



Ministry News

Nov./Dec.
2015

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



Silently...Good Tidings of Great Joy

We hear too much bad news every day – terrorism, war, crimes and conflict of all kinds... so I wanted to share some really *good* news with you!

God is doing some amazingly great things through His servants - right where we live! I recently attended an event that recognized leaders of 51 local Christ-centered ministries. At this event, hosted by the In His Steps Foundation, I heard story after story about how God is using Christians to reach out to a multitude of our broken, poor and needy neighbors. These ministries are touching and changing the lives of people living in poverty, imprisoned, those in crisis pregnancies, urban youths, the hungry, the disabled, the lost, broken... My heart was so touched by all the good that God is doing through all these ministries! Literally thousands of people are given a helping hand - **every day** - in Northeast Ohio alone. I began to wonder how much more is going on throughout our nation and the world because godly brothers and sisters are being the hands and feet of Jesus to their neighbors.

We almost never hear reports (through popular media outlets) of how God is working in this world. Yet, it *is* happening...often so quietly...so silently... just like when Jesus Himself came to earth on that Christmas night, 2,000 years ago:

“How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is giv’n...”

So, too, the servants of ministries go about their work without fanfare, lacking many of life’s perks and any public recognition. But they are deeply impacting countless lives – both now and for eternity.

IHS Foundation President, Alice Hitchcock, shared, *“Sometimes I’ll be watching the news at the end of the day, literally overwhelmed by the examples of unrighteousness and cruelty prevailing in our land. I wonder, ‘What, God, can I do to help the deteriorating slide of our country...?’ And more than any answer to that is to be dedicated to exactly what God has called me to do, right here and now, and He will take care of the rest of the complex intricacies of managing His world. It’s the same choice you all have to make. And it’s so miraculously encouraging to know God has chosen each one of us to do His work.”*

Amen, sister!

As we journey through this holiday season, let us

***Give thanks to the LORD,
for He is good;
His love endures forever.***

The fullness of God’s goodness and love was given first through our Lord Jesus, and now it is our greatest privilege to be His ambassadors and servants.

May you and your families share in all the joys of Christmas! ~ B.G.



***...so God imparts
to human hearts,
the blessings of
His heav’n. No
ear may hear His
coming, but in
this world of sin,
where meek souls
will receive Him
still, the dear
Christ enters in.”***

***(from O Little Town of
Bethlehem)***

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Our hearts overflow with gratitude in response to our 20th Anniversary Celebration!

We had such a joyful time of celebration and fellowship at our first-ever fundraising banquet! As we reflected on two decades of God's faithfulness, we also rejoiced in the kindness of all the volunteers and supporters who have impacted the lives of so many nursing home residents over the past two decades.

I would once again like to express my gratefulness to each of you who were able to help in this effort by underwriting the celebration dinner, sponsoring tables, giving gifts toward the banquet, praying for us and blessing us with your presence on that beautiful autumn evening. It was so wonderful to share the delicious food, laughter, worship and fellowship with 130 of our friends - both old and new. The board members, staff and I were honored to have all of you join us!



As I listened to the overview of God Cares' history, I was reminded again and again of how God continually provided for this ministry's needs and used so many of His servants to minister to His beloved sheep.

As we look to the future, we are confidently trusting in the Lord's continued guidance and provision to fulfill the work He has begun through God Cares Ministry:

***Every senior care home
Adopted by a Christ-centered church
To provide spiritual care to the residents***

I am so blessed to have met so many of you over the past 20 years... and blessed by the sharing of your hearts and spirits for our dear friends in the care homes. You help to bring *so much* love and comfort to residents who are in such great need of Jesus' love and words of eternal life!

Lord willing, I look forward to serving with you for another 20+ years as we continue, with your prayers and support, to expand our efforts in this great mission field.

To God be all the glory and praise!!! ~ B.G.

Loving Memory

John Guggenbiller, Jr.
From Janet Stocker

Corrine Easterwood
From Patricia Turon

Robert & Lucille Goodrich
From Barb & Larry Pack
Bill Goodrich

Gene Small
From Myrna Small

**My beloved mother,
Mary Ann Goodrich**
From Jenny Taylor

Mary Ann Goodrich
From Myrna Small
Bill Goodrich

Eleanore Kisiel
From Ed Kisiel

Elizabeth Matis
From Ilona & Bill Mansfield

Marianne Provenza
From Russ Provenza

Herman Klimmek
From Bill & Kathryn Owens

David Williamson
From Mona Williamson



We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers, remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father, knowing, brethren beloved, of your election by God. ~ 1 Thessalonians 1:2-4

Especially When It Snows




My daughter and her eight children decided to do a service project at their local nursing home. The kids weren't sure what they could do there, but their mother told them that they could entertain the residents just by being themselves.

So they gathered residents at the large windows overlooking the lawn. Then all the kids went outside where the residents could see them from the windows. It was a snowy day, so the kids built a snowman while the residents watched. Then they made snow angels. And of course, when you have a group of kids together on a snowy day, someone is going to throw that first snowball! So they had a snowball fight while the residents cheered them on!

