



NEWSLETTER



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

CONTACT: Comforter Ministry, Inc. *% Mary Venus *441 19th Street South, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494
*715-213-9050 *comforterministryinc@gmail.com * www.comforterministry.com

A Message from the Comforter Ministry Team

Did you see something new on the cover page? We are thankful to the talented staff at Quality Printing in Wisconsin Rapids. They listened to our requests, considered the work of the Comforter Ministry and after many revisions we decided on this image. We feel the logo represents the core values of the ministry. The heart and cross shows our Savior's love and comfort for those who suffer. The lines flowing outward speak to the mission aspect of this effort. We are excited to share it on future publications and outreach material.

Within just 3 months the Lord has blessed us with several opportunities to share the Comforter Ministry. While attending a crafting retreat Mary and Judy were invited to do an impromptu presentation to the group of attendees. When Judy was traveling on a Martin Luther College Alumni tour, she was able to share our work with many in the group she was traveling with. Then we were asked to do a brief presentation for the members of a Wisconsin Rapids Quilt Group. It is heartwarming to talk to people about the Comforter Ministry and hear their



eagerness to learn more about it. It truly is God at work spreading His love and compassion to those battling cancer, and many of whom do not know Him yet.

It's official! The Comforter Ministry has been accepted to have a display table at the LWMS 60th Annual Conventions in La Crosse WI. We have been busy planning the display, deciding on the material to bring and making a table banner. We spent a day designing and laying out the project. Mary did an excellent job finishing it and making it ready for display. If you are attending the convention, don't forget to stop by and introduce yourself.

We continue to give thanks to the talented quilters and supporters that donate freely to the Comforter Ministry with a loving heart. Without these gifts the Comforter Ministry would not be able send a comforter to a woman battling cancer and to spread the work of the ministry. While our hearts are excited by the opportunities ahead of us, we are also sobered by the requests we receive to send a comforter to a loved one diagnosed with cancer. Please continue to keep these women and their loved ones in your prayers.

One final note: The Comforter Ministry Team was recently asked to speak at two events this Fall. As we get more details of these events, we will post them on our website comforterministry.com and the next newsletter.

God's blessing to you for a safe and restful Summer.

Mary, Judy, Christine

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.

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

Since February 21, 2023, 143 Quilters/Quilt Groups from 25 states and one Canadian province have made 913+ comforters that have comforted over 1,165+ women with cancer from 40 states (USA), one Canadian province, Australia, the Caribbean, Japan, and Switzerland.

Quilters from the states of Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, Nevada, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington, Wisconsin, and Wyoming have at one time or another made and donated at least one quilt since 2005. As I share the following information with you, my heart overflows with thankfulness to God for each of you.

Recipients...

Alaska	4	Montana	1	Wyoming	1
Arizona	13	Nebraska	14	Hawaii	1
Arkansas	2	Nevada	7		
California	28	New Jersey	2		
Colorado	17	New York	8		
Connecticut	2	North Carolina	10		
Florida	34	North Dakota	5		
Georgia	13	Ohio	10		
Idaho	2	Oklahoma	18		
Illinois	37	Pennsylvania	2	Australia	1
Indiana	10	South Carolina	5	Caribbean	1
Iowa	14	South Dakota	11	Japan	1
Kansas	7	Tennessee	4	Ontario, Canada	7
Kentucky	15	Texas	125	Switzerland	1
Maryland	4	Utah	1		
Michigan	63	Virginia	10		
Minnesota	129	Washington	10		
Mississippi	2	West Virginia	2		
Missouri	5	Wisconsin	518		

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 and the Comforter Ministry Team

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

- ❖ **Gifts of Money** received since February 21, 2023 - **Bette M-Sussex, WI; Lois S-Manitowoc, WI; Linda H-Johnson Creek, WI — Thank You! Thank You!**

Words to Share

Wanted to reach out to you to thank you for my beautiful comforter. It gave me so much peace during my time of crisis. I've gone back and forth and would love to keep it but I think it will serve a greater purpose wrapped around the shoulders of a friend of mine who just received her 2nd diagnosis in less than 12 months. I have made her a gift basket with lots of goodies and I would like to include the quilt in the basket, if you please...The delivery date just happens to be my last chemo date Yah!! Bless you and the Comforter Ministry - such a wonderful blessing you are! God Bless You - Edie B **THANK YOU, EDIE. YOUR SHARING HEART IS A BLESSING!**

