

## Wadsworth

## Window

# September 2021

# A look at the ministry

Is it September already? With the changing weather folks in the nursing homes are already worrying about another future lockdown coming this winter. How we pray that does not happen! The last few months of Bible Study ministry has been a blessing to me and to the residents. I have noticed more ministry from Christians in the nursing homes to each other and to the unsaved than I have ever seen before. It seems God used the lockdown period to cause the followers of Christ to learn to encourage one another. I have been able to encourage them to continue to develop their prayer and encouragement ministry to each other and to the unbelievers. It gives them a very high purpose and answers the question, "Why



does God let me continue to live?"

Together in our Bible Studies we have observed the Apostle Paul being imprisoned, without enough food, no bathing, unsanitary conditions in every way, chained between two Roman soldiers night and day. Can you imagine being chained to men who would nail you to a cross if ordered to do so? Even in spite of that hostile environment Paul was faithful to witness to them. The Gospel had it's impact even

on Roman soldiers. Remember the centurion Peter witnessed to in Acts 10. Reviewing what Paul went through, his beatings, ship wrecks, a night and a day in the deep, etc., helps the nursing home residents to be thankful for their situation even though it is hard indeed.

In the assisted living section, I arrive early and start the hymns playing. That is a signal to the residents it will soon be time for Bible Study. Then I clear the breakfast dishes from the tables to prepare for the residents. This takes some pressure off

seemed rather harsh in her attitude toward me and what I was doing. She is stationed where she can listen in on the Bible Studies. Eventually she realized the genuineness of what we are doing. She testified that she had been taken in by a TV ministry that wanted only to deceive people to get their money. It left her bitter and distrustful. She has now warmed up to our ministry and has sometimes participated in discussion. She also has bonded with one of the Christian residents to share prayer requests.

Every other week I publish and send a devotional letter to 85 residents. Some have told me how much those letters mean to them. One lady found one especially meaningful to her and sent it on to her relatives. About ten of the letters need special attention. Some residents need very large print. Some who have the use of only one hand need a letter printed on card stock and mailed in a large envelope so it does not have to be unfolded. Others who have lost their ability to read, need a picture with a caption. One lady explained to me she does not attend the Bible Studies because she cannot hear. But she treasures the letters.

Some of the residents keep in touch with current news and are greatly distressed over events in Afghanistan. That gives us another prayer concern.



Since my June letter to you the nursing homes have increased restrictions some. I am not allowed to go from room to room as before. I can visit with residents in the halls and in the dining rooms. But it almost totally restricts my contact with residents who cannot come to the Bible Studies. It restricts my contact with unbelievers who do not care to come to the Bible Studies.

### Prayer requests:

- -For open doors to minister to people and the energy to do so.
- -That we may develop further the Body of Christ in the nursing homes so believers will minister to others.
- -For ways to reach the nursing home staff with the gospel and to encourage them. For the sake of their work my visiting time with them must be very brief.

### Thank you for your help:

You are very much a part of this ministry effort. Although you cannot be with me in the nursing homes you are there in spirit. Your prayers are indispensable. Your faithful giving enables me to continue ministering. Postage, tracts, booklets, song books, paper and printer ink, envelopes, miles traveled and more are all a necessary part of the ministry that you provide. Thank you so very much!

P.S. In case you were wondering I still meet with the 12-year-old boy for Bible Study. We are now in the book of Exodus. I show him selected portions of the Ten Commandments movie and then we read of the event in the Bible. He is open with me and shares his struggles in school. It is a real opportunity to minister to him.

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