal friendships.

Our Good Shepherd is pleased with all of you who have said "Yes!" to His call to care for this hidden people group. We at God Cares Ministry are honored to serve you as you serve Jesus and His lambs in this great mission field. To God be the glory for the great things He continues to do! ~ B.G.



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WHAT IF?

This year at our PowerNight banquet, Pastor Dennis Barta shared a touching story of how the Lord used him to pray with Nick, an 82-year-old man, to receive Jesus as His Lord and Savior. It was an inspiring story and it was a blessing to hear how God redeemed this man who came to the nursing home only for a short stay for rehab.

After the story, Dennis shared some important questions he had been reflecting on. He asked:

What if Nick hadn't needed rehab at this specific nursing home?

What if the Holy Spirit had not prompted Nick to ask if he could see a minister?

What if Grace Church had not had a care team that ministers in this care home?

What if the care team didn't have a favorable relationship with the Activities Director, who called for help?

So many moving parts for this life-changing event needed to be aligned by the Lord in order for Nick to find the hand of Jesus. God is a great orchestrator. He wants everyone to know Him and to have eternal life, and we want to be faithful, so that we may have the continual privilege of sharing in His ministry.



AMAZING NUMBERS

We took a survey of those who attended the afternoon training and the PowerNight banquet. Kim Aukerman, our Administrative Assistant, shared that 84 of our guests are actively serving as nursing home missionaries! They represent 35 churches who are ministering in 71 care homes in our area. The number of residents that this group of people minister to is 1,430!!! Thank you for answering God's call to serve in this mission field. You are bringing so much love and joy to the residents at the end of their lives. God bless you and keep up the great work!

WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO



Our keynote speaker, Rev. Yvonne Hobson, shared how we are led by Christ's Spirit and compelled by His love to serve in the nursing home mission field. She reminded us that those of us who were gathered at that banquet were all called by God's Spirit into the same mission field, and that though our mission work is very different and located in our homeland, it is not inferior or less important than any other

mission field. Yvonne shared that our presence in the care homes helps to heal the hearts that have been broken by sickness, abandonment, and loneliness. She asked us if we realized that we are blessed to accompany people as they cross the River Jordan into the arms of Jesus. It was such an inspiring and compelling word that we added it to our website video library.

If you need a word of encouragement and a great reminder of why we do what we do, go to GodCaresMinistry.com/WhyWeDoWhatWeDo. Thank you, Rev. Yvonne!

Jesus said, "As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." ~ John 20:21

WHAT JESUS LOOKS LIKE

One of our volunteers received a note from a woman who witnessed her reaching out to another woman. It read, "God bless you, dear lady. My friend, Nancy, had a stroke and you, my dear, made a great impression on her. I want you to know that you and Jesus had a profound influence on Nancy. Thank you for showing others what Jesus looks like."

This volunteer did not even remember the incident until she was reminded of it by Nancy's friend through that note. She said, "God works in so many wonderful ways and amazingly, He does it through us."

Your financial support is fuel for our cause. May God bless you as you give to assure our neighbors in care homes have a friend to point them to Jesus. ~ B.G



NEW BIBLE STUDY CURRICULUM FOR SENIORS

Biblically-based lessons that address the primary emotional and spiritual needs of residents in senior care facilities.

21 lessons focused on these topics:

Living Through Loss and Change
Discovering a Lasting Hope
Walking With a Loving God
Becoming a Forever Friend
Peace That Surpasses Circumstances
Fulfilling Our God-Given Purpose
Amazing Grace Forever (Heaven)

Each lesson includes:

Lesson plan with personal study guidelines
Leader's message outline
Large-print handouts

Available on our website in a downloadable pdf format.

To receive your complimentary copy of the first three lessons, follow the link on our homepage at GodCaresMinistry.com.

"These lessons have been transforming lives!"

GATHERING TOGETHER ON THEIR OWN

I have a friend whom I call the "Ranch Lady". She recently moved into the nursing home in which I minister. She and several other residents attend our Bible study. A few days after I finished the sixth God Cares for You Bible study lesson, the "Ranch Lady" called me. She was elated and excited about something, which at that time was quite out of character for her as she was not happy about being displaced from her beloved ranch. She kept repeating, "You weren't here and we had it without you."

What? I thought. *When wasn't I where?* I told her, "Slow down, ranch lady. Let's start over."

So she did. "You weren't here. We were all there, so we had it without you. By the way, you need to get us a microphone. I couldn't hear Mary."

