



WISCONSIN
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COMPASSION

2010
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DEATH – IT’S A FRIGHTENING WORD

by Chaplain Ken Wenzel

What do you say when someone dies? Today’s people are almost afraid to use the words “dying” and “death.” One hospice chaplain was disciplined for using the word “death” and was told to use the words, “passed on.” Other euphemisms are, “living with grandmother,” “walking in the garden,” “left us,” “kicked the bucket,” “six feet under,” “gone to heaven,” “sleeping forever,” and “gone to Jesus.”

While the Bible freely discusses death, it also uses euphemisms. “Sleep,” “breathed his last,” “returning to the ground,” “gathered to his people,” “cut down,” “fleeing as a shadow,” and “gave up his spirit.” Never the less, the words “death” and “dying” in different forms are common, and part of God’s saving plans.

Today people regularly do not like to use the word, “death.” People want to avoid death’s hurt, finality, grief, and the question of the eternal destiny of the deceased. As Christians, we face death with confidence and we can tactfully use the word, “death.” Our goal is always helping an individual deal with the fact of death and leading them to a faith that brings victory over death.



I was called to the hospital after the death of a WELS patient. The hospital staff called me because the daughter was experiencing great grief. As more family members arrived, the grief of the daughter and others multiplied.

I met the various family members who expressed both grief and anger over the loved one’s death. However, they did not use the word, “death,” only euphemisms. About two hours later, a young teenage girl sat next to me.

CONTINUED ON PG 3

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LORD, STRENGTHEN MY FAITH!

by Chaplain Charles Iles



It was a good group for Bible study: fifteen men including nine regulars and six first-timers. Together we studied the Word of God. When our time was up, each man shook my hand. (Anything more than a handshake is frowned upon in prison.)

One of the first-timers, Sean, waited until the last. He spoke in a soft voice. He admitted that he had messed up his life. However, he was trying to make changes - God-pleasing changes. But, would a perfect God forgive him? Sean and I began walking to the chapel entrance. We had less than a minute before we would go our separate ways since the system frowns on anyone who lingers. There was just a minute to encourage Sean with the good news of the Gospel. I reminded Sean that God forgives us not because we study His Word or try

to live a good life. He forgives each and every one of us sinners, only because of Jesus. Jesus led a holy life and died on the cross to pay for our sins. Through faith alone in Jesus, that forgiveness is ours.

Tears began to form in Sean's eyes. Just that quickly, it was time to say good-bye. I told Sean that I would look for him at our next Bible study and would pray that the Lord would bless him.

A private visit is now scheduled. God-willing and with the prison's permission, it will be the first of many meetings with Sean. We will study the Word of God together and with the Holy Spirit's blessing grow our faith – both Sean and mine!



ESTATE PLANNING

by Pastor Robert Pasbrig

Do you know what portions of your estate would be best kept out of probate court? Would you be interested in common mistakes many make in preparing their wills/estate plans? Are you aware of how simple and effective a tool like, "Payable On Death" (POD) can be in your estate plan? Do you realize that if you have not written your own will, the state has written one for you—a will that probably will not make you happy? Do you know that you can provide nearly 100% of your estate to your heirs AND nearly 100% of your estate to your favorite charities?



WLIM's planned giving worker, Pastor Bob Pasbrig, would be happy to spend time with you providing confidential help and answering questions regarding estate planning. Presentations to groups are also possible – especially OWLS and others who might have a real interest in establishing a Christian estate plan. Call the WLIM office to arrange for a meeting in your home or to schedule an estate planning presentation.



YEAR IN REVIEW

by Chaplain Mark Wenzel



For me, the beginning of a new year is a time to review the old year. I was struck as I read some of the weekly reports from the past year of my ministry at Froedtert Hospital in Milwaukee. There were an unanticipated number of repeating themes throughout the year's weekly reports.

The ravages of sin in the form of sickness and disease play no favorites. There is a random universalism to sickness and disease. Patients in the hospital come from every category and demographic you can imagine. Chronic disease sufferers, genetic disease carriers, the poor eaters, the health conscious and active; it does not matter. There is no sure way to guarantee continued health. Every one of us is afflicted with sin and eventually our bodies will wear out and wear down. I never know who will be on the other side of a hospital door, but I do know that I will see someone suffering from the ravages of sin.

Another obvious theme from the reports of the old year is the grace of God's timing. Repeatedly, God put me in the right place at the right time. What a privilege to be His instrument.

