



Sharing Life

*“I AM the Way, the Truth
and the Life...”*



2017 Annual Report

414.259.4370 | www.IM.Life

Jesus once said, "I have come that they may have life and have it to the full." Institutional Ministries exists to share this message of hope with people going through some of the most difficult times in their lives. In sharing this hope, our staff and volunteers go into institutions all over the state of Wisconsin and beyond. We go into all these places so that they may know Jesus – "the Way, the Truth and the Life" – and have "life in his name" (Jn. 14:6;20:31). Through our efforts in 2017, Jesus touched the hearts of those he loves within the institutions over 13,000 times. Here are just a few of those "Jesus moments."

"Life" in Prison — What a Sentence!

It is always a joy to watch the LORD walk along with one of my guys as they face challenges and difficulties in their life – to watch as the LORD impresses upon them the truthfulness of His promise: "and we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purposes" (Rm. 8:28). Today was one of those days. Despite a number of recent setbacks (serious health and family issues), Doug was filled with joy and perfectly content right where he was, because the LORD was right there with him, filling Doug with peace and helping him to understand "my grace is sufficient for you" (2Co. 12:9).

Another awesome day in prison – God is good! Chaplain Radsek



"Life" in Hospitals — where people seek hope and healing.

The man in the hospital bed I was visiting seemed to be in an almost infantile state; his responses to all my efforts at conversation were limited to one or two words. And, like an infant, he was nearly helpless to do anything for himself: Simply adjusting his position in bed required help from two health care workers. He was feeling his neediness on this day. He kept saying, "Help me... help me..." over and over, and kept hitting the call button. So, I joined him in saying, "Help me," but I added, "Help, Jesus." And the man joined me, and together we said, over and over, "Help, Jesus... please help, Lord Jesus..." Chaplain Merten



"Life" in Mental Health Facilities — where illness impairs judgment, holds thoughts captive, and distorts reality itself.

Holly was afraid, and her fears were both emotional and physical. Her fears became so great that her whole body and mind shook, and she ended up being hospitalized. She was afraid of everything, and they couldn't figure out the problem. There was, however, one fear she did not have. She was not afraid of God because of Jesus' saving love and work. In Jesus' forgiveness of sins and promise of heaven, she found comfort in the midst of the earthly fears which shook her



emotions and body. While her life was still filled with fear, she found comfort in hearing about her Savior Jesus. Jesus continues to say, “Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom” (Luke 12:32). Chaplain K. Wenzel

“Life” beyond the walls in Aftercare ministry — where continued spiritual support is vital, and outside partnerships are needed to address emotional and physical needs.

Recently, a couple of people showed up at Grace Oasis after months of absence. From their past track record, I’d figured they were just out relapsing into drinking and drugging. It was great to find out I was wrong; they’d checked into residential treatment facilities, and they were now back at Grace Oasis because they’d earned the privilege of leaving the facility for a period. It is great to see our prayers getting answered. Chaplain Merten



“Life” in Senior Care facilities — where the desire for life gets snuffed out by isolation and daily routine.

We were listening to some music when one of the ladies commented, “I just can’t praise God right now. I can’t really have my heart be happy.” Earlier she had revealed that she was really missing her family and loved ones. Lamentations, a book I had read with them in the past, came to mind. In that book, the author proposed that lamenting to God — truly coming to Him with our pain, entrusting to Him our raw hurt and sorrow — is a true act of worship. When I expressed those thoughts to her, she thanked me for sharing, and her face showed relief. Chaplain Guenther