Thoughts to Share

- ❖ **New Quilts** received since February 21, 2023 - **Jodi S-Appleton, WI (1); Mary S-Spartanburg, SC (5); Sandra B-Ixonia, WI (1); Nancy L- Menominee, MI (2) - Thank You, Quilters! Check out the CM website to see photos of CM quilts at www.comforterministry.com.**

QUILTERS, PLEASE NOTE...LONG ARM QUILTERS

There are two long arm quilters that have generously offered to long arm quilts for Comforter Ministry. As the top maker, you would be responsible for making the top, providing a backing that is 4" larger than the top in all directions and shipping them to the long arm quilter. They will provide the batting, long arm quilting and return shipping to you. If interested please contact them to discuss.

Heidi Bork - Neenah, WI - quilterazzi@gmail.com or call 920.205.7213

JoAnn Maedke - Eden, WI - jamaedke@gmail.com or call 920.948.3727

MAY I INTRODUCE...CHRISTINE HERRMANN

To help all Comforter Ministry readers get to know the NEW CM TEAM a little better, I am interviewing each of these gifted ladies through a series of interview questions. You can read the interviews with Mary Venus and Judy Andersen by visiting comforterministry.com and search under the “About Us” tab or search in the CM Spring and Winter Newsletters under the “Quarterly Newsletter” tab.

1. Please introduce yourself to CMN Readers...

My name is Christine Herrmann. I'm from Milwaukee, WI where my husband, Richard, and I worked and raised a beautiful daughter. After I retired from a 40-year career in the corporate world the Lord led Richard and I to move to Wisconsin Rapids in December 2020. I stay active with my quilting and volunteer projects, and I always enjoy visits with our four grandchildren.

2. What made you decide to take on Comforter Ministry, Inc.?

Shortly after moving to Wisconsin Rapids, I met Judy at church. We shared our interest of quilting, and the Comforter Ministry and Judy asked me what I thought of Su's retirement and taking over the ministry. I was interested in doing it but was not confident to take it on myself. Before I knew it, I was meeting with Judy and Mary and then meeting with Su to discuss the transition. The timing of my move to Wisconsin Rapids can only be part of God's plan. My heart could not be happier continuing this ministry and working with two caring and compassionate women.

3. What three (3) things do you want friends of CM to know about you?

**Quilting is my therapy and prayer time. So, I quilt a lot.*

**I love the Northwoods. I enjoy camping, hiking, kayaking, cross country skiing, etc...and sharing my time in the woods with my husband and grandchildren.*

**I will not say no to cake and cookies.*

4. What is your favorite Bible passage?

I love reading Romans chapter 8 and delight when I get to the end. I know it's two passages, but you really need to read them together.

Romans 8:38-39 - For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is Christ Jesus our Lord.

THANK YOU, CHRISTINE! MAY GOD BLESS YOU!

Sharing What I Know

Because the Comforter Ministry’s mission is to reach out to some 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.

KIDNEY CANCER - Part 1

KIDNEY CANCER: WHO’S AT RISK?

Kidney cancer develops most often in people over 40, but no one knows the exact causes of this disease. Doctors can seldom explain why one person develops kidney cancer and another does not. However, it is clear that kidney cancer is not contagious. No one can “catch” the disease from another person.

Research has shown that people with certain risk factors are more likely than others to develop kidney cancer. A risk factor is anything that increases a person’s chance of developing a disease.

Studies have found the following risk factors for kidney cancer: Smoking (twice as likely); Obesity; High Blood Pressure; Long-term Dialysis; Von Hippel-Lindau (VHL) Syndrome (a rare disease that runs in some families caused by changes in the VHL gene); Occupation (certain chemicals or substances in the workplace such as coke oven workers in the iron and steel industry or workers exposed to asbestos or cadmium); Gender (males are more likely than females). Most people who have these risk factors do not get kidney cancer. On the other hand, most people who do get the disease have no known risk factors. People who think they may be at risk should discuss this concern with their doctor. The doctor may be able to suggest ways to reduce the risk and can plan an appropriate schedule for checkups.

