

# Volunteers Monthly Newsletter

“The Only Gift is a Portion of Thyself”

Ralph Waldo Emerson

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This article is taken from our December Silver Lining issue. Entitled Mission Work at Home: Serving Christ and People at a Nursing: Anonymous – Fairbury, IL I think this echoes Parkview Haven’s mission.

“I have the privilege of working in an Apostolic Christian nursing home. Each day, I’m thankful that my job allows me to serve God and others at the same time.

While some may view a nursing home as a depressing place, I have found ours to be a place of richness, wisdom, joy and humor. As residents realize their earthly days are closing, they have no time for pretense. They inspire us to follow their examples as they clarify priorities and care less about material things. They engage us and each other with realness in relationships that is joyfully refreshing. Their willingness to share unexpected historical treasures enriches our lives. Imagine hearing first hand how God protected a WW II veteran in battle experiences! If God provided in such difficult circumstances, He will surely provide for me! Yes, we see pain and illness and weakness of the flesh and mind.

There are many times we weep with frustration because we can’t help someone as we wish we could. Yet, at such times, we often have the privilege of seeing the strength of the spirit and how God lovingly upholds and cares for His children in trials.

Truly the fields are white unto harvest in a nursing home, both with those who reside there and those who support them. The opportunities are endless. Older residents wonder what their purpose is in life. I impress upon them that God doesn’t stop using His children until the end. Many times the Lord touches our hearts as workers through examples of faithful believers who trust in Him and testify of His goodness despite pain and loss in their own lives “...that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God”(2 Corinth.1:4)

Through being employed or living in a nursing home God gives souls opportunity to hear his Word and experience Christ love. What a blessing to witness the miracles of hardened hearts becoming  softened and expressing faith in Christ through exposure to the Word, prayers, hymns, and spiritual atmosphere and being loved and nurtured as they have perhaps never felt in their lives before! It is not our ministry or glory! It is God’s. He gives us the incredible privilege of witnessing these miracles as we serve. While it may not be glamorous, let’s support the Lord’s work in nursing homes through prayer, donations or spending time giving/receiving encouragement. Interacting with souls in their golden years involves investing in an eternal goldmine. “Who will wash the feet of the oldest saint in the church in a dark corner where no one knows and there is no recognition?” This illustrates this opportunity to be Christ’s hands and feet by sharing Him with our older brethren, friends and neighbors. “ May God bless this new year, 2019!

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