

Wade's News March 2025

Spring is on its way!!! I have never met anyone who did not like spring. Whether winter has been mild or severe spring is such a blessing. Where I live, trees are starting to bud and a few blades of grass are showing. Oh, oh! I guess I am not ready to start mowing grass yet.

In my last newsletter I explained how a resident worked with me in ministry. He had been paralyzed in a wheelchair for 37 years after an automobile wreck. But had limited use of his right hand. I put Scripture on one side of a card stock page and a devotional from the Daily Bread on the other. I read the scripture and he shared the devotional. In February he was hospitalized for pneumonia. Something he had had to fight periodically. This time he could not recover.



I was in the nursing home the day he died. His father was called out of our Bible Study with news that his son was in grave danger. He was already in the hospital. Within minutes a second message came that

his son had died. Thus, I was able to be with the father almost immediately. Some of the nurses were overcome with grief and the Activities Director asked me to pray with them. I prayed for them one at a time at the nurse's station. I was able to give them a copy of a booklet on Hope in the Midst of Grief the next day. Later, the Activities Director asked me to pray for his nephew who had been seriously hurt in a car



accident. Later in the week the funeral service was held at the cemetery. The weather was predicted to be a blizzard. There was snow falling but the Lord gave us calm weather for the service.

More than House Keeping

The first line of defense in a nursing home is the housekeeping staff. They clean and sanitize every room and every bathroom every day. I have known one such lady for

over 20 years. She retired and then came back to work again doing the same thing. She has been a long time Christian and our fellowship has been one of sharing prayer requests. She speaks both English and Spanish fluently having grown up in Texas. Recently, I asked her about a Mexican lady I have not been able to reach for Christ. The lady speaks only Spanish and is a Roman Catholic. I have been unable to build any relationship with her and even Spanish literature is rejected by her. I talked to my friend about reaching her for Christ and she had already witnessed to the lady. I have been able to turn over responsibility to reach her to my housekeeping friend who can do what I cannot do. However, of late her health is keeping her from coming to work. Please pray for her.



Nursing Home Staff

Winter is a harder time for the elderly. There are more deaths in the winter than other times of the year. That is true even though they are kept warm and do not have to deal with winter weather. Losing people wears on the staff as well as on the



residents. It reminds the residents that they are there to die. Some of the activities staff have to attend the funerals of the residents who have passed. They are there to represent the Nursing Home. It's part of the job description. Nursing home staff also work under the pressure of state officials arriving unannounced to check to see if all regulations are being met. It has to be that way but it

is hard for the staff. Pray for those who work in nursing homes. Their dedicated service is so important.

Ministry to Staff

In nursing home ministry, one notices a considerable turnover in nursing staff. Many of them come to the nursing home after graduation but find it too depressing to assist people who are continually getting closer to death. They leave and go to

hospitals or work for doctors where they see positive results to their work as people actually get well. It is such a challenge to try to minister to them and other nursing home staff because I cannot infringe on their work time. In time past I have given books, DVD's and other literature to try to reach them. They also hear me as I minister to residents one on one. One lady in food service who is from Alaska has been quite offish even though she sets the tables for lunch while I am doing the Bible Study in the same room. A few weeks ago, I gave her a Jesus film DVD and a God of Wonders DVD. After she had a chance to view them her attitude toward me changed noticeably.



Family

I have two living brothers. Recently one suffered a mild stroke. He struggles with dizziness, difficulty in walking, swallowing and very low energy. It is yet unknown to what degree he will recover. It is a tremendous change and challenge for his family. They have a whole new way of life to learn. I would ask you to pray for Dean and his family.

Your prayers and financial support are a tremendous blessing. Without you I would be unable to do what I do for the Lord. Amazingly, it has been over four years since the Lord took April home to be with Him. I still miss her deeply. I also grieve the loss of nursing home residents I have come to know and love. Thank you for your caring and sustaining prayers.

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