
NEWSLETTER

Comforter Ministry, Inc.



Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles; so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God. For just as the sufferings of Christ flow over into our lives, so also through Christ our comfort overflows.

2 Corinthians 1:3-5

A letter from Su

Yes, I know! I can hardly believe it myself - Summer 2019 is over! Of course the summer temps may still be with some of you, depending on where you live. But here in the North Woods they are waning quickly ;)

It is always a joy for me to share with you Comforter Ministry news...

- The quilt pictured to the right is one I received and personally treasure as my granddaughter made this beautiful quilt for CM. **Watch for more info** on her and the Texas Grace Quilters-Scroggins, TX in the next issue :)
- **NEW** quilters/quilt groups to welcome! (page 5)
- Attention: **HOMESCHOOL FAMILIES!** Check out Page 7
- Follow-up to my reaching out to **WELS Lutheran Girl Pioneers** (page 7)



The quilt above was made and donated to CM by my precious granddaughter who is 13 years old. Hosanna is part of a quilt group at her new church in Texas. She has a quilter's "eye" for coordinating fabrics, don't you agree?

Thank You, Sweetheart! I love you!

There will be more about her and the Texas Grace Quilters in the next CMN :)

A mission of comfort and compassion, reaching out to women with cancer with God's Word and the love of the Comforter through journals and quilts.

- Final meditation from Pastor Mark Gass' book, **"Be Still, 45 Days Living in God's Stillness"** - I hope you have found all of the meditations I chose from his book a blessing (page 8) **Thank you, Pastor Gass!**
- Several quilters have connected with Heidi's offer to **long arm** their quilts for CM (page 5) **Again, Thank You, Heidi!**

- **Bookmarks, note cards, prayers, and monetary donations** - HUGE Thank You!

Welcome Autumn 2019!

With a Thankful Heart . . .

I thank my God every time I remember you. Philippians 1:3-5

As of August 25, 2019, 129 Quilters/Quilt Groups from 22 states and one Canadian province have made 672* comforters that have comforted over 855* women with cancer from 38 states (USA), one Canadian province, Australia, the Caribbean, Japan, and Switzerland. As I share the following information with you, my heart overflows with thankfulness to God for each of you.

Quilters.....		Recipients.....	
Alaska	2	Alaska	4
Alaska (QG)	2	Arizona	9
Arizona (QG)	1	Arkansas	2
		Tennessee	2
Arizona	2	Texas	102
California	1	Utah	1
California (QG)	1	Virginia	6
Colorado	2	Washington	8
Florida	1	West Virginia	2
Georgia (QG)	1	Wisconsin	363
Illinois (QG)	1	Wyoming	1
Illinois	1	Georgia	10
Iowa	1	Idaho	2
Kansas	1	Illinois	28
		Indiana	9
Michigan	7	Iowa	13
Minnesota	6	Kansas	7
		Kentucky	11
Minnesota (QG)	2	Maryland	1
Nebraska	3	Michigan	49
		Minnesota	90
Nevada	1	Mississippi	2
North Carolina	1	Missouri	4
North Dakota	2	Montana	1
Ohio	2	Nebraska	11
Ohio (QG)	1	Nevada	6
South Dakota (QG)	1	New Jersey	2
		New York	4
Texas	4		
Texas (QG)	3	North Carolina	9
Utah	1	North Dakota	3
Washington	1	Ohio	10
Wisconsin	49	Oklahoma	10
Wisconsin (QG)	16	South Carolina	1
Wisconsin (LGP)	2	South Dakota	8
Wyoming	1		
Ontario, Canada (QG)	1		
		Australia	1
		Caribbean	1
		Japan	1
		Ontario, Canada	6
		Switzerland	1

*Several comforters have been given on behalf of the Comforter Ministry, but I have not been given further information as to names of recipients, addresses, etc.

QG=Quilt Group

LGP=Lutheran Girl Pioneers

Prayers . . .

The prayers of a righteous man are powerful and effective. James 5:16

- ♥ Pray for a cure for CANCER
- ♥ Pray for women diagnosed with cancer-See www.comforterministry.com under News, Notes, and Newsletters and scroll down to Prayer List
- ♥ Pray for the Comforter Ministry

Gifts Received . . .

