



WISCONSIN
LUTHERAN
INSTITUTIONAL
MINISTRIES

COMPASSION

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THERE WAS NO ROOM FOR THEM IN THE INN. *Luke 2:7b*

by Deaconess Sarah Owens

I'm sure you recognize the verse above from Luke's account of the Savior's birth. There was no room in the inn for Mary, Joseph and the soon to be born Christ child, so the family went to a stable and Jesus was born where animals lived. As you know, there are similar restrictions for the children of the incarcerated. Beyond a carefully supervised and occasional visit, there is no room in jails and prisons for the children of the inmates.

It is so painful for the women I serve with God's Word to have no close contact with their children. The absence of their little ones is especially felt during celebrations such as holidays, birthdays, and first days of school or during times of crisis such as a child's illness or pain. Add this pain to the bleak, basic, colorless locked jail cell and the very boring existence – without motherly contact with their offspring.

As a deaconess with WLIM, I am unable to bring what is often on these ladies' hearts - their children. Yes, there are visits by the children, but for a very limited time and only on occasion. At all other times, these mothers miss their children and the opportunity to be with them. As much as I would love to do it, I do not hold the keys to give them the opportu-

nity to visit with their children. This is painful – for them and sometimes also for me.

But I do thank God for the open doors that allow me to enter the jails and bring, not the inmates' children, but Jesus. You make that possible with your prayers and with your support. I would not go in without the Savior. He gives me the strength and wisdom I need to deal with the sad hearts of the ladies in jail as well as the help I need to share Jesus.



There was no room for Jesus in the inn when he was born, but there is room in the hearts of many in the jails and prisons! And it is only Jesus who can help to

bring true joy, peace and healing to women (and to me as well) who, especially in this season, are grieving over the doors and the rules that lock them in and their children out.

Thank you for supporting this ministry so that we are able to walk through the doors that Jesus opens and to see Him open hearts to His truth and hope in the middle of the darkness. There IS room for Jesus in the hearts of the inmates.



NEIGHBORS, LET'S NOT FORGET THE VICTIM! (Part 2)

by Chaplain Dan Krause

At Oshkosh State Correctional Institution, we invite crime victims to come to prison to speak with inmates. Here is a recent story:

Regina* worked till dark, but on her way home she decided to pick up some cash from the ATM machine. When she pulled up to the ATM machine in her car, three teens approached. The one at her window pointed a hand gun at her face and began giving orders: "Don't say a word, or I'll kill you!" "Look at me and your pretty face will never be the same." "Withdraw all the money from your account!" The commands continued with vulgar terms and personal threats. When all \$450 was removed from her account and they took her purse, the thieves disappeared into the darkness.

Regina did not drive directly home in fear they might follow her. After she drove for ten minutes and saw no one behind her, she went home, bolted the door, fell to the floor shaking, and spent the night there trembling and crying. Her emotional reactions far exceed the problems of losing \$450 and her purse.

Most people will become victims of crime in their lifetimes. Over 40 million are victimized each year in America and 1% of Americans will be the victim of a violent crime.

What about the victims? What can we do to help? Jesus told the parable of the man who was robbed. He did not advocate joining those who walked by on the other side of the road. He told us to be a neighbor, like the Samaritan. The Samaritan provided help, physically, financially, and in other ways beyond what might be expected.

Our country has millions of new victims each year but often they receive little or no help. Our roles as chaplains and Christians include relating to people both inside AND OUTSIDE the walls. God's love helps to heal the wounds of the victimized, both by understanding the power of forgiveness and knowing Christ's compassion. We don't go into prison to find the imprisoned and hurting victims. We find them in our families, congregations and community. Look for opportunities to be the Good Samaritan! Don't forget the victim!

**Not her real name*



THREE DOCTORS

by Chaplain Ken Wenzel

I was in the emergency room to visit with a retired medical doctor who had rolled his truck into a ditch and survived with minor injuries. He would remain in the emergency room until all the tests indicated he could be released. The emergency doctor asked me to stay with the retired doctor and his wife, as the emergency room was very busy. The trauma of the event would eventually catch up with this man's and his wife's emotions.

The retired doctor told me his life's story. David* said that he had escaped death nine times. His first escape was from polio as a child. Other escapes were from car accidents, a bullet striking a tree near his head on a hunting accident, and several farm accidents. He began to sob. He had

lost his favorite truck in the accident, but he had again escaped death - for the ninth time!

I knew that the trauma had finally caught up with his emotions. While David was confident that he was not seriously hurt, he could not control the emotions. He finally explained that he was active in his church and he felt that God must still have a plan for him.

I thought of Jesus' words, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance." (Luke 5:31-32) This doctor could count on another life-saving escape, a tenth escape from death. Jesus had died upon the cross



CONTINUED ON PG 3



WHAT ABOUT BOB?

(Continued from a past issue of Compassion)

by Staff Minister Allen Krause

And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice. (John 10:16)

Recently, “Compassion” shared the story of Bill* and Bob*. Although regularly invited to church, they politely but firmly refused. These two had been friends and neighbors even before they became residents of a nursing home.

