



Ministry News

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



A Purpose for Living

Sometimes nursing home residents say to me, "I don't know why God has not taken me home yet..." They feel they have no value any more. Why is this so?

Our friends in the care homes need purpose. Purpose gives us a reason to live.

When everything is done for us, including our housekeeping, food preparation and personal hygiene, we can begin to feel that we are in the way; that there is no need for us, that we are merely a burden to our community. It is in this environment that our friends lose the desire to live.

I have found a great way to help our friends find purpose. I respectfully challenge and encourage them to do at least one kind deed for someone else each day; and to do this without expectation of reward from the person. Through intentional acts of love, God will use them to be a blessing to others and they will know genuine purpose.

I remind my friends that they are *created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God has prepared in advance for them to do.* (Eph. 2:10) And that is why they are still on earth.

What better way to illustrate this than the actual stories of residents who, even in old age and poor health, are still effectively ministering the love and word of Jesus to their companions? What beautiful testimonies to the resiliency of the human spirit and the grace of God that keeps us "even unto our gray hairs". ~ B.G.



People who are loved and actively loving others want to live.

As we help them to value their fellow residents and staff through acts of love, they will find purpose and a desire to live their lives to the fullest.

You Never Know!

During our weekly gathering at the care home, a Hindu resident shared that God had been blessing him lately and he had begun to pray every morning and read the Bible. We were all very excited to hear this, because we had been inviting this man for months, and while he attended our services occasionally, he always reminded us that he was not a Christian.

One of our new residents stood to his feet and confessed to the group that he needed to ask God for forgiveness. He was a believer, and told the group that he had never shared the gospel message of Christ with his Hindu brother because he assumed the man wasn't interested. He admitted to the group that he never imagined that this man was searching for God. He then turned to the Hindu man and asked him for forgiveness.

Next, the Hindu man shared that he was indeed seeking God, and that we should not assume that someone is not interested in God just because of their race or religion. In other words, he encouraged all of us to share the gospel with everyone. You never know who is seeking God or open to an encouraging word from a believing brother or sister!

~ Rosie Larken, Sonshiners Ministry, Fairhaven Church

Changed and Redirected

Helen was visibly sad and hopeless living in the nursing home. She explained that she was forced to move to Ohio and sent to "this place". She was a believer in Jesus, but could not understand why God allowed such disappointment in her life, even after she had tried so hard to be a good mother and a good person. I began to share with her how God wants her to forgive those who "put her in this place" and to trust that He has a good plan for her. She was open to the Scriptures I shared and we both prayed for His help.

I promised I would return, and am ashamed to say that I simply forgot to go back for over two months. One day while passing the nursing home I remembered, and thought, "Oh, my goodness, I forgot all about that lady".

I ran inside the home, found her room, knocked on the door and said, "Hi, Helen, not sure if you remember me". "Oh, yes, I remember you; come in, Pastor." I was really embarrassed, but I apologized for my absence. She immediately responded with much kindness and grace. She told me that evening after I left, she lay in her bed asking the Lord to help her. She said He reminded her that she needed to surrender her life to Him and trust Him.

She did this, and then went to sleep. The next day, Helen was a different person. She began to see how most of the people in the home were lonely, and she began to speak words of encouragement to them. They in turn began to respond with gratitude, and they now enjoyed Helen's company. She began to make friends with several fellow residents and staff members. God showed her that she was still profoundly needed and valuable. ~ B.G.

Annual PowerNight

We hope you have received your invitation to attend PowerNight, a special evening prepared for nursing home missionaries. If not, I want to invite you to pull away from the busyness of ministry and other labors to be refreshed, encouraged, inspired & energized. It is God Cares Ministry's way of saying we appreciate you who serve Jesus in nursing homes. The evening will include a special time of fellowship over a catered banquet and an inspirational message.

Special guest speaker: **Dan'I Markham** from *Life Without Limbs Ministry*, and author of "*The Lost Mandate-A Christ Command Revealed*"

I look forward to seeing you! Chaplain Bill Goodrich

When - Where - How?

