



Peace At Last Ministries (PALM)

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

eGlimpse #183 — July 2021
Paul & Kathleen Humphreys

“I know I’m near the end. ...”

It was during a Chaplain visit with Julie*, a late-stage hospice patient, that she expressed concern to me about her spiritual condition. A victim of her own unwise choices in life, Julie had sadly alienated herself from her family and friends. Nobody came to visit her; she was destined to die alone. Worse, Julie dreaded the thought of meeting “her Maker.” The lady was dying without hope.

As I earned Julie’s trust, she opened up to me about her spiritual concerns. Then she allowed me the opportunity to gently share God’s message of hope through Jesus Christ. Using a PALM Picture Poster titled, “My Peace Maker!” Julie was helped to understand how Jesus satisfied the law courts of heaven on her behalf when he died on the cross for her sins—all of them. In simple faith, she decided to take God at His word—Julie believed! And for the first time in her life, she experienced peace with God.

In the days to follow, Julie’s physical condition continued to decline. When I next visited her, she was very weak and could hardly speak. However, she managed a smile and whispered, *“I know I’m near the end... But God is at peace about me!”*



Julie then pointed to the laminated Picture Poster I had left with her, the one with a lamb laying down alongside a majestic Lion. Someone had hung it on the wall by her bed where she could see it.

You know, I believe I will see Julie again in heaven in one day!

*Name changed for protection per PALM Privacy Policy

All in a Day's Work: Reader's Digest has a column titled, "All in a Day's Work." I love reading the humorous anecdotal accounts of everyday employees. I've thought of submitting some of my own stories:

I received another marriage proposal—I've lost track of the number of marriage proposals from patients I've had since working as a Hospice Chaplain. When it happens, I show my wedding ring and photos of my wife Kathleen, etc., but sometimes it makes no difference. The proposals persist. I guess it's all in a day's work!

People call me many things, Pastor, Chaplain, Minister, Doctor, Nurse, even a few names I can't mention. I also get called, Father—Father Paul. If possible, I try to correct the assumptions but when the cognitive function of a patient is less than optimal, sometimes I just have to go with the flow. I guess it's all in a day's work!

Kissing is not generally perceived to be professional-like. But once in a while I've had a patient demand a kiss. Thankfully, wearing COVID masks has helped to minimize such requests. But recently a 96-year-old Alzheimer's patient insisted on one. When I gave her a little peck on the forehead she remarked, "Oh my, I haven't had one of those in a long time!" I guess it's all in a day's work!

General News:

Visiting Canada: Like so many, we are waiting anxiously for the Canada/USA border to reopen. It remains closed due to COVID restrictions. When it finally opens, we look forward to visiting family and friends and in Ontario, Manitoba and Alberta. Paul has not seen his mother, Muriel, in Ontario for nearly two years.

Health Update: In March Paul underwent surgical implantation of a Spinal Cord Stimulation device. It was hoped the technology would provide pain relief for his ongoing Peripheral Neuropathy in his feet but unfortunately the device failed to function as hoped. He continues to seek help from a local pain specialist.

Kathleen's Parents: Harold and June Tiegs continue to live with us in our home here in Wisconsin. Kathleen provides daily care and support. We are thankful for the privilege of caring for them at this challenging time in their lives.

Thanking God for you,

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