



## Peace At Last Ministries

Sharing God's comfort with the terminally-ill, their loved ones and caregivers.

**R**ecently, in my role as Hospice Chaplain, I visited the family of an actively-dying patient. All were devout members of a mainline 'Christian' denomination. This in and of itself is not unusual since 71% of Wisconsin residents identify themselves as 'Christian.' Having lived here now for over a decade, I encounter considerable confusion among this 'Christian' population, most often in the form of syncretism. Syncretism occurs when non-biblical, even pagan, ideas get mixed in with Christianity. And so it was with this family.



As their loved one neared death a family member opened a window in the patient's room. This was *not* for letting in fresh air, I learned. The open window was to help their loved one's spirit depart freely, preventing it becoming trapped in the room.

I listened politely but I couldn't help but think about remote parts of the world where I've lived. Animistic tribal beliefs, superstitions and fear of ancestral spirits reign supreme in those places—but in Wisconsin—in a 'Christian' society? Syncretism is truly without borders.

The open window betrayed a distorted view of God—that God somehow needed the help of mortals to control the spirit world.

Sitting with the grieving family, I gently shared these words from Isaiah 40, *"Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth."* I explained how the Christian faith is anchored in the eternal, all-powerful Creator-Owner of the universe. Long ago, King David prayed, *"Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God."*

One might ask, why start a gospel presentation focusing on God's all-powerful and eternal attributes? The answer is simple. Only an eternal God can make and keep eternal promises. And God promises those who trust Him, *"...I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand... When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you... For I am the Lord, your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior."*

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can make and keep  
eternal promises.**

The truth of God's eternal, all-powerful existence is foundational to the saving power of His gospel through Jesus Christ. The scripture is clear, *"He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life."*

While I shared these and other scriptures with my little audience, fresh puffs of air from the open window gently caressed the curtains. I silently prayed the truth of God would similarly move fresh and vital upon the hearts of my precious listeners.

You know, I am so glad our eternal destiny is not dependent on someone opening a window when we die. Aren't you?

### Coming Soon:

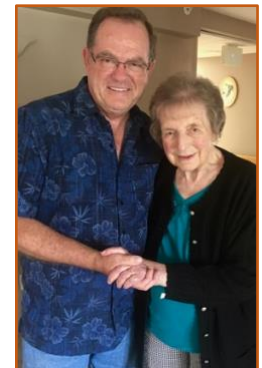


Another PALM poster titled, 'My Savior!' is scheduled for release before Christmas. This beautiful artwork arrived recently.

The PALM website at [www.palministries.net](http://www.palministries.net) will be launched in October!

### Family News:

Paul's 89-year old mother, Muriel, lives in Ontario, Canada. She recently moved into an assisted living facility. Her health is declining. The Humphreys siblings and spouses were together with her for a few days at Rivermead, the family homestead in Durham.



Kathleen and I are so grateful for your prayers, encouragement and financial support. We count it a grand privilege to serve our great God with you!

Yours for making the grace and peace of God clearly known,

Paul & Kathleen