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## God Did What He Promises to Do

As you may or may not know, Wisconsin does not have the death penalty. Rather, individuals who are tried and convicted of first-degree murder and other more serious crimes are sentenced to life in prison.

In my ministry as a chaplain for Institutional Ministries, I have visited with several men and women who have been convicted of first-degree murder, and in some cases, multiple murders. Sometimes, the individual maintains their innocence. More often, however, I see and hear evidence of Spirit-worked contrition, and faith in Jesus for the forgiveness of all their sins. Robert was convicted of murder in November of 1987 and was sentenced to life in prison. Over the past 33 years, he has been incarcerated at all five of Wisconsin's maximum-security prisons for men. He even spent a little more than two years at a prison out of state. For the past eight years, he has been at one of Wisconsin's medium-security prisons at which I am privileged to serve.

On more than one occasion, Robert has told me that he wonders if he was still a Christian when he committed his crime. He had stopped going to church years earlier. He was heavily involved in alcohol and drugs and was high when he committed his crime. It didn't take long for the police to arrest Robert and his trial and conviction were almost as quick.

Robert has also told me that he thought his life was over when he first came to prison. But our *God did what he promises to do* in the lives of his believers. He worked all things for Robert's good, just as he also does for each of us.

*continued on page 3*

## The Reason for the Season



NEWS



## An Eternal Home in Heaven

*Brenda was an unchurched mother of an eight-year-old who was dying of cancer. I met Brenda on her first hospital visit when she began treatment for her cancer. I sat and listened to all of her fears and concerns, and eventually, I had the privilege of sharing God's Word with her. In the months that followed, she learned of Jesus, His cross, and especially His promise of eternal life. In time, she confessed her new-born faith in Jesus. Brenda's final days were spent in hospice, and my last devotion with her was based on 2 Cor. 5:1-2, "Now we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands. Meanwhile we groan, longing to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling..."*

*I later shared this same Scripture reading with about 150 people at her funeral, giving them the opportunity to hear about Jesus as they considered the "earthly tent" of their own lives. Then, based on her confession of faith, I assured these listeners that while Brenda's "earthly tent" had now been taken down, she was enjoying an eternal home with God in heaven.*

The above account was one of the last ministry stories that Chaplain emeritus Ken Lenz shared with us here at Institutional Ministries. On October 19, 2020, Ken exchanged his "earthly tent" for an eternal home in heaven, joining Brenda, and countless others like her, whom he had the privilege of sharing the gospel with over his 50+ years of ministry. Ken began serving as a chaplain for Institutional Ministries in 1971. And while he retired from fulltime ministry in June of 2007, he continued serving part-time until 2014.

Well done, good and faithful servant – you will be missed!



## Where the Hell is God?

I'm so glad you asked! That means you admit I exist. I know you asked the question because you feel pain in your life. Pain makes you feel alone. It made you ask where I am. I'm not the one who left. I am always with you, and I'm so glad you are back!

Interestingly, the one place you named is the only place where I am not. Hell is the complete absence of my love. I am love. My fervent desire for you is that you know – that you personally understand – the depth of my love for you.

"Why, then, do you do evil?" you ask. I never do evil. That is the work of Satan. He does evil; I intervene and make it serve a greater good.

"Good?" you scoff. Yes, good. Life's problems perplex you. They make you recognize that you are not in control. This made you come looking for me.

I have so much to tell you! I wrote you a love story, so that you would know how much I care about you. I know that you cannot repair yourself or this broken world. I came to do that. I lived the perfect life you could not. I died so that you could live. I rose to prove it! I wrote it down so that you can read it for yourself. I promise that as you read, as you learn more about me, you will find forgiveness, comfort, and peace.

I invite you to talk to me anytime, and yes, I will listen and answer every time! Did you know that my name, Jesus, actually means "He saves"? I am hope for hurting people. Those who invest in me will reap a harvest of peace.

Want to read more? Try Psalm 90, Psalm 139, or Isaiah 40.