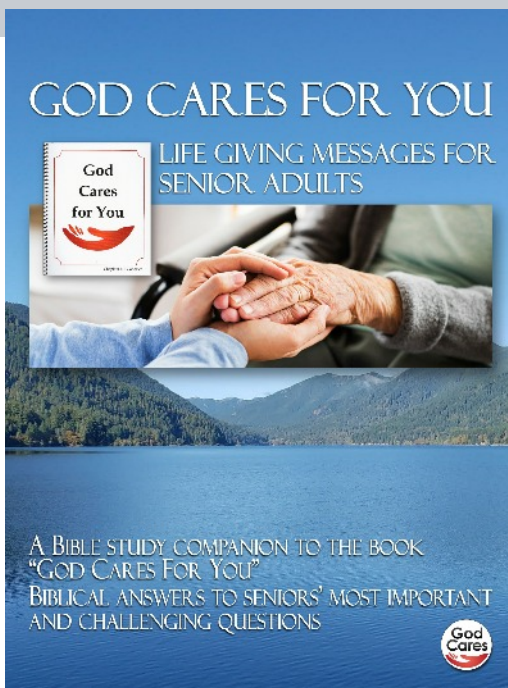
Well, that explains it. Mary needs a microphone because she speaks softly. Hmm. "Tell me, ranch lady, what was Mary talking about?"

"Oh, since you weren't here, we decided to have it anyway, and we all told stories about the Lord."

Her voice was filled with such happiness and pride that they'd been able to have this "meeting" by themselves. Now I got excited, praising their ingenuity and how responsible it was for them to step up and give glory to God on their own.

Apparently, as I was slowly discerning, the staff must have gotten their days mixed up and gathered the residents for Bible study, or maybe some of them were just together and decided it was Bible study day. Who knows?

When I went to the nursing home for our next lesson, one of the aides was sitting in the room



while I was complimenting them on taking the initiative to conduct their own Bible study. She jumped in to say, "Yes, they did. I was here. I witnessed it."

Ah, now it all began to make sense to me. For the past six weeks, we'd been discussing stories of real people who started out lonely, angry, and heart-broken to be in "this place", and then as they came to understand that God still loves them, that He has good plans for them, and that He never changes, they wanted to change, to be kinder, to make friends, and to share God's love.

So why shouldn't they—when it appeared that their teacher didn't show up—just take it upon themselves to carry on without her? The God Cares Bible study lessons work, and I HAVE WITNESSES. ~ Sheryl Watt



Martin Kiesel
From
Roberta & Ed Kiesel

Joan Hawthorne
(Kent Health)
From
James Anderson

New Hope Team
Members that have
gone to Glory
From Lucy Trowbridge

Sally Coune
From Al Coune
Bill & Cathy Goodrich

Michael Thomay
Trudy Gombas
From Bob &
Rosemary Thomay

Tom Connelly
From
Harry & Debbie Deal
Bill & Cathy Goodrich

Anna Czachorowski
Christa Schuttinger
Marlene Rahl
From Jutta & Peter
Czachorowski

Our New Legacy
Partner*:

Bobbi Decaire

We are grateful for the many years of Bobbi's involvement in this ministry, and now for the contributions given in her honor.

*Legacy Partners are friends who include God Cares Ministry in their estate distribution. They are impacting the nursing home mission field beyond their years.



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And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased. ~ Hebrews 13:16

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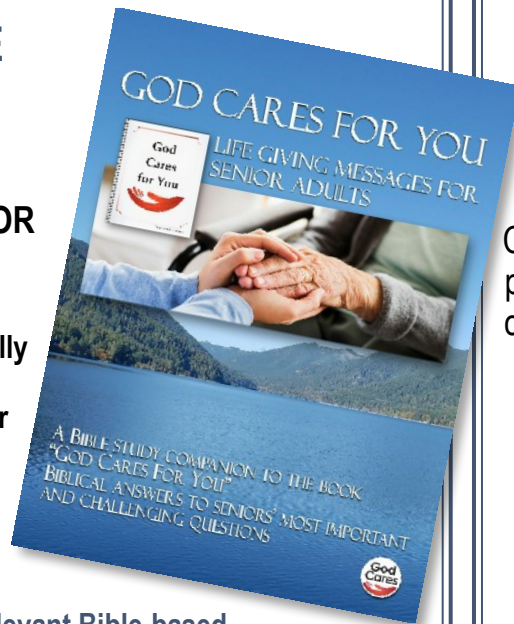
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Thank you for helping us be good stewards.

AVAILABLE NOW!

BIBLE STUDY CURRICULUM FOR SENIORS

Designed specifically for Christians to share with senior adults living in care homes



Relevant Bible-based lessons that address the emotional and spiritual needs of senior adults

Lessons that impact lives! See page 3 for details

EAST OR WEST

NURSING HOME MINISTRY TRAINING SEMINARS THIS FALL!

Come for a day of training to learn Biblically-based principles to equip you for fruitful ministry to senior care home residents. Recommended for new care teams, and as a refresher course and an encouragement for veteran missionaries in this great mission field.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

East Side

Mentor United Methodist Church
 Mentor, OH

OCTOBER 12, 2019

West Side

Grace CMA Church
 Middleburg Heights, OH

SEPTEMBER 21, 2019