

HIS LOVE MINISTRIES



NURSING HOME, JAIL, AND PRISON MINISTRY

A Ministry Dedicated to Reaching out to those the World has Forgotten

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My Friendship with Liz - Barbara Cromer

Several years ago my husband and I suffered the tragic loss of both his parents and my father within a 6 week period of time. Stunned by grief for several years, we worked through that and life moved forward. However, in time, I came to realize that something was really amiss by not having any parents for which to care...parents or grandparents to visit on special holidays... to call and ask them about a family recipe...to ask them something about family history. That piece of my life was gone, as my mother had also died some years back. I'm sharing this to let you know why I reached out to His Love Ministries. I knew they were really trying to make a difference in the lives of others by reaching out to those in our prisons and nursing homes.

When I made that first call to Marty McKenzie, he was delighted that I wanted to volunteer and quickly made available to me a name of someone in a nursing care facility that seldom received visitors. You see, her family either had passed away or lived too far away to visit often. I was told very little about her situation due to privacy laws, so over time I learned about her life. In this process of getting to know her, I've come to admire, respect and love my new friend. She has a wisdom gained through 82 years of living on this earth, and gives me counsel. Her eyes light up when I come in the room and she is eager just to talk to someone. The rewards of this developing relationship are great.

While the nursing care facility certainly does their best, their stretched resources sometimes makes it difficult for them to spend as much time with each resident as they may desire. Imagine that's your parent or grandparent sitting there for months on end with no one stopping by to check on them...no one to share stories with, no one to care for them. After 80+ years of pouring their lives into others, are they to come to their end of days without anyone noticing?



Inside This Issue:

- 1 Accomplishments, Nursing Home
- 2 Fishing in Choppy Waters, Trust
- 2 Nursing Home, Prayer Needs

2011 Ministry Accomplishments



I would like to give praise to our wonderful Lord and Savior for allowing this Ministry to be the instrument used in changing lives.

Statistics from January to March of 2011:

- Church/Bibles studies conducted: 220
- Ministered to 4432 people
- Salvations: 17 at least
- Prayed/counseled with 51 people
- Bibles given out: 40
- Volunteers: 24

Thank you to those who have joined us in sharing God's Love by your financial support and/or volunteering. - God bless you!

View From The Nursing Home

There are great needs in the Nursing Homes in Savannah. In fact one of the Activity Directors wanted to know if I knew anyone who would be willing to provide a Sunday service for their residents. I explained to them that His Love Ministries is praying for more volunteers to help with the needs we see everyday and we do not get the response we would hope for. I advised her to contact the churches directly to see if they would assist her. She contacted 43 churches in the Savannah area and not one church was able to help with the need. I thought this would spark some excitement. This is not a cold knock on a door of a person you do not know. This is someone who says, "I want to hear about Jesus will you tell me about Him", and the church looks the other way and passes by on the other side of the street

This reminds me of a story called the Good Samaritan where the Jews asked Jesus, who is your neighbor? Jesus' response was that a man was robbed and left to die. The "average Joe" walked by and did not help. The Pastor who just left prayer meeting crossed the street and acted like he didn't see the need. And then the Samaritan half breed who was the object of Jewish hatred came by and took care of the hurt man. Jesus asked, which of these is the true neighbor? And of course Jesus taught that the Samaritan was being a better neighbor to the man than the Jews were.

I've used this difficulty to try and figure out why God is not moving the hearts of people to help the retired. I do church services at these Nursing Homes and I am their Pastor. They call me Pastor and they think of me as their Pastor. Therefore I try to make each facility a stand-alone body of believers. I teach them to depend on each other and care for each other. I teach those who have more abilities and are stronger to care for those who are weaker and have more needs. One lady whose name is Wilma has caught onto the vision perfectly. She said she has been going around each night before she goes to bed and prays for each person and gives them a kiss on the cheek. Before she leaves the room she says, "Tomorrow if I am able I will return to pray for you again." She told me that she always

Youth Detention Center:

Fishing in Choppy Waters – Christy Mixson

I don't know much about fishing, but I could probably imitate from memory experiences my parents gave me on several family fishing trips in my youth. It is *such* an experience: handling those worms, crickets, minnows, or even chunks of fish (and the fake lures can be very interesting too), casting the line with that flexing twist of the arm, catching and guiding the line with one finger yet with your thumb on the reel button, waiting ~ gently winding the reel while anticipating the feeling of a bite, jerking the line a little at the nibble, and reeling it in. Then, once the fish was in the boat, gently putting your foot on the fish in the bottom of the boat and detaching the hook (my daddy did that part for me – I used to ask if the hooks hurt the fish) – it was all a step by step process. Parts of the process differ according to the type of fishing you do.

Fishing for men has its similarities. This too can be a process and differs according to changing audiences, as found within the Savannah Regional Youth Detention Center.

A recent group of young women there included some prone to willful disruption, along with a particular guard throwing in her silent moral support to them. After reviewing where we had left off in the text of John 4, we finished the chapter: Jesus healed the nobleman's son. The nobleman had faith in Christ, believing who Jesus was; the nobleman had faith Jesus could do what he asked of Him in his desperation for his own son's physical life.