Then one day Bill had a heart attack and knew that he needed spiritual care. He realized that his life on this earth would soon end. Bill confessed his sin and departed this life safe in the arms of Jesus.



But what about Bob? He watched his dear friend die, but he also saw his friend’s confession of his sin and acknowledgment of his need for a Savior. This had a profound effect on Bob.

Because of Bob’s illness, he was unable to come to the church service but he could watch the service every Sunday in his room on the closed circuit television. Copies of the hymns and the service devotion were given to him to assist his worship.

Bob and I visited many times and we talked about eternal salvation. After two years of growing in faith, Bob told me that his doctors informed him that his death was coming. But there was no fear or anxiety in him. Bob had the hope of heaven and no one could take that away from him.

The following Sunday, as church services were being conducted, I saw paramedics taking someone to an ambulance. Later, I went to visit Bob and found his room empty. The nurse told me that Bob had left. When I asked, “Where did he go,” she replied, “He went to heaven.”

What a wonderful response to my question! Bob took to heart all he saw and heard as he watched his friend, Bill, dying. He came to know his Savior two years before he died. He was confident of his salvation and had peace with God and the same salvation as his friend Bill, who had come to know his Savior just hours before his death.

What about Bob? As the nurse said, he’s in heaven, not because of what he did in this life, but because of what Jesus did for him. What a privilege and a blessing to serve both men with the same saving gospel message that is shared with all who are served through WLIM’s many ministries!

“THREE DOCTORS” — CONTINUED FROM PG 2

for this doctor so that he could escape eternal judgment and live eternally. Here was amazing news. The emergency room doctor reported that David was going to be physically okay, but “Doctor” Jesus reported eternal life for David. He was escaping death not nine times, but ten times!

The patient soon regained control of his emotions. He his wife listened to my prayers of thanksgiving to God. We thanked the Lord for three doctors. There was the patient who himself was a doctor, the emergency room doctor who brought good health news, and Jesus, the Great Physician, who saved him from eternal death with the assurance of peace with God and the promise of eternal life.

Our Great Physician has the same assurance for you and all who are institutionalized who know Jesus by faith.

WLIM NEWS AND NOTES

WLIM'S NEW ADDRESS:

WLIM is very pleased with the new office space being sub-leased from WELS Kingdom Workers. The location is just 6 blocks south of the former office (WLIM rented from synod for 18 years!). Please make note of the new address: **2323 North Mayfair, Suite 480, Wauwatosa, WI 53226**. Stop by to visit – parking is available on the north and west sides of the building. A joint open house is planned with WELS Kingdom Workers on *Wednesday, January 18, 2012 from Noon until 6 PM*. Please join WLIM and WKW for light refreshments and the opportunity see the offices!



ANNUAL MEETING:

Working with God's Gift of **ANGER**

WLIM held its annual meeting on Nov. 5 at St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church, Muskego. Over 70 people attended the morning meeting and the afternoon workshop dealing with ANGER. There were no elections, but the resignation of Mr. Duane Anderson (who has moved to Florida) was accepted and Mr. David Kapanke is filling his unexpired term. The proposed budget for 2012 was adopted – copies are available for those interested (please contact the office). There were many questions following the min-

istry reports presented by Executive Director Don Borgwardt and Director of Ministry Advancement, Pastor Bob Pasbrig. These reports are also available from the office. Thank you to all who attended and to the delegates who helped make the decisions that will be guiding WLIM's future.

POSSIBLE MINISTRY EXPANSION:

Representatives from WLIM recently met with the Board of Directors of LIMA, the Lutheran Institutional Ministry Association. LIMA is the Minnesota District's institutional ministry organization, similar in some ways to WLIM. A major difference is that LIMA is heavily involved with campus ministry - ministry that is carried out by other groups (not WLIM) in the three Wisconsin Districts of the WELS. WLIM sees opportunities to work with LIMA for hospital and jail and prison ministry. Discussions continue and more information will follow.

IS YOUR ADDRESS CORRECT?

Does WLIM have your correct address? Do you have a different address for the winter months? Can you suggest a name and address of someone who would like to receive the Compassion newsletter? In any of these cases, please notify the WLIM office: Call 888-214-6490. Thank you.

GOODSEARCH:

Would you like to aid WLIM each time you submit a search query on the internet? If so, WLIM will be paid about 1 cent for each inquiry, funds that advertisers pay to Goodsearch. Simply go to www.goodsearch.com and select WLIM. Thank you for this bit of extra support for WLIM's ministry!

2011 TAX-FREE IRA

ROLLOVER POSSIBILITY:

Individuals who are 70½ or older can make tax-free IRA transfers to WLIM. Any amount contributed (up to \$100,000) by Dec. 31, 2011 fulfills some or all of the required minimum distributions without incurring a tax liability (these contributions, however, are not deductible on your federal income tax return). Please call WLIM's office for more information.

