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*"Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy." ~ Proverbs 31:8-9*

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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!

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*Imagine. . .*

*A Christ-centered ministry being used by God to raise up thousands more missionaries to do what you are doing in your care home.*

*Playing a significant role in helping countless others to take Jesus' hand as they finish life's journey.*

*Helping another follower of Christ experience the joy you know as the Lord uses you to help them grow closer to Jesus.*

*Through Christ, bringing hope, purpose and peace to the frail and lonely living in our nation's care homes.*

*I have a vision – for eternity. I am confident it is from God.*

*I welcome your participation in its fulfillment.*

*The ultimate goal of God Cares Ministry is to help our friends in the care homes grow closer to Jesus! ~ B.G.*

Sept./Oct.  
2015



# Ministry News

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



## *A Time of Celebration & Vision*

**On November 5<sup>th</sup>** at 6:30 p.m., friends and supporters of God Cares Ministry will be gathering in Broadview Heights for our **20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fundraising Banquet**. I am so excited to celebrate two decades of God's unfailing goodness and to share the vision for the future of God Cares Ministry with you.

Our ministry outreach is rapidly expanding and I am inviting you to partner with us in this growth phase. We would love to have you join us for the banquet and encourage you to bring a guest (or two!) with a heart for the elderly and who may be inclined to support this work:

***Mobilizing the Church to share the love and word of Jesus in senior care homes.***

## *A Look Back*

In June of 1994, my late wife, Mary Ann, and I took a significant step of faith. After a few years of ministering in several nursing homes, we became well acquainted with the deep loss, frailties and spiritual deprivation of our elderly neighbors. As a result of prayerful consideration, we decided to put aside my career and invest our life savings to start God Cares Ministry. Our vision was to help other Christians provide Christ-centered ministry in nursing homes throughout our region. Others who believed in this cause joined us. In the ensuing years, God provided the resources (many times, miraculously) that allowed numerous teams of Christians to receive the training and support needed to adopt a nursing home in their own communities.

Now, 20 years later, I am filled with great joy at what the Lord has accomplished. The ministry has grown from its northeast Ohio roots to a national level, mobilizing thousands of Christian missionaries who have ministered to over 55,000 nursing home residents! I am thrilled at how God has used these servants to help our lonely neighbors take Jesus' hand and find hope and peace in Him.



The board, advisors and staff of God Cares Ministry are approaching this milestone of two decades of continued growth with a deep conviction that we must multiply our reach. God has provided us with the knowledge, tools, networks and the continually developing infrastructure to help every Christian church to adopt a senior care home in their neighborhood so that they can share the love and word of Jesus with residents and staff.

If you are able to help us in this endeavor, please contact the office for more details. If you would like to join us for the banquet on Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>, RSVP to our office at the number below by **Monday, October 26<sup>th</sup>**. Your prayers would also be greatly appreciated as we continue in this next season of service to Him. ~ B.G.

Come and see how this movement is underway and how you can participate in fulfilling this vision:  
***One care home for every Christ-centered church in our nation.***



*"...I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me."  
~ Matthew 25:40  
(Also see vs. 31-46)*



*"Defend the cause of the weak and fatherless; maintain the rights of the poor and oppressed. Rescue the weak and needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked." ~ Psalm 82:3-4*

*"Do not cast me away when I am old; do not forsake me when my strength is gone"... "Even when I am old and gray, do not forsake me, O God, till I declare your power to the next generation, your might to all who are to come"... "Though you have made me see troubles, many and bitter, you will restore my life again; from the depths of the earth you will again bring me up." ~ Psalm 71:9, 18, 20*



*"Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world."  
~ James 1:27*

*"Learn to do right! Seek justice, encourage the oppressed. Defend the cause of the fatherless, plead the case of the widow." ~ Isaiah 1:17*

*"Rise in the presence of the aged, show respect for the elderly and revere your God. I am the LORD." ~ Leviticus 19:32*

*"...and if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday." ~ Isaiah 58:10 (See also vs. 6-12)*

*"Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us." ~ I John 4:7-12 (Also see vs. 13-21)*