Saturday, September 21st Please Register by September 13th
Grace CMA Church, 7393 Pearl Road (Rt. 42), Middleburg Hts., OH 44130
5:15 p.m. Registration and resource display
6:00 p.m. Program promptly begins

Will you be providing training this year?

Yes - Caring for Your Care Team: *Building, rebuilding and maintaining care teams that thrive!*

Topics Include:

- Recruiting new team members for your care home outreach
- Ways to connect and receive support from your pastor
- Methods to help re-ignite your care team's passion and vision
- Care team member retention and empowering



Training will start promptly at 3:00 p.m. and conclude at 5:15 p.m.

There is no charge for these two events, but tickets are required for the banquet and may be obtained by registering at www.GodCaresMinistry.com or calling our office at 440-930-2173 by September 13th.



Love Never Fails



Six months ago Rita was admitted as a resident to a dementia unit. I have known her for many years. She worked at a near by store and always impressed me by the way she made the customers feel special. When I visit with her, our chats are often interrupted when she gets up to show a resident to their room, find them a tissue or get them a glass of water. She gives out hugs and says "God bless you" to many. People come to her because they know she cares.

I asked her how she developed this beautiful way of reaching out to others. She shared that when she was very young she realized that some people never feel loved and often feel unimportant to those around them. She decided to always treat people with respect and let them know someone cared about them. When she entered the nursing home she noticed that the people who live with her really need to know they are special and loved because most of them have no visitors. She seemed truly distressed over their loss of hope in life, and wants to give them some hope.

I finally asked her where her hope comes from. She said that she has family and friends who visit and that helps her to feel like she is still part of the life she left when she entered the facility. Finally she said, "But of course, if you are going to talk about hope, you have to talk about Jesus." She does talk about Jesus with the residents, but many can't understand what she means. She said, "That is where you nice ladies come in—you talk about the love of Jesus." *Elaine Edkin*

Kate Powell From Jeannette Balch
Jim Muth From Dale & Marjorie Mertz
Raymond Beran From Fran Palffy
Claude Tucker From Todd Orshoski
Lucille Ewing & Robert Goodrich From Bob Goodrich and Barb Pack
Peggy Heaver From Edward and Mildred Heaver
Mary Ann Goodrich From Russ Provenza Marilyn Godshall
John R. Palffy From Jim & Jo Ann Rettinger
John Guggenbiller, Jr. From Janet Stocker
Kay Shafer From Fran Palffy
Gordon Green From Helen Myers-Green
Adam (John) Trinski From Ed & Roberta Kisiel
Phil Spurlock From Lori Spurlock
Patrick Convery From Peggy Convery
Michael Stribling From Margi Stribling
Jack Douthit From Fran Palffy
Jim Thomas, Co-Founder of Forgotten Treasures From Marilyn Thomas
Myrtle Hock From Jutta Czachorowski
George Spagnoli From Todd Orshoski



Training Workshops

As mentioned on page 4, we have two workshops scheduled for this fall: one in Shelby and one in Hudson. The principles shared in these workshops are foundational for effective and enduring care home ministry. If you have new team members or if you have not attended any training for the past two years, these workshops are designed with you in mind. Topics include:

- Establishing caring friendships with residents
- Helping our friends grow in Christ
- Meeting the five primary spiritual needs of residents
- Preparing and sharing life-giving Bible studies
- Ministering to persons with dementia



There is a small charge for these two workshops to cover lunch and training materials.

You may register online at www.GodCaresMinistry.com, or by calling our office: 440-930-2173

Persistence, Courage and Life

Lying in a nursing home rehab bed surrounded by modesty curtains on two sides and windows on the other side, our friend Katie shared with us the following story:

One day a resident whom she didn't know wheeled herself into Katie's room, coming in around the curtain at the foot of the bed. "Hello there!" said Katie, and the lady warmly smiled a return greeting. They chatted about nothing in particular for a while and then Katie said to this gray-haired lady, "Do you know Jesus?" Katie tells that, at the name of Jesus, this lady looked and acted like a caged animal, tangling her wheelchair up in the curtains in her attempt to escape this fearsome place.

A few days later, again the resident returned to see Katie behind-the-curtains and conversed very comfortably about the weather and each other's health until Katie asked again if she knew Jesus. Again the lady turned in haste, with the curtains again getting tangled in the spokes of her wheel chair. Eventually she freed herself and raced out of the room.

