

Love Your Neighbor Ministries



Reaching Out in Compassion to People in Health Care Settings

P.O. Box 1886 • Gresham, Oregon U.S.A. 97030-0564
Phone (503) 997-6976
www.lyn.org

Dear Friends,

It is with an overwhelming sense of joy that we announce the 50th Anniversary of Love Your Neighbor! We are and will be eternally grateful for God's provision through your prayerful support which has enabled us to reach out to the sick, lonely, dying, hopeless and often forgotten in healthcare. It has been the compelling, compassionate love of God's people for those for whom Christ died that has motivated this movement from the beginning. ***"For Christ's love compels us..."*** II Corinthians 5:14

Your generous, loving support has directly contributed to this ministry becoming what it is today. Five decades of one-to-one/room-to-room/bed-to-bed visitation following group Bible studies and Worship services has spread the seed of the Gospel throughout this neglected mission field. What began in hospitals has spread to nursing and retirement homes, assisted living centers, senior foster homes, home healthcare and private homes via hospice. Countless souls have embraced the Savior and believers have been strengthened and encouraged in their walk through this faith ministry. We look forward to being welcomed by them into eternal dwellings in heaven along with you. Luke 16:9 NIV

Through these periodic prayer letters, we attempt to give you a 'glimpse' of what we experience through our visits. We disguise personal names for reasons of confidentiality, but desire to have you pray with us as we reach the lives of others through a sensitive presentation and demonstration of God's Word. As we are given opportunities to equip Chaplains and Volunteers through local churches, our efforts are multiplied. Many of you have attended our training workshops over the years and have been serving in healthcare centers throughout the country.

Did you know it is a documented fact that 60% of residents in nursing homes do not have a single visitor in a year's time? Regardless of the reasons behind this saddening statistic, the impact in terms of isolation, loneliness and despair is incalculable. There has never been a time wherein it has been more crucial for believers in Christ to be engaged in responding to the needs of our elders. God has worked in their lives for many decades to bring them to the place of being 'ripe' for harvest. Those who are facing the end of their earthy existence most often find themselves in a state of spiritual crisis. The burden on our hearts: Who will God raise up as the reapers to harvest the falling fruit before it is spoiled?

"The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord...to send out workers." Lk. 10:2

'Dorothy' is one elderly lady among many whom we visit each week. After our initial introductions she asked, "Chaplain, huh? So what denomination are you?" This is reminiscent of the woman at the well: ***"Our ancestors worshiped on THIS mountain but you Jews claim that THE place...is Jerusalem."*** Jn 4:20

In both cases, there was an obvious reason why these women wanted to change the subject. The Truth about the need for **relationship** with Jesus was too close for comfort so the subject was changed to a debate about **religion** instead.

We probed a little deeper to discover the reason 'Dorothy' asked this question was that she had grown up in a religious cult. She had never really understood what was being taught then or what it is that she believed now. All she knew was that she was being told by the medical community that her life would soon be over. Now the **real** question that was haunting her every day was "Where will I go after I die?"

Over the course of our regular visits we earned her trust. We were gradually able to share a Biblical view of Jesus. She heard from the Gospel accounts how our personal faith in Him is what matters for this life and the next. After much deliberation, she placed her total trust in Him and her life has been transformed. She now has assurance of her eternal destiny based upon His grace, not her own efforts.

The mission of this ministry is: "Building relationship/Bringing hope." While we witness many 'death bed conversions' during initial visits, we recognize that forging trust takes time. Whether it involves a short time or long, the ultimate purpose of our calling is to bring glory to God by pointing people to Jesus.

We are deeply encouraged to be witnessing a gradual groundswell of re-entry into healthcare facilities following the onslaught of Covid. Regulations which once kept residents in confinement and isolation have now been rendered **unethical** by the CDC. Restrictions are now being lifted for residents in facilities to be visited by their loved ones. As a result, there is a resurgence of group Bible Studies and Worship Services which were largely limited and in many cases were curtailed by the pandemic.

The credibility we have gained with healthcare institutions in the communities we serve also contributes to this re-entry. We are also able once again to provide much needed spiritual and emotional support to overworked caregivers and staff as well as to residents and their loved ones in these settings.

Celebrating this 'Golden Ministry Milestone' takes us back to the beginning point of our chaplaincy. We arrived early at our first nursing home and were sitting in the car preparing some devotional material. Reading through that account of the woman at the well in John's Gospel we came across these words:

"...lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already 'white' for harvest." Jn. 4:35

At that very moment, we lifted our eyes to peer through the dining room window of the Nursing Home. It was filled with little 'white' heads sitting around tables in wheelchairs. What can we say? It was a God-moment to confirm our calling to the most neglected yet strategically significant outreach on the planet.

Thank you for sharing with us as we reminisce over half-a-century of faithful, effective ministry in healthcare. Without the prayerful participation of God's people, this outreach could not continue. We appreciate your indispensable part with us in reaching out to touch the lives of others in Jesus' Name.

Serving Him with you,

Dave & Teri Compton

Praises and Prayers

Praise our Lord as we celebrate His faithfulness through this Golden Anniversary of ministry!

Pray for a Jewish lady who just passed 100 years in her lifespan. She is still mentally sharp although drawing near to her physical end. The burden on our hearts is that she would embrace Jesus as Messiah.

Praise God with us for a Local Church in the Greater Portland area who will be hosting a Volunteer training in June. Pray that He will prepare the hearts of those who will be participating.

Pray for 'Alex' in long-term care and so many like him for whom Christ died. He no longer has any connections with family or friends and no hope beyond this life.

Praise Yahweh Jireh ("The Lord Who provides") for how He faithfully sustains this ministry on a day-to-day basis. We are looking to Him to continue His work through the prayerful support of His people to meet the upcoming and ongoing needs of an outreach that continues to grow according to His direction.

Thank you to those of you who have been praying for Teri's physical health. We continue to ask you to intercede as her physicians attempt to manage a complex autonomic nervous system disorder that causes heart and blood pressure issues. She struggles with extremely high blood pressure and heart failure symptoms. Although she may appear healthy externally, she is living on the edge internally. Please join us in praying for God's protection, guidance, strength and stamina as she faces each day.