And whatever you do; whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Colossians 3:17

- ♥ **Kathy D and her Mom-Shawano, WI - Thank you, ladies, for making and donating the lovely note cards**
- ♥ **Kay A and Friends-Lenexa, KS - Thank you, ladies, for making and donating the beautiful bookmarks! I love the variety!**
- ♥ **Mom-Arbor Vitae, WI and sister Wendy-Anchorage, AK - Thank you, dear ones, for helping with the Summer 2019 CM Newsletter mailing. LOVE YOU!**
- ♥ **Gifts of Money received since May 20, 2019 - Gail O-Waupaca, WI; Jane W-Superior, WI; Bill C-WLC,Milwaukee, WI; Janice S-New Brighton, MN; Peter and Leah M-Eau Claire, WI - THANK YOU! THANK YOU!**

CM Basics

Requester's Basic Instruction

- If you know of a woman with cancer whom you would like to receive a CM comforter and journal you may contact Comforter Ministry, Inc. and request they be sent to her, providing the recipient's name and complete mailing address. A cover letter will be included, stating YOU are the one requesting they be sent.

Quilter(s) Basic Instructions

- Make your quilt according to CM “Criteria for Making and Donating a Comforter” (criteria by request to CM or go to CM Website). Make sure your name, city, state and date you finished your quilt are displayed in some permanent method on the back of your quilt.
- Request CM journal, and fill out “Greetings from the Quilter” page of journal.
- Provide three (3) colored pictures (preferably all the same) of your quilt.
- Send Quilt, Journal and Pictures to Comforter Ministry, Inc.
- All materials, including postage are covered by Quilter(s).

Recipient's Basic Instructions

Between the cover letter and CM journal all details are provided and explained, including the following:

- who made the request CM comforter/journal be sent to you
- brief explanation of CM
- what to do with the comforter/journal
- when ready to do so, you or your family have several options, including 1) sending comforter/journal back to Comforter Ministry, Inc. 2) sending them on to another woman with cancer 3) keeping both – With option 1 or 2, postage is covered by recipient or recipient's family.
- what to do with the comforter/journal before sending them back to CM or on to another woman with cancer

REMEMBER - IF YOU KNOW OF A WOMAN DIAGNOSED WITH CANCER AND WOULD LIKE ME TO SEND HER A COMFORTER MINISTRY QUILT AND JOURNAL, PLEASE CONTACT ME!

Thoughts to Share . . .

New Quilts Received since May 20, 2019 - **Kathy D**-Shawano, WI; ***Kathy S**-Sandy, UT; ***Chris B**-Manitowoc, WI; ***Abiding Grace Quilters**-Conyers, GA; **Trinity Quilters**-Minocqua, WI; **Faithful Quilters**-Fond du Lac, WI; **Mary B**-Sachse, TX; ***Grace Quilters**-Scroggins, TX; **Mary S**-St. Germain, WI; ***Jodi S**-Appleton, WI; ***Betty K**-Jeffersonville, IN and **Heidi B**-Neenah, WI; **Carolyn J and Faith-In-Action Quilters**-Rochester, MN; **Lois A**-Bancroft, MI. WELCOME, KATHY S, CHRIS B, ABIDING GRACE QUILTERS, JODI S, BETTY K, AND GRACE QUILTERS! Check out the CM web site to see photos of these quilts at www.comforterministry.com, click More-Photo Gallery.

QUILTERS, please NOTE

***** DO YOU HAVE A TOP MADE THAT YOU WOULD LOVE TO DONATE, BUT IT NEEDS TO BE LONG ARMED? HEIDI BORK HAS OFFERED TO LONG ARM UP TO TWO QUILTS PER MONTH ON A FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED BASIS. AS THE TOP MAKER, YOU WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR MAKING THE TOP, PROVIDING A BACK THAT IS 4” LARGER THAN THE TOP IN ALL DIRECTIONS AND SHIPPING TO HEIDI IN NEENAH, WI. SHE WILL PROVIDE THE BATTING, LONG ARM QUILTING, AND RETURN SHIPPING TO YOU. IF INTERESTED CONTACT HER AT

Quilterazzi@gmail.com or 920.205.7213

Dear Su, I thank you from the bottom of my heart. That is the most beautiful quilt I have ever seen. Its hard to think that people you don't even know are praying for you. God Bless you in all you do. Love, Anna G

THANK YOU, QUILTER BARB S-BLOOMINGTON, MN!