# Achieving Your Goals

Recently, in working with a family preparing their estate plan, an important guideline was discussed. In your estate plan, **use percentages rather than specific amounts for distributions out of your estate.** For example, a family with a six-figure net worth specified a \$5,000 gift to four charities and designated 33% of the remaining estate to go to each of their four children. The anticipation was that a six-figure inheritance would be available for each child. However, end-of-life expenses resulted in a huge decrease of the net financial worth of the estate. As the estate was settled, the declared amounts (the \$5,000 to each charity) were distributed first. Then, after the \$20,000 was distributed to the charities, each child received 33% of the remaining \$7,500 (or \$2,500 each), which was half of what each charity received. This was far from what the parents intended.

Mixing specific amounts and percentages is an often occurring “mistake” in estate planning. If all distributions were listed by percentages (for example, 3% each to the four charities and 22% to each of the four children), the intent of the parents would have been more closely achieved regardless of the amount remaining in the estate.

Are you considering a gift to Institutional Ministries out of your estate after you are home in heaven? Please call the ministries’ office; help and suggestions are available for you.



*“Every day, we have the opportunity to share the message of sin and grace”*

## God Did What He Promises to Do continued from page 1

Over the years, Robert has joined in the study of Scripture, either with me or with one of our ministries’ volunteer pastors, at six of Wisconsin’s prisons. And always, through the Spirit’s working, Robert gladly listens to God’s Word and believes that all his sins are forgiven because of Jesus!

By the grace of God, Robert knows and believes the truth of God’s Word, “For the wages of sin is death, but the undeserved gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 6:23 - EHV).

Every day, we have the opportunity to share the message of sin and grace with institutionalized people who are going through some of the most difficult times of their lives. This holiday season consider partnering with us in this ministry, and help us continue pointing people like Robert to a gracious and loving God who forgives all our sins.



by Chaplain Charles Iles



Sharing hope...  
with those who need it most!

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## OUR MISSION

*To provide  
direction, comfort  
and hope by sharing  
God and His love  
with individuals  
(and their families)  
who are, or have been,  
in an institution.*

## Special Gifts & Memorials 8/4/2020 to 12/2/2020

### IN CELEBRATION OF Our Marriage!

Mr. & Mrs. William Favorite  
**Evelyn Ardelle Henselin**  
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Henselin  
**86 Years of Birthday Blessings**  
Mrs. Gloria Zuelsdorf  
**Jeannine Paul's 88th Birthday**  
Mr. & Mrs. Neal Paul

### IN HONOR OF All Y'all - Grateful for My IM Staff

Pastor Philip Henselin  
**Jesus**  
Mrs. Callie Baldini  
**Chaplain Iles's Birthday**  
Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Klug  
**Pastor Charlie Iles**  
Ms. Renee Lassanske  
Rev. & Mrs. George Ferch  
**Our 25th Wedding Anniversary**  
Mr. & Mrs. Steve A. Ahrens

### IN MEMORY OF Rev. Arnold Schroeder

Mrs. Donna Tetzlaff  
**Allen Krause**  
Prof. & Mrs. Steven Westphal  
**David Musselman**  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Fink  
**Anita Kaus**  
Mr. & Mrs. Leo Seefeldt  
**Art Duerr**  
Mrs. Dawn Meise  
**Barbara Proeber**  
Mrs. Dorothy Lemke  
**Our Son, Benjamin Deyo**  
Mr. & Mrs. Steven Deyo  
**Bob & Ethel Weiss**  
Mrs. Sandy Anderson  
**Bruce Thompson**  
Mrs. Joyce Thompson  
**Carol Davidson**  
Mr. Daniel Davidson  
**Charles Martinson**  
Mrs. Doris Martinson

**Christine Tschintschak**  
Ms. Julie DeNicola  
**Daniel Wolfram**  
Rev. & Mrs. Arno Wolfram  
**David Schroeder**  
Mrs. Dorothy Schroeder  
**Rev. David Tetzlaff**  
Mrs. Donna Tetzlaff  
**Rev. Dave Ponath**  
Mrs. Joyce Thompson  
**Dave Voss**  
Mrs. Lorraine Voss  
**Don & Jean Villwock**  
Mr. & Mrs. Craig Gebert  
**Don Voigt**  
Mr. & Mrs. Roy Dumke  
**Dona J. Destrampe**  
Mr. & Mrs. Craig Gebert  
**Dorothy Seifert**  
Mr. Loyley Seifert  
**Douglas Beard**  
Ms. Lou Ann Beard  
**Doug Klemp**  
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Saar  
**Duane Anderson**  
Mr. & Mrs. William Sigurdson  
**Brother Edwin Berg**  
Mrs. Shirley Hilden  
**Rev. Elwood Habermann**  
Mrs. Donna Tetzlaff  
**Ernie Boettcher**  
Mrs. Joanne Kasten  
**Erwin & Marcella Grosnick**  
Rev. Roger Grosnick  
**Everett Kasten**  
Mrs. Joanne Kasten  
**Frieda Carow**  
Ms. Lorraine Kerr  
**Craig Maxwell**  
Mrs. Gail Maxwell  
**Gary F Campbell**  
**Henry Herrian**  
Mrs. Elizabeth Campbell  
**Herbert Seeger**  
Mrs. Lois Seeger