The same thing happened a third time--and a fourth. Finally on the fifth visit, the lady gathered her courage and when Katie asked if she knew Jesus, she replied, "Well, I know ABOUT Him, but I don't KNOW Him." "Would you like to?" Katie asked and the little lady in the wheelchair almost whispered, "Yes, I really would!" So Katie led her through the steps up to the throne of grace to receive life in Jesus. ~ Marilyn Barrett

"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." Psalm 71:18

THRIVENT MEMBERS!

We are very pleased to tell you that God Cares Ministry is now enrolled as a participating organization in Thrivent Choice. This is a charitable grant program that allows Thrivent members to direct some of Thrivent's outreach funds. If you are Thrivent member, you can direct your Choice Dollars to God Cares Ministry on their website: www.Thrivent.com, or by calling 1-800-Thrivent (800-847-4836).

Golfers!

You're invited to God Cares Ministry's Fall Golf Classic at **Grey Hawk Golf Club** in Lagrange, Ohio.
October 19, 2013
10 a.m. Shotgun Start
A day of fun, food, fellowship and golf to help support the work of God Cares. Register online or call Nate Hunter for more information: 440-930-2173

*The purpose of
God Cares Ministry
is to mobilize
the Church to
meet the spiritual
needs of people
in long term
care homes.*

*Our Goal is:
One care home
for every
Christ-centered
church.*

Visit our website at
GodCaresMinistry.com
where you can:

- ◆ Find current and past newsletter articles
- ◆ Sign up for God Cares Ministry News
- ◆ Order nursing home ministry books and training videos
- ◆ Get full details & register for upcoming training programs
- ◆ Download Large print Scripture portions
- ◆ Share your nursing home ministry stories



515 Moore Rd., Suite 3
Avon Lake, OH 44012
Info@GodCaresMinistry.com
www.GodCaresMinistry.com

*A day wasted on others
is a day not wasted on oneself.*
~ Charles Dickens

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

GOD CARES 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.

God Cares Ministry Board of Directors

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

Advisors: Brad Fisk
Brian Hassett
Fran Passano
Richard Walters

Upcoming Events

This Fall is packed with great opportunities for learning, fellowship, networking and deepening your roots in the nursing home mission field. I hope to see you! ~ B.G.

Sept 21: PowerNight 2013, 5:15 A special evening banquet to bless nursing home missionaries. **Middleburg Hts., OH** (Registration closes September 13th !!! details on page 2)

Sept 21: Caring for Your Care Team, 3:00-5:15 A two-hour session with tips for starting, maintaining, or re-igniting your care home ministry. **Middleburg Hts., OH** (details on page 2)

Sept 28: Becoming A Friend in Jesus, 8:30-3:45 A full-day workshop for starting or enhancing your nursing home outreach. Held at First Lutheran Church of **Shelby, OH** (details on page 3)

Oct 5: Becoming A Friend in Jesus, 9:30-4:00 A full-day workshop for starting or enhancing your nursing home outreach. Held at Christ Community Chapel in **Hudson, OH** (details on page 3)

October 19: God Cares Annual Golf Outing, 10:00 a.m. Grey Hawk Golf Club, **Lagrange, OH** (details on page 3)

Nov 2: "Ministering to Persons Who Have Dementia and Their Caregivers" Guest speaker: **Teepa Snow**. Details coming soon!

"Everyone Needs a Purpose"

One evening last week I was sitting outside the nursing home with several residents and other visitors. The oldest resident was 89, the youngest was 52, and one of the other visitors was 81. An ambulance circled the turn-around driveway several times; the driver obviously unsure of which entrance to use. The youngest resident said, "I'm going to go help them," and she wheeled her chair to the driveway to direct them to the correct door. The 81-year old visitor commented, "Oh, she should just not interfere."

The 89-year old smiled and said, "No, let her go help them; it gives her a purpose, and **everyone** needs a purpose."

In Titus 2, we read that the older women should teach the younger ones. I saw this in action last week, even at a nursing home; even when the older woman is 89, and the younger one is 81! ~ Ann S.