
NEWSLETTER

Comforter Ministry, Inc.



Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles; so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God. For just as the sufferings of Christ flow over into our lives, so also through Christ our comfort overflows.

2 Corinthians 1:3-5

A letter from Su

“Be still and know that I am God” (Psalm 46:10). This Bible passage was my mother’s favorite Bible verse. It was recited often these past several months, both by my mom and myself. From mid-November through New Years Day my mom suffered a series of difficult medical issues, including Covid-19. All in all, her body and mind were ravaged, and God in His great wisdom and mercy took her to be with Him in heaven on January 3, 2021. From emergency rooms, hospital rooms, a brief stay in rehab, and days before her death I reminded her of her “favorite” Bible verse... most times she would join me in finishing the passage and towards the end I am comforted that even though she never responded, my voice and God’s Word brought her comfort, too. Thank you to all who upon learning of this news have reached out to me with their love, support, and encouragement :) I am thankful for each of you!



During all of this, my father’s dementia worsened and he needed to be moved to a different facility/location...busy and difficult days.

“Be still and know...” are words of comfort and joy, to be sure!

A mission of comfort and compassion, reaching out to women with cancer with God’s Word and the love of the Comforter through journals and quilts.

Highlights of this issue include

- **The picture above - 800th QUILT!**
- **Several monetary gifts received**
- **A new health series concerning Neck and Head cancer (Part 1)**
- **A lovely Prayer for the Sick to use and share with others**
- **Meaningful “Words of Comfort”**

devotion - Our Comforter, Advocate

Spring Blessings!

Su

The 800th Quilt! Wow! Thank you Quilter Kay J from King, WI.

Thank you ALL CM QUILTERS for your continued support, making and donating your wonderful labors of love to Comforter Ministry.

I thank CM donors, as well, whose monetary gifts of love have permitted me to send CM quilts and journals to over 1,000 women diagnosed with cancer over these past 16 years.

With a Thankful Heart . . . I thank my God every time I remember you. Philippians 1:3-5

As of February 28, 2021, 137 Quilters/Quilt Groups from 24 states and one Canadian province have made 813+ comforters that have comforted over 1,013+ women with cancer from 39 states (USA), one Canadian province, Australia, the Caribbean, Japan, and Switzerland. As I share the following information with you, my heart overflows with thankfulness to God for each of you.

Quilters.....		Recipients.....			
Alaska	2	Alaska	4	Tennessee	2
Alaska (QG)	2	Arizona	12	Texas	119
Arizona (QG)	1	Arkansas	2	Utah	1
				Virginia	7
Arizona	2	California	23	Washington	9
California	1	Colorado	14	West Virginia	2
California (QG)	1	Connecticut	2	Wisconsin	444
Colorado	2	Florida	24	Wyoming	1
Florida	1	Georgia	11		
Illinois (QG)	1	Idaho	2		
Illinois	1	Illinois	31		
Iowa	1	Indiana	9	Australia	1
Kansas	1	Iowa	14	Caribbean	1
		Kansas	7	Japan	1
Michigan	7				
Michigan (QG)	1	Kentucky	15		
		Maryland	2	Ontario, Canada	7
Minnesota	6	Michigan	58		
Minnesota (QG)	2	Minnesota	108	Switzerland	1
Nebraska	3	Mississippi	2		
		Missouri	5		
		Montana	1		
Nevada	1	Nebraska	12		
North Carolina	1	Nevada	6		
North Dakota	2	New Jersey	2		
Ohio	2	New York	6		
Ohio (QG)	1				
South Carolina	1				
South Dakota (QG)	1	North Carolina	9		
		North Dakota	4		
Texas	4	Ohio	10		
Texas (QG)	3	Oklahoma	12		
		South Carolina	1		
Utah	1	South Dakota	10		
Washington	1				
Wisconsin	52				
Wisconsin (QG)	17				
Wisconsin (LGP)	2				
Wyoming	1				
Ontario, Canada (QG)	1				

+Several comforters have been given on behalf of the Comforter Ministry, but I have not been given further information as to names of recipients, addresses, etc.

