



Peace At Last Ministries

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

eGlimpse #180 — August 2020
Paul & Kathleen Humphreys

As with the rest of society, our day-to-day world has changed in unimaginable ways. I was thinking of this recently when I donned personal protection equipment for the umpteenth time since COVID19 exploded onto our lives, spreading its debris across almost every facet of life. I hesitate to even bring up the virus subject because if you are like me, it's all getting rather wearisome. But I feel constrained to share openly in this eGlimpse.

There was nothing unusual about my visiting the actively dying hospice patient. It is what I do. The difference was that the dear soul had tested positive for the COVID-19 virus. She was dying *with* the virus but not *from* it, a distinction mainstream media seldom makes. But the positive test result meant visit precautions were in order, indeed, mandated.

There would be no touching, no hugs, no reaching out to comfort in all the normal ways we humans do at such a time. Instead, I was left to peer through my fogged-up glasses and murky face shield and mumble behind a damp N95 mask. The room was stifling—

"I didn't sign up for this..."

windows remained closed per facility policy; fresh air was not allowed lest the virus travel with it and spread.

Perspiration soaked my clothes beneath the disposable plastic gown. My patient struggled to recognize me and to understand me. I confess, the thought crossed my mind, "I didn't sign up for this." But then, neither did my dear patient.



In the bigger scheme of things, however, such discomforts are but a small inconvenience compared with the heart break suffered by family members cut off from their loved ones. Isolation is by far the biggest ministry change I've encountered. One family has called it, "cruel and unusual punishment." Not only are patients actively dying from terminal illnesses, they are dying emotionally and spiritually, descending into depths of depression and feelings of abandonment. As a hospice chaplain, it can be overwhelming at times.

Let me be clear. I'm not looking for sympathy here. I share this personal snapshot with you, our dear family, friends and supporters, because Kathleen and I need your prayers in a special way right now. In short, we are weary. And there's no end in sight.

Would you pray for strength, physical, emotional and spiritual? Pray for wisdom as I speak with distraught families, now mostly by phone, and try to support them through active and compassionate listening. Most of all, pray for opportunities to share the comfort and hope of God

that comes through His gospel of grace. Crisis, as usual, opens doors. The vision of PALM, we believe, has never been so relevant.

Thanks for standing with us. Be assured of our thoughts and prayers in turn as you too, navigate these challenging days.



June Harold



Paul Mark Kurt Shane

On a lighter note, we enjoyed a visit from Kathleen's brother, Kurt and his wife, Ramona. We worked over a weekend to build a small deck for Kathleen's

parents. The physical activity together was most therapeutic.

Also therapeutic, has been my 40+ years metal-detecting hobby. I receive calls from distraught clients who have lost rings in their yards, in the snow and in the water. The other night I recovered my 69th ring, a young lady's engagement ring lost in a lake! For these heart-warming stories and photos, go to: <https://theringfinders.com/Paul.Humphreys/>



Someday, perhaps in my retirement years, I'd like to publish a small book with these accounts and end it with a testimonial chapter titled, "My greatest discovery!" Lost material things can be found or replaced. But there is one thing that can never be found when it's lost—one's soul. On his deathbed, Steve Jobs wrote, "Whichever stage in life you are in right now, with time you will face the day when the curtain comes down."

May God help us, each one, to live out our short lives by his grace and for his glory!

Ever grateful for your prayers, support and friendship,

Peace At Last Ministries

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Paul".



Paul (and Kathleen too)



2817 Sandra Lane Waukesha, WI 53188 –Paul Cell 262 527 4297 –Kathleen
paul@palministries.net / kathleen@palministries.net

www.palministries.net