



"Strengthening The Saved & Saving The Lost"

May 2019

Dear Friends, I'm doing something a little different this time for my newsletter. This writing is from a friend whose grandmother was in one of the nursing homes where I minister. After attending one of my services, this is what he wrote.

The Preacher Man



Arriving at the nursing home just a few minutes earlier than the scheduled 2:00 service, he parks his fuel-efficient hatchback in the visitor parking. He unloads his tools again - his bag containing a small laptop computer, sermon notes and a leather bound Bible, and his portable sound system, a karaoke-meets-suitcase contraption equipped with a wireless microphone and self-contained battery. His walk up the sloped sidewalk toward the entrance, with his bag looped over one shoulder and his wheeled speaker in tow with the other, is his second such trek of the day. He began with a service this morning over 100 miles away at another small town Oklahoma nursing home.

Inside, the facility's activities director is already rounding up the congregation. Some have already taken their place on an available lounge chair, while others remain seated in their wheelchairs they've scooted from their rooms just down the hall. Still others are awaiting assistance from a caretaker to push their bed into this common area so that they can attend church this afternoon.

At the end of the hallway in room 610B, an 88 year old widow is putting the finishing touches on her makeup as she's greeted by her grandson who came to visit her today. Filled with excitement and anticipation, donning her nicest jewelry and a beautiful dress, and grasping her

own copy of the "hymnal" - photocopies of the choice selection of hymns they sing - the widow makes her way toward the service, her wheelchair pushed today by her special guest.

By now, the preacher has the pulpit set up. From this small table, he picks up his microphone and greets the attendees with a smile of the rarest kind. He eases any concern about his sophisticated looking technology with a joke. "My wife travels with me each day," he says, "and the hardest part is getting her into that box!" The preacher's wife, in fact, is the pianist playing each recorded track available on his laptop.

He directs each one to flip their stapled hymnal to page 9, taps the keyboard on the computer, and begins to lead a traditional rendition of "Victory in Jesus" over the piano in the background. Several songs are sung, each in a musical key and at a pace just right for the audience to sing along. Heads that previously stared emptily at the ground instantly lift up and even begin to sing. The widow pauses singing briefly but just long enough to express her gratitude to the gentleman sitting next to her; with tears of joy, she expresses "it's such a blessing to have my grandson in church with me today."

Several minutes and songs later, the preacher opens his Bible and begins to read a few short passages of scripture. Each verse is supplemented with a relatable story, encouraging participation from the pews. The preacher seems to have an uncanny way of interacting with each listener, smoothly transitioning along the line of wheelchairs with his wireless mic to preach at a face to face distance.

His message ends with 2 Corinthians 5:21, a story about two brothers as a parable about how Jesus took the punishment we deserved, and an altar call for salvation or opportunity to refresh and ensure right standing with God.

Before leaving, the preacher greets each member of the congregation, which by the end had grown to fill up the entire commons. Several ask for specific prayer before heading back to their dinner table, their room, or their offices. The grandson doesn't leave before receiving a personal blessing and prayer from his grandmother.

The preacher is Paul DeNeui, and his is the only full time nursing home ministry of its kind that I know of. It was awesome getting to sit next to my Grandma and attend one of his services this week. If you'd like to support one of the best causes that I know of, bringing church to those who can't physically attend a church, go to his web site. www.pauldeneui.org

Tuesday, May 28, 2019

Pryor/Vinita



Praise and Worship is very powerful. We use it all the time in the nursing homes. (Music used to lift up the name of Jesus changes the atmosphere.) As I entered the facility this morning; I had the thought, "I need to change the atmosphere." As we began to sing, residents one by one told me of situations they were in. We sang and prayed, sang and prayed. God is moving in the nursing homes. Praise the Lord.

Wednesday, May 22, 2019

Broken Arrow

What an amazing morning. There was a woman in the middle of all the other residents who did not grow up in church. She did not know the hymns. And when I talked with her about Jesus, she didn't know much about Him. After we sang several hymns I asked her if she would be interested in coming into the family of God; if she would be interested in accepting Jesus as her Lord and Savior? She smiled and said, "Yes!" The rest is history and all of heaven is rejoicing.



Thursday, May 9, 2019

Muskogee



It is always a thrill to pray with someone to accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior. This morning was another one of those times. At the close of the service I was talking with the residents and picking up the song sheets. One woman said, "I want you to pray with me to accept Jesus as my Lord and Savior like you said". We held hands and prayed together.

Then I gave her a big hug and welcomed her into the family. This just never gets old!

Thank you for your prayers and financial support to this ministry. Together we are: Strengthening The Saved & Saving The Lost.

Paul D. N...