QG=Quilt Group

LGP=Lutheran Girl Pioneers

Prayers . . . The prayers of a righteous man are powerful and effective. James 5:16

- ♥ Pray for a cure for **CANCER**
- ♥ Pray for women who have been diagnosed with cancer
- ♥ Pray for the Comforter Ministry

Gifts Received . . . And whatever you do; whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Colossians 3:17

- ♥ **Wayne, Rachel, Will, and Hosanna**, Scroggins, TX, and **Dave** for helping with the mailing of the Winter Issue of the Comforter Ministry Newsletter – **Thanks so much, each of you!**
- ♥ **Gifts of Money** received since January 1, 2021 – **Lois S**, Manitowoc, WI; **Jacqueline S**, Bay City, MI; **Susan R**, Sun Prairie, WI; **Joyce N**, Bonduel, WI; **Gail O**, Waupaca, WI; **Peace Lutheran**, Sun Prairie, WI; **Fran H**, Calgary, AB, Canada. **Thank You! Thank You!**

TRINITY LUTHERAN ENDOWMENT

Once again, Comforter Ministry, Inc. received a generous gift of money from the Trinity Lutheran Endowment Fund - Trinity Lutheran Church, Minocqua, WI. I am so honored to be considered each year and thankful for their annual support of this wonderful ministry/mission. **THANK YOU VERY MUCH!**

CM Basics

Requester’s Basic Instruction

- If you know of a woman with cancer whom you would like to receive a CM comforter and journal you may contact Comforter Ministry, Inc. and request they be sent to her, providing the recipient’s name and complete mailing address. A cover letter will be included, stating YOU are the one requesting they be sent.

Quilter(s) Basic Instructions

- Make your quilt according to CM “Criteria for Making and Donating a Comforter” (criteria by request to CM or go to CM Website). Make sure your name, city, state and date you finished your quilt are displayed in some permanent method on the back of your quilt.
- Request CM journal, and fill out “Greetings from the Quilter” page of journal.
- Provide three (3) colored pictures (preferably all the same) of your quilt.
- Send Quilt, Journal and Pictures to Comforter Ministry, Inc.
- All materials, including postage are covered by Quilter(s).

Recipient’s Basic Instructions

Between the cover letter and CM journal all details are provided and explained, including the following:

- who made the request CM comforter/journal be sent to you
- brief explanation of CM
- what to do with the comforter/journal
- when ready to do so, you or your family have several options, including 1) sending comforter/journal back to Comforter Ministry, Inc. 2) sending them on to another woman with cancer 3) keeping both – With option 1 or 2, postage is covered by recipient or recipient’s family.
- what to do with the comforter/journal before sending them back to CM or on to another woman with cancer

Thoughts to Share . . .

New Quilts Received since December 1, 2020 - Elenore G-San Jose, CA; Phyllis F-Mukwonago, WI; Barb S-Bloomington, MN; Mari D-Plover, WI; Mary S-Spartanburg, SC; Carolyn J and Faith In Action Quilters-Rochester, MN; Kay J-King, WI; Kathy D-Shawano, WI; Dorothy E-Prairie du Sac, WI; Deede's Quilters(Linda O), Grace-Scroggins, TX; Donna B and Abiding Grace Quilters-Covington, GA; Jodi S and Shelley M-Appleton, WI; *Gail S-Milwaukee, WI; Patsy G and New Life Quilters-Sebring, FL. Thank you, Ladies! *WELCOME, Gail! Check out the CM web site to see photos of these quilts at www.comforterministry.com, click More-Photo Gallery.

Christmas Collection 2020
A PROJECT OF COMFORT AND JOY
I will turn their mourning to joy, will comfort them,
And make them rejoice rather than sorrow.
Jeremiah 31:13b

the Comforter ministry
The Comforter Ministry is a mission of comfort and compassion,
reaching out to women with cancer
with God's Word and the love of the Comforter
through journals and quilts.

**a Comfort to receive
and a JOY to give**

- Through your prayers and gifts the Comforter Ministry is able to provide the comfort of quilts, journals, and God's Word to women diagnosed with cancer.
- Through your prayers and gifts the joy you have found in Jesus, whose birthday we celebrate, is a joy shared by the Comforter Ministry. It is the joy of Jesus which prompts a giving heart.
- Through your prayers and gifts the comfort and joy of Christmas will continue throughout the year as the Comforter Ministry strives to share the love of the Comforter and spread the gospel message in various and meaningful ways.

Thank you for your gift

Gifts may be sent to:
Susanne Hanson, 12302 E Fitzgerald Lane, Manitowish Waters, WI 54545-9249
Checks payable to "Comforter Ministry, Inc."

“THANK YOU” ...hardly seems enough to say to all who participated in Comforter Ministry's first annual fund-raising project. Approximately \$3,000 was given by CM supporters - Patsy G, Avis K, Rusty B, Kevin and Lori P, Dorcas Quilters, Sue F, Lorraine H, Wendysue F, James and Janine T, Marge S, Gene and Dar A, Ken and Linda F, Susan P, Elaine S, Cindy G, Fran P, Polly S, Mari D, Peggi C, Sue T, Judy S, Helen M, Cliff and Becky D, Sandra C, Jane R, Viola G, St. Paul's Women's Ministry, Jim and Debbie T, Barbara S, Esther H, Leslie F, Sharon N, Linda P, Mike and Judy A.