WLIM PREACHING AND PRESENTATIONS:

WLIM chaplains are available for guest preaching and the WLIM called workers can lead Bible classes, presentations to Ladies Aid meetings, Parent Teacher organizations, Boy and Girl Pioneer meetings, LWMS gatherings and the like. Contact Pastor Bob Pasbrig at pasbrig@wlim.net to request a preacher or a speaker. Below are a list of current topics WLIM can offer to your congregation or group:

- *CHRISTIAN HOPE FROM MEDICAL OBJECTS* is the title of an hour-long Bible study being offered by Chaplain Ken Wenzel. Pastor Wenzel uses his many years of experience in hospital ministry to share Bible truths using medical instruments as object lessons.
- *DEALING WITH SUICIDE*: This two hour workshop includes a DVD, Bible study and dialogue. It shares a nationally recognized suicide prevention program called QPR. Like medical “CPR,” this program provides suggestions for immediate response to a possible suicide attempt until professional help arrives. For more information, please contact Chaplain Ken Wenzel at wenzel@wlim.net
- *MENTORING EX-OFFENDERS*: The training manual and program for volunteers interested in serving as a mentor for ex-offenders is titled, *FRIENDS IN CHRIST*. Chaplain Dan Krause is the primary trainer and conducts the training sessions. In 2012, an on-line training option will become available. Would you be interested in assisting “returning citizens” as they transition back into the community and are seeking a church home? Please call the office for more information.
- *UNDERSTANDING ALCOHOLISM AND OTHER ADDICTIONS*: A recent all-day presentation by Chaplain Phil Merten in Waukesha, WI was very well received and a similar presentation is planned at Mt. Olive Lutheran Church in Appleton, WI on February 18, 2012. For more information or to arrange for another session, please contact Chaplain Merten at merten@wlim.net or call the WLIM office.
- *GOD’S GIFT OF ANGER*: this unexpected title was featured for the WLIM annual meeting and workshop held early in November. Chaplains Phil Merten and Mark Wenzel and Deaconess Sarah Owens led the presentation which may be of interest to others. Interested?
- *WELS CHAPLAINCY CERTIFICATION PROGRAM*: For-credit courses are offered on line through Martin Lutheran College. The courses include general introduction and specialized offerings for those interested in healthcare, military or prison chaplain ministry. Chaplain Dan Krause is currently teaching the “Chaplaincy Fieldwork and Issues” class and will be teaching a face-to-face follow-up course at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in January. Pastor Roger Knepprath will be teaching the next on-line course, “Ministering to the Incarcerated and Their Families” in the Spring of 2012. Please contact the WLIM office, Martin Luther College or Chaplain Krause at krause@wlim.net if you would like more information.
- *CHRISTIAN ESTATE PLANNING*: Using a generous grant from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, Pastor Bob Pasbrig offers an unusual and fun presentation to not only encourage Christian estate planning but also some very practical suggestions for implementing a plan suitable for each family’s situation. The fact is a properly prepared estate plan can result in your entire value of your estate going to heirs AND to charities like your church, the synod, WLIM or other charitable organizations (over a period of years with charitable remainder trusts). Contact Pastor Pasbrig for more information, at pasbrig@wlim.net.

Additional resources and information are available on WLIM’s website: www.wlim.net



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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

8/23/2011 - 11/23//11

IN MEMORY OF:

Robert Bauer
Mr. & Mrs. Rolf Aldinger
Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Schultz
Loved Ones
Mrs. Marilyn Behmer
Eloise Berg
Mr. & Mrs. James Hilden
David Blacker
Mr. & Mrs. George Schaser
Lori Champbell
Mr. & Mrs. Charlie Thompson
Robert J. Dettlaff
Mrs. Grace Dettlaff
Ewald & Mabel Fandrey
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Corona
Warren H. Garske
Mrs. Joyce Garske
Laddie Hungsberg
Mr. Alan Hungsberg
Elton Iles
Rev. & Mrs. Daniel Krause
Audrey Johnsen
Mr. Richard F. Johnsen
Loved Ones
Mrs. Elsbeth Kietzmann
Charles Krueger
Mrs. Leta Krueger
Elmer Mathiak
Mr. & Mrs. Charlie Thompson

Marcelene Moldenhauer
Mr. Earl Moldenhauer
Derek Nolte
Mr. & Mrs. Michael E. Nolte
Marilyn Paschen
Mr. James Paschen
Kyra Radsek
Mr. & Mrs. Joshua Lipps
Truman and Helen Rumbield
Mrs. Debra Wilder
Joseph Savage
Mr. & Mrs. Charlie Thompson
Jean Schwantes
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Zinke
Cindy (Seevers) Polfer
Mrs. Joann Seevers Wolgram
Patricia Sievert
Mr. & Mrs. Timothy Sievert
Scott Steinle
Mrs. Barbara Steinle
Corinne Vejvoda
Mr. & Mrs. Charlie Thompson
IN HONOR OF:
Delmar & Imogene Hoeffner
59th Wedding Anniversary
Mr. Lloyd Hoeffner
Jesus our Lord and Savior
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Jester
Knutson Children & Grandchildren
Mr. & Mrs. Juel Knutson

**Bob & Jo Ann Schoeneck's
55th Wedding Anniversary**
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Schoeneck
Linda White's 70th Birthday
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Mckee