Dear Su, Mom passed away on March 28th after a two year struggle with lung cancer. She wrapped herself in this quilt while sitting in her favorite chair. It was her comforter for two weeks at a care center and on a hospital bed in her family room while receiving hospice care at home the last two weeks of her life. She loved this quilt and I thank you for the comfort and peace it provided her and her loved ones. Your ministry is beautiful. God bless you!

Linda G

THANK YOU, QUILTER LOIS A-BANCROFT, MI!

I received the quilt last week during a very difficult week emotionally. I wrapped myself in it most of two days and immediately felt safe. This quilt is a true blessing. I feel as though I have the armor of God on. Ephesians 6...Rebecca B

THANK YOU, QUILTERS LORI N AND SHEPHERD OF THE VALLEY QUILTERS-SURPRISE, AZ!

Sharing What I Know . . .

Because the Comforter Ministry's mission is to reach out to women with cancer, each Comforter Ministry Newsletter will include information about a specific cancer or a related subject. By being better informed about cancer, my hope is that readers will be aided in detecting cancer in regard to themselves and others and, if necessary, know where to go for further information and qualified assistance.

The following is offered not only to those reading this newsletter who currently have cancer BUT also for all of us who have friends and loved ones who have cancer so we can better understand “living with cancer - a day at a time.” “Living With Cancer - A Day at a Time” by Clair Bradshaw, is taken from CareNotes. Visit www.carenotes.com, or call 1-800-325-2511 for more information and to order their complete catalog.

PART 3 of 4

LIVING WITH CANCER - A DAY AT A TIME

Survive what is merely survivable. Before your cancer diagnosis, you may have had an idealistic vision of how you would handle such a crisis. When faced with the challenge of cancer treatment, you may have resolved not merely to endure, but somehow to breeze through it.

Cancer is an awful disease. Its treatments can be wretched. If you are just getting into the active phase of therapy, seasoned cancer patients urge you to do only what is necessary to get by. If keeping a positive outlook seems too taxing during the worst of your medical care, give your permission to just “be.”

Forgive yourself. Perhaps treatments are just an unpleasant memory but you still wince when you remember your behavior during that ordeal. Or maybe you're feeling responsible for becoming ill in the first place.

If you are displeased with the way you dealt with the past, talk with loved ones and your healthcare professionals. They may be able to give you a more realistic appraisal.

Remember, you wouldn't be reading this now if you were not a survivor. If you have endured cancer chemotherapy, radiation, or surgical treatments, you have a lot to be proud of. This is a good time to forgive yourself for being human.

Learn to reduce your stress level. Psychoneuroimmunology is becoming a part of many medical treatments these days. Though the word is scary, the concept is simple. It refers to the new scientific field that studies how the mind and emotions affect physical well-being.

Studies have shown that stress, from whatever source, has a detrimental effect on the immune system. Your best chance of improving your quality of life is by reducing all your areas of stress.

Some people find self-hypnosis, guided imagery, or exercise helpful in relaxing. Others feel energized when they devote themselves to being of service to those around them. Still others find a consistent program of spiritual meditation or reading gives their lives emotional balance.

WELS HOMESCHOOLERS

For some time I have wanted to reach out to the homeschooling community within WELS and beyond to share my vision of a partnership between homeschoolers and the Comforter Ministry.

As homeschool parents looking ahead to the new school year, you may want to consider a service activity for your student(s) which could assist you in helping to instill a heart for service in your child/children or even entire family.