MEMORIALS GIVEN...

Another blessing this past couple of months were the memorials given to CM in memory of my mom, Charlotte R Nork, who was graced into heaven by her Savior Jesus, on January 3, 2021. My family and my sister's family thank Reverend and Mrs. Robert S, Lynne P, Bob and Diana S, Karen S, and Matt K Family.

Another memorial was given to CM by Patsy G in memory of Betty F, a CM recipient - “Betty always cherished it (the quilt) and the prayers as she fought the long cancer battle...” Thank You, Patsy!

Sharing What I Know . . .

Because the Comforter Ministry’s mission is to reach out to women with cancer, each Comforter Ministry Newsletter will include information about a specific cancer or a related subject. By being better informed about cancer, my hope is that readers will be aided in detecting cancer in regard to themselves and others and, if necessary, know where to go for further information and qualified assistance.

HEAD OR NECK CANCER - PART 1

ARE THERE DIFFERENT KINDS OF HEAD AND NECK CANCER?

There are many types of head and neck cancers. Your doctor can tell you more about the type you have. Here are some of the most common types...

- Oral cavity cancer - starts in the mouth
- Oropharyngeal cancer - starts in the back of the mouth or the throat
- Nasal cavity cancer - starts in the opening behind the nose, space that runs along the top of the roof of the mouth and then turns downward to join the back of the mouth and the throat
- Paranasal sinus cancer - starts in the openings around or near the nose called sinuses
- Nasopharyngeal cancer - starts in the upper part of the throat behind the most
- Laryngeal cancer - starts in the voice box
- Hypopharyngeal cancer - starts in the lower part of the throat beside and behind the voice box

The most common type of cancer in the head and neck area is called carcinoma. These cancers start in the cells that line all parts of the nose, mouth, and throat.

There’s a lot of immune system tissue in the head and neck. Cancers that start in these tissues are called lymphoma. These cancers are not talked about here. Call American Cancer Society at 1-800-227-2345 if you need to learn more about lymphoma.

HOW DOES THE DOCTOR KNOW I HAVE HEAD AND NECK CANCER?

These cancers may not be found until they cause problems that make the person go to the doctor. Sometimes changes are seen during a routine visit to the doctor or dentist. You may be sent to see a doctor who focuses on diseases of the ear, nose, and throat (called an ENT doctor, an otolaryngologist), or a head and neck surgeon.

The doctor asks you questions about your health and does a physical exam. If signs are pointing to head or neck cancer, more tests will be done. Here are some of the tests you may need:

- Complete head and neck exam - The doctor will check the head and neck area, looking and feeling for any abnormal areas. The lymph nodes in the neck will be felt for any signs of cancer. Because some parts of the mouth and throat are not easily seen, the doctor may use mirrors, lights, and/or special fiber-optic scopes to look at these areas.
- Panendoscopy: This is a complete exam done in the operating room after you are given drugs to make you sleep. The surgeon looks at the entire area through thin tubes called scopes and may take out pieces of tissue (biopsies) to be checked under a microscope.
- Biopsy: For this test, the doctor takes out a small piece of tissue where the cancer seems to be. The tissue is checked for cancer cells. This is the best way to know for sure if you have cancer.
- CT scan: This is also called a CAT scan. It’s a special kind of x-ray that takes detailed pictures to see if the cancer has spread to the lymph nodes, lungs, or other organs.
- MRI scan: MRIs use radio waves and strong magnets instead of x-rays to take detailed pictures. MRIs can be used to learn more about the size of the cancer and look for other tumors.
- Barium swallow: For this test, x-rays are taken while you swallow a liquid with barium in it. Barium coats the inside surface of the throat and helps get a good picture. This test helps to see how your throat looks as you swallow.
- Chest x-rays: X-rays may be done to see if the cancer has spread to the lungs.
- PET scan: In this test, you are given a type of sugar that can be seen inside your body with a special camera. If there is cancer, this sugar shows up as “hot spots” where the cancer is found. This test is useful when your doctor thinks the cancer might have spread, but doesn’t know where.
- Blood tests: Certain blood tests can tell the doctor more about your overall health.

QUILTERS, PLEASE NOTE

***** DO YOU HAVE A TOP MADE THAT YOU WOULD LOVE TO DONATE, BUT IT NEEDS TO BE LONG ARMED? HEIDI BORK HAS OFFERED TO LONG ARM UP TO TWO QUILTS PER MONTH ON A FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED BASIS. AS THE TOP MAKER, YOU WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR MAKING THE TOP, PROVIDING A BACK THAT IS 4” LARGER THAN THE TOP IN ALL DIRECTIONS AND SHIPPING TO HEIDI IN NEENAH, WI. SHE WILL PROVIDE THE BATTING, LONG ARM QUILTING, AND RETURN SHIPPING TO YOU. IF INTERESTED CONTACT HER AT quilterazzi@gmail.com or 920.205.7213

Words to Share...