The residents clapped and laughed so much that the administrator came down the hall to see what all the fun was about. She told the family that she had never seen residents laughing so much and enjoying themselves like they did on that snowy day - watching those wonderful kids put on an outdoor show in the middle of winter.

She wrote them a thank-you note a week later and said, "You are welcome back *anytime* - especially when it snows." ~ Dave Sauer

Bringing Holiday Cheer



One of the best Christmas presents we can share is a Christian presence. Below is an effective approach for you to invite your church members to visit at your care home during the holidays. It requires only a short term commitment, but the great part is that some who accept this short-term call love it so much that they choose to become long-term care team members.

As soon as possible, make an announcement in your church or Sunday School class that you are seeking volunteers to “adopt a grandparent” for the Christmas holiday. A simple commitment to visit a resident three times is what is required. Your three visits would last about 20 minutes each and include the following:

First Visit – Get acquainted. About a week before Christmas, visit your assigned grandparent. Plan to introduce yourself and engage in friendly conversation. Before you leave, be sure to let your new friend know that you will be coming back around Christmas. Try to observe the need for an appropriate Christmas gift.

Second Visit – A Christmas Blessing. We recommend that you go on Christmas Day or Christmas Eve, if possible. Bring a gift, a card, and a cheerful Christmas greeting. If appropriate, share brief points of the Christmas story or devotional and a prayer. Before you leave, let them know you will be coming back within the next week or so. Remember that your presence is the greatest gift!

Third Visit – A post-Christmas cheer. After the lights are taken down and the decorations are put away, the season and the cheer can also get tucked away. Things often become rather quiet and a cheerful visit could be like a refreshing drink. Perhaps now could be an appropriate time to share a Scripture verse and prayer to help your friend trust Jesus for a specific need.

I tell you the truth, anyone who gives you a cup of water in my name because you belong to Christ will certainly not lose his reward. ~ Mark 9:41

Important note: In preparation for this blessing, you will need to work with your Activity Director, seeking names of those who might not receive a holiday visit and for some possible Christmas gift ideas. You will also do well to keep in close contact with the new visitors to answer questions and encourage participation on your care team. We have provided much more detail to this approach on our recent blog posting: “Bringing Holiday Cheer” at GodCaresMinistry.com

Dear Friends,

With nearly 80% of seniors in care homes receiving less than one visit per month, we know that so many are finishing life’s journey without a caring friend to help them find hope and peace in Jesus. It is our ambition to move the care home mission field onto every church’s radar screen and to mobilize them to adopt a senior care home in their community. The Lord has enabled us to produce many great resources to accomplish this.

As we enter 2016 poised to expand our reach across America, we ask that you would please remember God Cares Ministry in your year-end gift giving, and help us accomplish this vital mission.

I want to thank every one of you who have served, prayed and funded our cause to help these neighbors of ours to take Jesus’ hand. May He richly bless you and reward you for your kindness. ~ B.G.



God
Cares



20th anniversary

*Wishing
You A
Christmas
Filled With
Peace,
Joy &
The Love
of
Jesus*



The board and staff of God Cares Ministry extends to you and your families the warmest wishes for your Christmas celebrations.

May God’s blessings be upon you as you rejoice in receiving the ultimate gift of His Son, our Lord & Savior Jesus Christ!





515 Moore Road, Suite 3
Avon Lake, OH 44012
info@GodCaresMinistry.com
www.GodCaresMinistry.com

*And the angel said unto them, "Fear not,
for behold, I bring you good tidings of great
joy, which shall be to all people.
For unto you is born this day in the City of
David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.
~ Luke 2:10-11*

Nonprofit
Organization
U. S.
Postage Paid
Elyria, Ohio
Permit No. 548

Return Service Requested

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.

**Dated Material
- Please Rush!**

God Cares Ministry Board of Directors

- Bill Goodrich, President/Director
- Doug Feller, Vice President
- Mike Laurito, Treasurer
- Fran Palfy, Secretary
- Mary Kerner Courtney
- Larry Looney
- Dan'l Markham

- Advisors: Brad Fisk
Brian Hassett
Jeremy Moorman
Richard Walters



Holiday Gift Ideas

For Residents...

"God Cares For You"



A book that is helping many residents find hope, peace, purpose and comfort from God. In large print and spiral bound, it contains seven topical chapters, with Scripture, photographs and prayers.

"A gift to help your friends walk closer to Jesus."

"I gave a woman the "God Cares For You" book at a nursing home Friday. She told me Saturday that it totally changed her perspective. She was really blessed." ~ Tom, Garrett, IN

Order Online Today!

For Caregivers...

"Never Too Late"



A book to bless and encourage those who are caring for nursing home residents.

"May this book encourage all who read it to hold on to faith and hope in the midst of our difficult journeys."

"Arlene's personal experiences with nursing home residents and workers provide the source for insight into God's workings in the face of despair, and she illustrates the priceless blessings one can obtain from being in that place." ~ Dave, Seattle, WA

Order Online Today!