The Comforter Ministry has various areas where such service opportunities exist. Here are just a few:

- Handmade **note cards** (blank inside) with envelopes - I use note cards to write a personal, handwritten note to each CM recipient when I send her a CM quilt and CM journal. Stamps, stencils, stickers, drawings, and words of Scripture are a few of the creative ways others have chosen to make their “work of art” note cards for CM.
- Handmade **bookmarks** - I like to include a bookmark with each CM journal sent to a CM recipient along with the accompanying CM quilt. Bookmarks of all types have been sent to CM, including crocheted, lace-trimmed, felt, ribbons, colored card stock, etc. Some have had words of encouragement or words of Scripture written on them. Handmade drawings or stenciling are some other ideas. Be Creative!
- **Purse-size Tissue/Fabric Holder** - Fabric choices are endless for this project. CM recipients can take them to cancer treatments or have bed-side as needed.
- **Quilt** - Why not? Check out the CM Web site at www.comforterministry.com under How the Ministry Works and click “I am a quilter and would like to make and donate a quilt” for a brief list of criteria.
- **Fundraisers** - Financial assistance is ALWAYS appreciated to cover expenses and projects. Host an “event” with CM as the recipient of funds raised! I can send brochures, posters, etc. to assist ;)
- **PRAYERS** - Prayers for CM, CM Recipients, Caregivers, Medical Community/Research! Have a Prayer Gathering (again, see CM Web site and click Other and then Prayer Gathering). Or use the Prayer List found on the Web site under News, Notes, and Newsletters (keep scrolling down to list) and pray for CM Recipients on a regular basis.
- **USE the Comforter Ministry** - Request a CM quilt and journal be sent to a woman YOU know who has been diagnosed with cancer...gifts I send on your behalf at no cost to you.

Please contact me if you would like further information or have questions. Consider inviting me to a Homeschooling Event where I can share how the Comforter Ministry might be able to “partner” with you and the homeschooling community in your area.

*******OCTOBER 2020 - WELS LUTHERAN GIRL PIONEERS*******

I have been invited to share the Comforter Ministry Presentation with LGP Leaders and convention participants during their October LGP Convention in 2020. I am excited and honored to have this opportunity! Prayers, please!

Words of Comfort...

This meditation and several to follow in future newsletters are reprinted with permission from a book written by Reverend Mark Gass. *Be Still 45 Days of Living in God's Stillness* is a “deeply personal devotion book...Pastor Mark Gass shares his 42-day journey at the bedside of his wife as she lay in a coma after surgery on a brain tumor. E-mails shared with his congregation and a network of supporters take readers inside the journey of a family holding on to Jesus' reminder to 'Be still' in all of life's troubles...” Let me know if you would like a copy of this book by Pastor Mark Gass.

DAY 44

*Dear Friends in Christ,
There are the lines of my favorite Easter hymn.*

*“The foe was triumphant when on Calvary,
The Lord of creation was nailed to the tree.
In Satan's domain did the hosts shout and jeer,
For Jesus was slain, whom the evil ones fear.”*

*But short was their triumph; the Savior arose,
And death, hell and Satan he vanquished, his foes.
The conquering Lord lifts his banner on high;
He lives, yes, he lives and will nevermore die.”*

*I often think of cancer in the same way. Cancer was laughing and jeering. It was surging forth thinking that it had defeated Kris. It was ready to claim another victory. But, just then, our dearest Lord snatched victory away. That evil cancer was turned on its head as the Lord just simply used this disease to proclaim his glory - to share the good news of peace through Jesus and to rescue another child from this world. This took place during Kris's lifetime, as I am convinced that there will be people in heaven who were strengthened by Kris's example of faith. And then there remained nothing but sweet rest in the heavenly home. This morning, our Lord said to Kris, 'Enough my child. You have suffered enough. Your journey is over. Look, I am opening the door to heaven. Come on in - here, you are so weak, but let me carry you through the door, and look around you. Look at the glory I have prepared for you. Look, here is your room that I have prepared. Over there - do you see them, there is your father and your sisters and all the other loved ones. There is Abraham and Moses, but most importantly, there is your heavenly Father. Go ahead, he is waiting for you - Go climb up on his lap and let him give you the hug of eternity.' For we who are left behind, know that our journey continues. So ends this chapter of our journey together. Our family has been strengthened by the many e-mails, cards and words given to us. Now, what remains is the glorious celebration of victory...One last word: for those of you who have walked with us for so long, if there is any one lesson to take from all this, it is certainly not bitterness or resentment. Not if we truly can imagine the glory of heaven. Rather, Kris's journey ought to remind us that we are all just on our journey of faith. That journey of faith can only be traveled one way - that is by faith in Jesus. Turn to him, and may he guide you and us through this life to our heavenly home. God's Blessings, my dear friends,
Mark and Kris*