Although I don't know exactly what you are going through, I can relate as I am a 20 year cancer survivor. What helped me is knowing the comfort of my Savior and His promises. He promises to never send us into a situation alone. He goes BEFORE us! He STANDS beside us. He WALKS behind us. “Be strong and of good courage.” Joshua 11:9 Mary D

(Reprinted from the Comforter Ministry Journal - “Greetings from the Quilter” page) **THANK YOU, MARY!**

Su,

THANK YOU for your mission. It was a huge comfort during my diagnosis and recovery. It's nice feeling connected to other women before you or to read their successful stories! God's plan is always better than ours and He truly blessed me through my cancer. May you continue to stay cancer free and healthy. Blessings to you and your family. Theres H

**THANK YOU, THERESA, FOR YOUR ENCOURAGING WORDS!
THANK YOU ST. MICHAEL'S MISSION QUILTERS!**

REMEMBER - IF YOU KNOW OF A WOMAN DIAGNOSED WITH CANCER AND WOULD LIKE ME TO SEND HER A COMFORTER MINISTRY QUILT AND JOURNAL, PLEASE CONTACT ME.

***** Prayer ***** Dear Lord of all creation, when it seems as if you do not care or that Satan is ruling the lives of the sick, help us point them to your forgiveness and love and to the fact that your kingdom of grace rules over all things. Give us the desire to go out of our way to help. Help us keep the example of your Son, Jesus, always before our eyes as one who gave up all he had in order to serve us. Amen.

Words of Comfort . . .

The following meditation is based on the eighth of 12 Biblical passages of comfort found in the Comforter Ministry Journal. Originally written for and printed in 12 previous Comforter Ministry Newsletters, they are being reprinted here and in following issues of CMN.

Our Comforter, Advocate

In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will. Romans 8:26,27

Recently my mother had cataracts removed from each of her eyes. Immediately following the procedures it was necessary to use several different eye drops given at prescribed times throughout the day and night in order to insure that her eyes heal properly and good vision results. Faithful use is imperative. There are weeks of follow-up visits along with changes in the frequency of those important eye drops. I was able to accompany my mom when she had each procedure and also for a follow-up visit to the surgeon. She relied on me to understand and remember the instructions given before she left the clinic. She trusted that I would take care of the schedule of medication she was to follow religiously.

Although having cataracts removed is considered relatively minor compared to many other surgical procedures, nevertheless there is some similitude where “post operative instructions” come into play whether minor or major. The patient better be clearheaded and possess a sharp memory (both of which are unlikely immediately following an event where drugs have played a part) so she is ready to digest all the post operative instructions and vital information concerning her recovery. This is where a patient advocate, a friend or family member, can provide an invaluable service. An extra pair of eyes and ears may be able to catch something the patient may misunderstand or *miss* altogether. Someone to be with you, speak for you, explain things to you can be comforting. This person is a blessing especially if he has medical knowledge and can understand the miscall terms and language the doctor uses.

As Christians we face trials, temptations, and struggles while living out our earthly existence. We long for the day when we will see Jesus face-to-face and our bodies will be like His - glorified, whole, complete perfection. As baptized children of God, by faith in Jesus, through the working of the Holy Spirit, we have an advocate, a comforter. Through the Word and Sacraments the Holy Spirit comes to our aid with His strength and intercession. In prayer, the Holy Spirit helps the Christian express what he or she is unable to communicate, whether it is because they cannot speak or there simply are no words in the human language that can capture the depth of their suffering. *The Holy Spirit, our great Comforter and Advocate, in His groaning for us, presents our cause to God; He speaks to God through the inarticulate groaning of the believers' hearts. When the cross of the Christian becomes heavy to bear, when they feel forsaken and alone, when they have no comforter among men that understand what troubles their hearts, then inexpressible longing and sighing is pressed out of their soul for the redemption of their body...The omniscient (all-knowing) God knows what the Spirit has in mind in those groaning whose content cannot be expressed the words of human language* (Popular Commentary by Kretzmann). The relationship between the Holy Spirit and God the Father is so close that the Holy Spirit's prayers need not be audible. Because the Holy Spirit is also true God, third person of the Trinity, God knows His every thought...The Spirit intercedes for the *saints* in a manner which agrees fully with the will and with the glory of God. Christians can rightly be called *saints* because of the cleansing power of the blood of Christ; not because of anything clean and holy within themselves. This is a holy comfort.

May you be comforted, knowing you have a Comforter and Advocate in the Holy Spirit, dear Christian!