The year-end review also portrays the power of God's love in providing strength and comfort in very difficult situations. How regularly the patient revealed a deep and strong faith. In spite of a new, often more serious diagnosis, after years of chronic problems, and often with the end of life approaching, there was a calm assurance of the eternal love, help and presence of God. Indeed, God is good and His love endures forever.

I thank all those people who shared their lives and struggles with me in 2009. Their names may be forgotten, but their faith and peace in the face of great trials are not. Thank you for letting me see the love of God through you.

"DEATH - IT'S A FRIGHTENING WORD" —CONTINUED FROM PG 1

As we watched the family cry, I asked the girl what she thought about her grandmother's death. She looked at me in horror. No one had used the word "death" and she had not understood that her grandmother had died! Tears came with that realization. I talked with her about why her grandmother had taken her to Sunday school and how her grandma had helped her grow in her faith. We spoke of her grandmother's victory over death and eternal life in heaven.

Be up front about death and all that the death of a loved one means. Be gentle and share the treasures of our faith. Death is a part of our life on earth. Do not be afraid to use the word, "dying." When dealing with death, watch for the opportunity to talk about the Savior who Himself died to take the victory out of our death and bring us peace, hope, and eternal life.



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OUR MISSION

*“To Share God’s Law and
the Saving Gospel of
Jesus Christ With People
Who Are Institutionalized,
and Their Families.”*

SPECIAL GIFTS & MEMORIALS

11/30/2009 - 1/26/2010

IN MEMORY OF:

Tania Bratager by Mr. & Mrs. Charlie Thompson; **Wilma Brehmer** by Mrs. Patricia Piippo; **Dona J. Destrampe** by Mr. & Mrs. Don Villwock; **Anita Gerbitz** by Mr. & Mrs. Charles Hegg; **Charles and Martha Haddock** by Dr. & Mrs. Robert Dolittle; **Rev. Stephen C. Hintz** by Mrs. Kathryn Hintz; **Audrey Johnsen** by Mr. & Mrs. Richard Johnsen; **Loved Ones** by Mrs. Elsbeth Kietzmann, **Doug Klemp** by Mr. & Mrs. Alan Uher; **Rev Robert Krause & Mrs. Olive Krause** by Rev. & Mrs. Daniel Krause; **Darrel A. Paschke** by Mrs. Elaine Paschke; **Wallace Pusch** by Mr. Kenneth Kunz; **Clarence Radloff** by Mr. & Mrs. Charlie Thompson; **Herman Rohleder** by Ms. Carol Rohleder; **Allen Schaumberg** by Rev. & Mrs. Cleone Weigand; **Alice Schmidt** by Ms. Nancy Schmidt; **Kevin Shimniok** by Mrs. Ladell Shimniok; **Patricia Sievert** by Mr. & Mrs. Timothy Sievert; **Helga Wegener** by Mr. & Mrs. Rolf Reineck; **Norman Welke** by Mrs. Elizabeth Welke; **Arthur Wolf** by Rev. & Mrs. Eugene Kitzerow; **Dorothea Wolfram** by Rev. & Mrs. Eugene Kitzerow; **Rev. Dale R. Zwieg** by Mr. & Mrs. John Clevon

IN HONOR OF:

Kay Gross by Mr. & Mrs. Jonathan Rupprecht; **Lorraine Harris** by Mr. Robert Harris; **Nick & Stacy Hoehl** by Mr. & Mrs. Bob Hoehl; **Rev. Charles Iles** by Mr. & Mrs. Robert Leege; **Chris & Lena Joch** by Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Anderson; **Richard L. Oemig** by Nancy Weinkauf; **Marilyn Pagano** by Hentzen Coatings, Inc.; **Winifred Reineking** by Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Raddant; **Lenore Stege** by Mr. Jon Stege; **Barbara Steinle** by Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Raddant; **Victor Steinle** by Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Raddant

IN CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS:

Delmar and Imogene Hoeffner by Mr. Lloyd Hoeffner



AN OPPORTUNITY TO INCREASE YOUR WLIM GIFT!

by Pastor Robert Pasbrig

WLIM is pleased to report that Thrivent Financial for Lutherans has offered the ministry a \$3,000 grant. The grant would match donations to WLIM \$.50 for each dollar contributed. Use the enclosed offering envelope and your gift will be matched \$.50 for each \$1 up to the first \$6,000 received.

WLIM thanks you for your continued interest, your prayers and your financial support of the ministry, allowing WLIM to bring the Savior to a huge mission field within institutions!