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# God Cares News



Recruiting, training and supporting Christian volunteers for nursing home min

**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.

## Summer Fun!!!

Every year we have a picnic for residents of several area nursing homes. It is a great opportunity to tell them that they are loved and that they are not forgotten. On June 11, we were privileged to host over 140 residents and staff from eight homes who joined in celebrating our 10<sup>th</sup> annual Legacy picnic. What a wonderful time we had!! In this newsletter I want to break away from our usual format of articles and focus much attention on some summer fun.

Let me first thank the more than 70 volunteers and financial contributors who helped make this picnic a memorable occasion. One of the highlights for me was seeing the changes in the faces of the guests as the picnic progressed. What had started out as just another ordinary day at their nursing homes became a day filled with love and the knowledge that they had been honored and appreciated by the volunteers who had planned this day just for them. All the people I hugged good-bye had huge smiles on their faces as they left the picnic. *B.G.*



## Coming Soon

We are very excited about two resources that are nearing completion. One is the second edition of our book, *In The Garden with Jesus and Friends*. This guidebook gives step-by-step directions for starting or reigniting a nursing home ministry care team. The principles in the book have been used to help develop hundreds of care teams across America.

The other resource is a set of CDs of a seminar "*Christian Ethics at the End of Life*" by Dr. Dennis Sullivan, Professor and Director of the Center for Bioethics at Cedarville University. The insights on these CDs provide a Biblical perspective on end of life care, and a framework for making ethical decisions in these difficult circumstances. Dr. Sullivan led this informative seminar during one of our Power Night events. Purchase details will be in our next newsletter.



## You are Needed

Several years ago a friend exhorted me with the thought that the nursing home ministry work I was doing was part of a great move inspired by God. As I thought and prayed about this, I began to

realize that what we do to help our frail neighbors in the nursing home is very important because it is what God wants to do. He has said:

**He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the alien, giving him food and clothing, (Deuteronomy 10:18).**

**You hear, O LORD, the desire of the afflicted; you encourage them, and you listen to their cry, (Psalm 10:17).**

**A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling, (Psalm 68:5).**

These verses reveal God's concern and intention to help those who are considered least in our world. I consider these and the many other verses in Scripture to be as a letter from Jesus asking us to do something very important for Him until He returns. The privilege to serve the King of kings is beyond words!!! Because He is leading the way, we can be sure that He is with us as we abide in Him. We can expect a great outcome as we do our part.

It is important to realize that the Pilgrims who sacrificed so much to leave their homes and cross the Atlantic in a worn-out wooden ship to build a colony in the cold north were used by God to start something very important. They gave all they had, and lived less than comfortably. Yet their sacrifices were part of God's work to save untold millions of Americans. Indeed you and I are very possibly saved because of their obedience and labor of love. This is why I have often said, "Nursing home ministry is a compassionate move inspired by God. He is building His church inside the care centers throughout America. We who have given ourselves to this work are actually joining God in His great plan to care for His people."

As you serve the people of this growing mission field, remember God Cares Ministry is here to serve you.

*Chaplain Bill Goodrich*

## A New Look

We hope you enjoy our new look. It is one of many steps we will be taking as we shift to a more national focus. We had an anonymous donor give funds to cover the initial production costs. Many thanks to this kind friend and also Paul Passano and Ann Floyd who gave significant input for the new design.

## A Powerful Tool

During the Easter week we shared the "JESUS" video at two homes. One of the Activities Directors told me that almost all the residents fall asleep when she shows a movie. Not only did most of our audience stay attentive during the entire movie, most of them prayed a prayer for salvation which we printed in extra-large type for them. Several asked for extras prayer cards to share with others. This movie is a powerful presentation of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. We used a shorter 85 minute version, available through the Jesus Film Project. *B.G.*

## Valuable Lessons

My friend Lisa and I have visited Miss Jones nearly **every week** for the last year, but we missed something very important!

We just assumed that since Miss Jones was such a sweet person and she knew a little about the Bible... she was saved! She said she went to a worship service on Sunday and the speaker asked if anyone wanted to be saved and "I wanted to raise my hand - but I didn't." I said "Miss Jones - you're not saved?" She said "No I don't reckon .... I went to church as a little girl ... but I don't know that I ever got saved!" So Lisa, Miss Jones, and I held hands in sisterly love - and Miss Jones accepted Jesus in her heart! God is teaching us VALUABLE lessons. *Lisa Furr NC*

## We are now on Facebook

In an effort to connect with more potential volunteers, we are trying out Facebook. We are posting brief comments about what God is doing in this mission field and also hoping to get others to post their experiences and blessings. Thank you, Pam Madalone, for your help with this new tool.

You can find us at God Cares Ministry.

Hope you will "Like" us ☺.