**Hildegarde (Eggert) Fischer**  
Mrs. Ruth Rauch  
**Jacob Pollock**  
Mrs. Shirley Hilden  
**Jacob Van Schyndel**  
Mr. & Mrs. Dan Milbach  
**Jim Hilden**  
Mrs. Shirley Hilden  
**James Shallow**  
Mrs. Margaret Trissel  
**Jeanne Steinbrecher**  
Mr. & Mrs. Roy Dumke  
**Our Son, Jeffrey Anderson**  
Mr. & Mrs. David Anderson  
**Jessica Pautz**  
Ms. Gladys Umms  
**Joan Falck**  
Mr. David Falck  
**John Pamperin**  
Ms. Ellen Pamperin  
**Kaaren Rantanen**  
Ms. Kay E. Zuberbier  
**Kathleen Kassube**  
Mr. & Mrs. Melvin Mertz  
**Rev. Kenneth Lenz**  
Ms. Deborah Lemke  
Mr. & Mrs. Dick Williams  
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Zastrow  
Mr. & Mrs. Frederic Eckert  
Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Adams  
Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey S. Maio  
Mr. & Mrs. Rolf Aldinger  
Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Baxmann  
Mrs. Elsbeth Kietzmann  
Ms. Lyn Lazar  
Prof. & Mrs. James Schneider  
Rev. & Mrs. Charles Iles Sr.  
Rev. & Mrs. Louis Meyer  
Mrs. Donna Tetzlaff  
Rev. & Mrs. Robert Sievert  
**Kenneth & Leola Weber**  
Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Weber  
**Kurt McCulloch**  
Ms. Cindy Birkholz  
**Lee W Reinemann**  
Mr. William Reinemann

**Pastor LeRoy Martin**  
Mrs. Janice Voigt  
**Baby James Zeamer**  
Ms. Lois Zeamer  
**Marilyn Paschen**  
Mr. James Paschen  
**Marge Zeitler**  
Ms. Lorraine Kerr  
**My Dear Husband,**  
**Mark Weber**  
Mrs. Lois Weber  
**Marvin Krueger**  
Ms. Carol Krueger  
**Michael D Miller**  
Mrs. Mary Miller  
**Fredrich Piippo**  
Mrs. Patricia Piippo  
**Reed Haakenson**  
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Mr. & Mrs. Roy Franz  
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Mr. Alan Kison  
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Ms. Janelle Punzel  
Ms. Kristen Kochan  
Rev. & Mrs. Shirley Brooks  
**Rolf Reineck**  
Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Reineck  
**Rev. Theodore & Althea Sauer**  
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Sauer

**Clarence & Ella Marquardt**  
**Helen & Carlton Crozier**  
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Madsen  
**Walter & Alice Stahnke**  
**(My Parents)**  
Ms. Mardell Williams  
**Wayne Krueger**  
Ms. Kristin Krueger

### IN THANKSGIVING FOR Chaplains

Mrs. Beverly Wichman  
**All of God's Blessings**  
Ms. Fannie Edwards  
**The Blessing of Infant Baptism**  
Mr. Harold Marquart  
**Sons & Daughters**  
Mrs. Jill Anderson  
**John Martin Steinke, PhD.**  
Mr. Paul Steinke  
**God's Blessings**  
Mr. & Mrs. Jonathan Oppitz  
**Lois, Heidi & Trever**  
Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Cox  
**God's Grace**  
Mr. & Mrs. Philip Moll  
**67 Years of Marriage**  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Pfeifer  
**Our Grandchildren**  
Mr. & Mrs. Scott Krause