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“You’ve got good looking teeth!”

I visit an average of 80 hospice patients each month, not including their roommates, family members and caregivers. As Hospice Chaplain, this audience is my everyday world, my mission field and my grand privilege to be, as the Apostle Paul puts it,

“...the pleasing aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing.” 2 Corinthians 2:17 NIV

Despite the more solemn aspects of Peace At Last Ministries (PALM) there are humorous moments. They provide a welcome, therapeutic relief. This was the case recently as I visited a lady nearing a hundred years of age. A sepia colored wedding photo on the wall bore evidence of her once youthful form and radiant smile. The decades had been cruel to this frail soul. She sported a single front tooth; it hung precariously from her upper gum like a stalactite in a cave.

Seated in a wheelchair she was silent, studying me intently with rheumy eyes. While I introduced myself, the centenarian kept leaning closer as if to get a better look at the stranger before her. Suddenly she broke out in a big grin, flashed her lone tooth and declared, “You’ve got good looking teeth!”

I felt as though I had just passed muster—as a horse that is!



On a more serious note, the Easter season with its focus on our Lord’s resurrection provides much fodder for consideration by those nearing the end of their lives. It is a vital message of hope. Indeed, the promise of a bodily resurrection is what sets Christianity apart from all other religions. Jesus said,

“...I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live even if he dies” John 11:25 NET

Kathleen and I created another gospel poster, one that focuses on the resurrection and its meaning. A copy is included with this letter. For those receiving this by email, an electronic attachment is provided. The poster title is taken from 1 Corinthians 15:54-55, where future resurrected believers in Jesus Christ are pictured taunting death from heaven’s vantage. Victoriously, they exclaim,

"Where, O death, is your sting?"



Several of my patients have already responded positively to its story and message. Perhaps you know of someone that might be helped and or encouraged with this gospel tool. If so, you can have it printed as we do at a local Office Depot, Staples, or Office Max, on 'standard card stock.' To add value and durability to the poster, I recommend laminating them. The Printer can usually do this for you as well. And let us know if you need help with the process.

Peace At Last Ministries (PALM) continues its focus on making God's gospel of peace clearly known among those facing end-of-life challenges. We thank each of you who partner with us in prayer and or financially. It is an honor to be your agents of divine peace and comfort.

In addition to the evangelistic efforts of PALM, we seek to make a practical difference for individuals needing quality care. One such need is that of respite for weary caregivers. PALM will soon be contributing financially to help one deserving family. We know of others who could similarly benefit. If you wish to contribute to this need, you may do so online as follows:

Canada: The Great Commission Foundation: <https://gcfcanada.com/palm/>
PALM Project #611 – Please specify: "Respite Project"

U.S.A.: Friends of the Great Commission: <https://friendsgc.com/palm/>
PALM Project #F611 – Please specify: "Respite Project"

On a personal note, the end of February found all of Kathleen's siblings and their spouses in town for an impromptu reunion. We even managed to get a photo—irrefutable evidence that we are all older than we think. Whew!



May God encourage you in the truth of our 'living' hope this Easter season—another year closer to that day when we who love our Lord will join together with resurrected bodies... (and teeth ☺) and with one triumphant voice, taunt death and worship God! I, for one, can't wait!

Your glad servants,

Paul & Kathleen