## More Summer Fun

As the vans full of residents from area nursing homes rolled in to the parking lot on the beautiful grounds of St. Clarence Church, the residents were greeted by warm sunshine, and by volunteers who met them with even warmer smiles and hugs.



They were ushered into the church hall, where there was upbeat music playing, decorations, and volunteers dressed as clowns, equipped with noisemakers and bubble-blowers. This year's theme was Old Time Movies and some volunteers dressed as famous movie stars. The first "star" waiting outside was dressed as Audrey Hepburn, complete with black-and-white dress and black hat. The guests were treated to lunches of grilled hot dogs, sloppy joes, pasta salad, fruit, and dessert as the clowns visited all the tables, entertaining everyone with their humor. After lunch, we held a movie quiz in which attendees saw scenes from old movies projected onto a large screen and were asked to name the movie titles. It was fun to see some of the attendees very actively and accurately participating, quickly naming almost every movie correctly. After the quiz, there was more music, dancing and a prayer of blessing over all who attended. We closed with everyone singing "God Bless America". Every guest received a gift bag to take with them. *Family Member*



THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! You guys thought of everything. It was a perfect day for a picnic and a perfect picnic. We appreciate everyone who worked so hard to give joy to our residents. It was an awesome event and our residents had a wonderful time. The opportunities for events like this are few and far between. We all had fun and certainly left with the love of Jesus in our hearts as well as the friendship and love of all of you. God bless you. *Activity Director*

With the arrival of summertime, I think about how much I enjoy activities like cookouts, fairs, and vacations with those I love, and my heart goes out to those who are in facilities and cannot get out. This is why our annual Legacy Picnic makes such a HUGE impact on all who participate. The things the residents love the most about this picnic are: they are taken outside the home, they get hotdogs cooked on the grill (not boiled in a pot), and the most important part is that the volunteers hug them and tell them how much they are loved. *Volunteer*

Thank you for yet another amazing day put on by you and all of your amazing volunteers! Your Annual Legacy Picnic was most excellent as always and my residents will be talking about it for weeks to come! THANK YOU ALL and thank you, God Cares Ministry, for all you do on a daily basis for our Elders! *Activity Director*



The spouse of a resident from one nursing home attended the picnic this year and helped unload the buses, bringing guests into the picnic area while giving words of encouragement. He brought much laughter to both volunteers and guests and helped to spread the joy of the Lord to all. I am glad he was part of this special day. *Care Team Leader*



## Still Making a Difference

Our annual picnic not only blesses many residents and staff, it is also our opportunity to highlight our legacy partners. Legacy Partners are people whose lives on earth have ended but are still making a difference through significant gifts given in their memory. Since our very first Legacy "seed" in 2002, given in memory of John R. Palffy Sr., we have added over 25 Legacy Partners. We are so grateful for these people who continue to be a blessing to the cause of Christ in the nursing homes. You are encouraged to contact us if you would like to include a loved-one in our list of honorees.

Though it is hard for us to say good-bye to these loved ones, we are grateful that their influence in this world continues through their loved ones, and that because they were followers of Jesus, we will see them again.

## You Can Do it Too!

A picnic with several homes is a lot of work, but a single-home picnic (or party) can be fairly easy and much fun for all. I would like to

encourage you to contact the Activities Director of the care home you minister in and ask if your care team and church family could host a picnic for the residents. This is how our picnics began in 2002. We had such a great time with 25 residents that we expanded to what you now see. An event like this has many benefits:

- A great way to have fellowship with the people you currently minister to at the care home
- An opportunity to meet more residents who do not attend your worship services
- Because you will be asking for volunteers from your church to help, you may be able to recruit new care team members.

In chapter 13 of our book *Nursing Home Ministry*, you will find some helpful guidelines for hosting a picnic and other special events. *B.G.*



## LEGACY PARTNERS

John R Palffy Sr. - 2002  
 Rachel Cook - 2004  
 Kenneth Lyke - 2004  
 Robert McGreggor - 2004  
 John Rowan - 2005  
 Clyde Hartman - 2006  
 Maria Henry - 2006  
 Carol Horn - 2006  
 Norm Roglin - 2006  
 Carol O'Rourke - 2006  
 Evelyn Suozil - 2006  
 Richard & Margaret Ziegler - 2006  
 Carol Sekerak - 2007  
 John & Jennie Suozil - 2007  
 Arthur & Vivian Zenkert - 2007  
 William A Cahal - 2008  
 Robert D Goodrich Sr - 2009  
 Genevieve Z Matras - 2009  
 Lucille A Ewing - 2010  
 Mary Ann Goodrich - 2010  
 Mary Alice & J.P. Sides - 2010  
 Del Ingram - 2011  
 John R Palffy Jr. - 2011

*God Cares Ministry exists to equip Christians to help meet the spiritual needs of people in long term care homes.*

*Serving the care home mission field since 1994.*

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