# Loving Memory

**John Palffy, Jr.**  
From Jim & Jo Ann Rettinger

**Glenn & Marlin McKeever**  
From Bill & Kathryn Owens

**Dr. Donald Mertz**  
From Dale & Marge Mertz

**Mary Ann Goodrich**  
From Barb & Larry Pack

**Dorothy "Dot" Looney**  
From Larry & Kris Looney  
Mary R. Hirt  
Doug & Deborah Feller  
Abel, Bishop & Clarke Realty Company  
Lynette Witter  
Joanna Butler

**Joyce Orshoski**  
**Arthur Noel Morin**  
**Paul Thompson**  
(USMC-1963-1967)  
From Todd Orshoski

**Gordon Green**  
From Helen Myers-Green

**Marilyn Barrett**  
From Amy Barrett

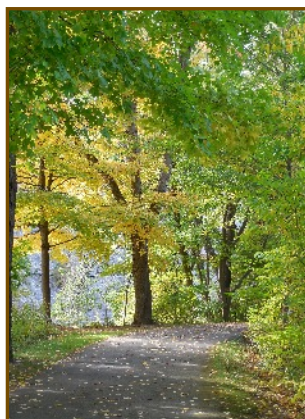
**Ola Jane Hesser Reed**  
From Fran Palffy

**Marianne Provenza**  
From Russ Provenza

**Dave Marty**  
From Larry & Kris Looney

**Went Hubbard**  
**Blake Hubbard**  
From Jan & Gary Jefferis

**IN HONOR OF**  
**Sandy Schneppe**  
**Deb & Doug Feller**  
**Arlene Sikorski**  
**Ilona Mansfield**  
**Fran Palffy**  
**Larry Decaire**  
**Lucy Trowbridge**  
From Kris & Larry Looney



## Hope and Joy

Mary is a lovely lady who joins us every week for our service. Last month after we sang, "Precious Lord Take My Hand," Mary spoke up: "I just have to say something. This song almost made me cry. If the Lord took my hand and took me to heaven right now (she paused and raised her eyes to the ceiling with a smile) I would be so thrilled, but knowing that He is holding my hand all the way till then makes me so happy."



The next week when we thanked everyone for coming and for how much fun we had with them, she said, "And not only was it fun, it was a blessing!"

This is the joy that Jesus brings to people spending their last days on a locked dementia care unit. The beautiful hymns and songs reach deeply into their souls and spirits, reminding them of God's faithful love for them. Amidst their great losses and confusion, they still find comfort and peace in His presence.  
~ Arlene Sikorski

## Getting Started

A couple of issues ago, Ken Burmeister told some of his ministry stories in an article we titled, "The Pianist". In this issue, we want you to hear, in his own words, how Ken got started in nursing home ministry:

After the death of our church's nursing home ministry volunteer, his wife stopped me after church one day and said, "Kenny, my husband talked about you a lot; pick up the mantle." I said "What??" She replied, "He's gone now, so you pick up the mantle."



I asked the Lord to confirm that this was where he wanted me, and He did, and so I started ministering in the nursing home.

At first, I went by myself, but then I asked my wife to come with me. She said, "It's not my thing. The Lord didn't call me there." But she came with me and got hooked and now she enjoys going, and we've been ministering together ever since.

An interesting background note: My first wife, who died many years ago, worked in a nursing home when we were first married. I'd walk in to pick her up after her shift and see people sitting there all alone. Their heads would snap up as I walked in. I was puzzled by this until my wife told me, "Oh, Kenny, they're looking for visitors. Some people have been here 2 years and never had a visitor." It saddened me then; I wasn't saved yet, but I think the Lord showed me something then, way back in my 20's.



**Thank You!!!**

...For your support, prayers, encouragement and love over the past 20 years. We are so honored to be allowed the privilege to serve our Lord and Savior with you in this great mission field!

### A New Website for you!

Our new website will help meet the needs of those called to serve in care home ministry.

Now, through [www.GodCaresMinistry.com](http://www.GodCaresMinistry.com) you will be able to:

- Take an online training course
- Share your testimony of what you have seen the Lord do in this mission field
- Send a prayer request
- Download Scripture portions for care home ministry
- Order ministry resources
- Donate to help care home residents

Soon, visitors will be able to connect with a coach who has been trained to provide support, prayer and helpful resources.

*We are excited to offer this tool to better serve you as you minister in the nursing home mission field.*