And she, one young lady, raised her hand again. With forged sincerity, "I know the Bible says Jesus had hair like wool and it was white," she stated while rubbing her own hair, sticking up above her forehead, between her fingers...and the snickers behind her encouraged her. "Woolen" hair had punctuated our Bible study for about the previous thirty minutes. It was time to give this line a little jerk. "Do you know how old Jesus Christ was when he died on the cross?" I quizzed her. "No," she replied. "He was 33 years old – not old enough to have white hair," I returned. "Well, I know it was woolen," she mumbled, as she cast a backward glance with a smirk to those seated behind her. I sought clarification from her. The point she sought to make was that Jesus' hair *texture* ("woolen"), supposedly supported by Scripture*, indicated he was a black man. (* See Daniel 7:9 for the correct context to the reference of "hair... like pure wool.")

All the faces in the room here today were black - except mine. Someone's soul was at stake here, and the battle with disruptions, and our skin colors, was only the portrayal of an invisible conflict far more serious than any of them here could know.

I picked up the conversation from there. Look back in John 4:42 at what the Samaritan townspeople said after hanging out with Jesus for a few days. To the woman they said, **'It is no longer because of what YOU said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves and know that this One is indeed the Savior of the world.'** Do you know you are in the same position as these townspeople were 2,000 years ago?! It's definitely not because of some strange white woman you don't even know telling you that Jesus is the Savior of the world that will cause you to believe in Him. I am not asking you to trust or believe me! After all, who am I? I am no one to you! **But You are someone to God**, and He loves you so much; he even has me here today to explain the basic message of the whole Bible to you, that God, your Creator, wants you to know, but *you* have to hear Him *for yourselves*. And someone in here *has been listening* to Him, and some of you are working against God, making it difficult for others to hear what He has to say." The jerk of the line worked its purpose ~ silence fell softly across the room.

PRAYER NEEDS

- Coastal Harbor: more teachers so we can go weekly.
- Men who will teach on a regular basis or as needed.
- Pray for our Services. The schedule is on our website, or call me & I will send you one.
- Pray for people to come to the Lord through the work we do.
- 100 Regular monthly supporters at \$10 a month

View from the Nursing Home (cont.)

says "If I am able because I want them to know because of my health I may not come by" this way the person will not be disappointed if Wilma can't come by to visit. She said, "I want my words and actions to be true because that's what Jesus would do." The residents are showing little acts of kindness to each other and caring for one another as the body of Christ should.

One of the most difficult areas of this ministry is the Mind Care Units. These places usually have residents with Alzheimer's and depending on the effects of the disease they cannot communicate and I have no idea if they can hear, understand or comprehend my sermons. I try to keep these lessons short and sweet. I have to trust God that He is doing something through my obedience because I see very little response or fruit. Every now and then Jesus decides to bless me. One lady stared at me through the entire service. She did not sing and would not even turn the pages while we sang hymns. I was thinking she probably wasn't well enough to respond or sing. After I finished I was gathering up my hymnals, radio and Bible and she spoke up. She said, "I think this lesson was for me today." I about fell out of my chair and I turned and asked why do you say that. She said, "Because I've been really frustrated with what I can remember and I needed to hear that I just needed to trust Jesus." That blessed my day!! It's not about our work or our ministry. We are accepted and complete in Christ. There is nothing else to add to what God finished and accomplished on the cross in Christ. It is all about receiving from Him what He has already accomplished. It is never played out more clearly than in the Alzheimer's Unit at your local Nursing Home. I get to see grace without works every day. *Thomas E. Keller*

Coastal Harbor Treatment Center:

Trust -- Shelly McKenzie

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths." Proverbs 3:5-6

"Our Ministry must not be getting people to conform. Our ministry must be helping people to learn to **trust God**." (*Dr. Allman, of Dallas Theological Seminary*) This statement really made me think. If we can help people to learn to trust God then wouldn't it be logical that their lives would be changed? Totally trusting God can sometimes be hard to do, even for a mature believer. Can you imagine how hard it is for these wounded youth that have never seen trust "lived out"? We tell them, "You can trust God with your life", but that is not an easy concept for them to grasp. That is what I have seen at Coastal Harbor Treatment Center. The Youth there do not understand and find it very difficult to trust anyone. I have had some of them tell me they just don't know how or if they can trust God or if He is there, much less loves them. This is so heart breaking to see a young person feel this way.

These Youth need to see the Love of Jesus lived out. His Love Ministries has an open door to minister in this facility with so many hurting young people. We are the only Ministry providing church services/Bible studies at Coastal Harbor. **We need help, the harvest is ripe and we need laborers for God's work.** If you are interested in helping in any way please contact Marty at 912-398-0573.

"Oh, Taste and see that the LORD is good; Blessed is the man who trusts in Him!" Psalm 34:8

Next Issue:

- Report on the exciting mission filled weekend with the Merritt/Summerhill Association

Won't You Join Us! Go to Hisloveministries.net to see how you can be involved or call Marty at 912-398-0573

Podcast Sermons are at Hisloveministries.podbean.com

We would also like to pray for your needs, send them via email to MMcKenzie@hisloveministries.net