SYMPTOMS

Common symptoms of kidney cancer include: Blood in the urine (making the urine slightly rusty to deep red); Pain in the side that does not go away; A lump or mass in the side of the abdomen; Weight loss; Fever; Feeling very tired or having a general feeling of poor health. Most often, these symptoms do not mean cancer. An infection, a cyst, or another problem also can cause the same symptoms. A person with any of these symptoms should see a doctor so that any problem can be diagnosed and treated as early as possible.

DIAGNOSIS

If a patient has symptoms that suggest kidney cancer, the doctor may perform one or more of the following procedures: Physical exam; Urine tests; Blood tests; Intravenous pyelogram (IVP); CT scan; Ultrasound test; Biopsy; Surgery.

(To Be Continued...)

+++++

PLEASE NOTE: Su’s new email address is susymail@yahoo.com. Check out “Su’s Corner” on the CM website! Su is looking forward to hearing from YOU, her dear friends :)

Words of Comfort

This meditation is the second in a series based on the supporting scriptural references of the Comforter Ministry Mission Statement, found in the Comforter Ministry journal, and previously printed in Comforter Ministry Newsletters. They are being reprinted here and in following issues of CMN.

Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come. 2 Corinthians 1:21, 22

God’s Glorious Guarantee

If purchasing a big-ticket item such as a car or house most of us will find ourselves at our local bank, sitting at the desk of a loan officer with high hopes we can convince him we are capable enough to repay the loan in a timely manner if he would simply loan us the money and take our word for it - we are trustworthy.

In most cases, we will be expected to put some money down to show we are earnest in our desire to buy the car or house and pay the full amount agreed upon between seller and buyer. Once again, we want the seller to understand we are serious about the purchase of their car or house and they can consider us capable and trustworthy buyers.

Signing papers that reflect we intend to take ownership, offering earnest money as a guarantee that the whole will be forthcoming, shaking hands on the deal made between buyer and seller, are all gestures made to insure the deal is now sealed and both buyer and seller have guaranteed the sale is an official agreement between both parties, promising to uphold their individual end of things.

We might think that is the way it will be as we try and work out our relationship with God and receive His Son, Jesus, into our hearts. We’ll simply sit down with God and negotiate a reasonable agreement with Him concerning our sins; sins which separate us from Him and any possibility of faith in Jesus. We’ll try and convince God we are capable enough (we haven’t killed anyone or stolen anything of real value). We intend to be trustworthy - we do give generously to the church we currently attend and towards the needs of those in our community; but also admit we tend to be a bit lazy and self-centered more times than not. God certainly understands if we default every now and then. And it’s not that we aren’t serious about loving God and believing in Jesus as our Savior from sin and the Giver of eternal life through faith in Him; however, there are times when it just isn’t reasonable or realistic to expect every month the payment will be on time and complete. Our gestures to insure the deal is sealed can seem so sincere and official; at the same time so empty and meaningless when we truly understand who we are dealing with.

2 Corinthians 1:21, 22 gives us a completely different picture and explanation. God does all the gesturing and guaranteeing. He picks us up out of the dung heap of sin; He washes our sins away by the blood of Jesus, the Lamb; He clothes us with Jesus’ righteousness, a white robe that reflects purity and holiness only Jesus can produce. At our baptism and through the Word, God gives us the Holy Spirit (the Comforter/Counselor) as a seal, guaranteeing the believer’s future inheritance. As one commentary puts it, “In Christ, through the anointing of the Spirit, God has paid for us the earnest-money of our salvation, and now He guarantees the delivery of that redemption, the consummation of our Christian hopes...God pays the earnest-money in the blood of His Son, He anoints us to know and believe His plan for the salvation of the world, He seals this knowledge in our hearts, He guarantees the full enjoyment of all our hopes.”

Dear Reader: With God’s help, cling to the guarantee God provides through faith in His Son, Jesus; trust in God’s deposit in you, guaranteeing your inheritance; take hold of His faithful promises to you; reject all self-reliance; rely in God’s glorious guarantee.