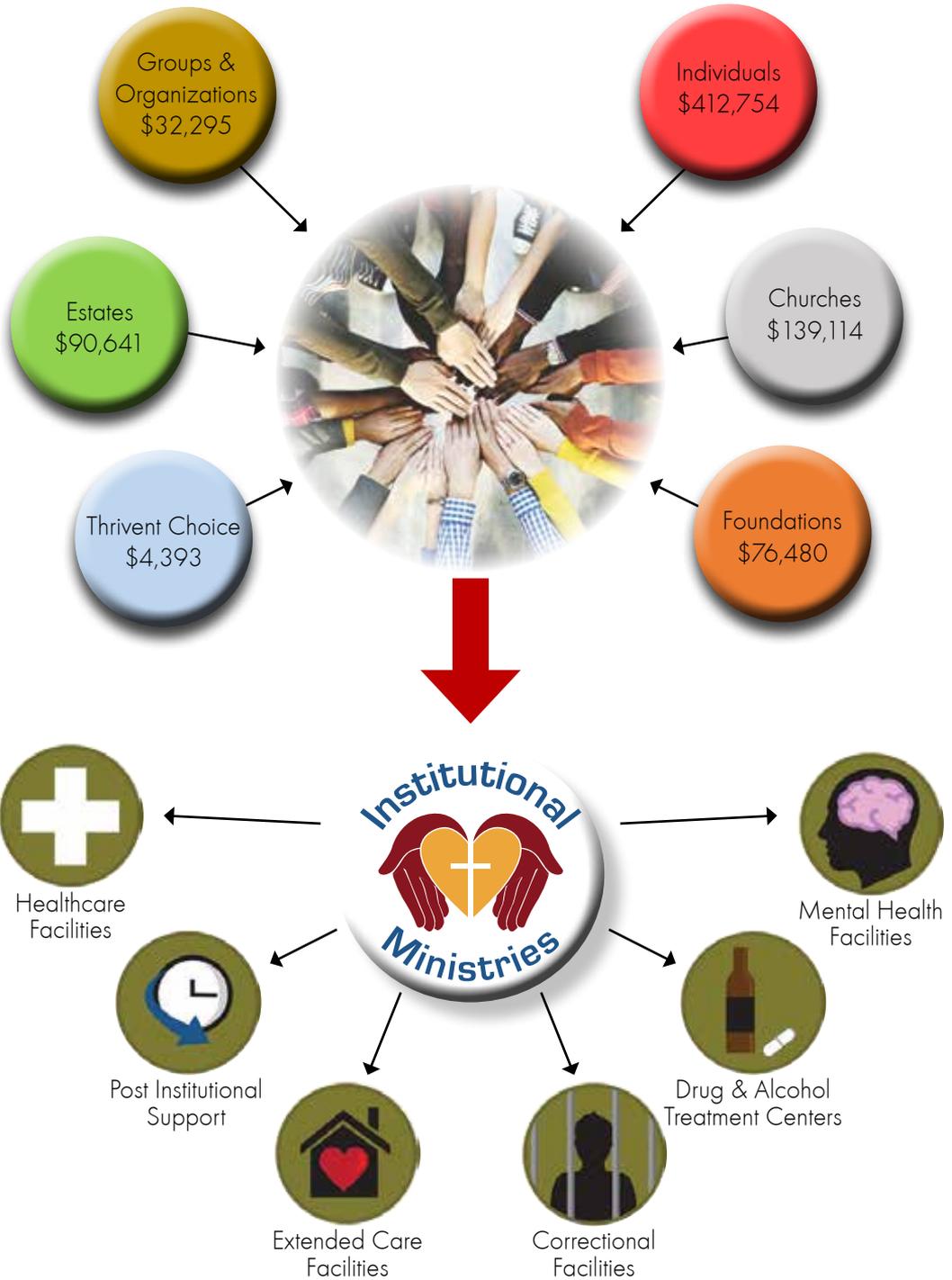


“Life” in Hospice facilities — where the terminally ill go to die.

I was called to the bedside of Ollie, who was near the end of his life. He was crying and the nurses wanted help. His physical pain was down, but his spiritual pain was growing. His sin was pointing fingers at him in condemnation. After refreshing his memory of once learned Bible stories, I then shared the saving hope and love of Jesus with his eternal promises. Finally, he wiped his tears and said, “You have stopped my crying.” Then, we gave thanks to the Lord for his promise “God will wipe away every tear from their eyes” (Rev. 7:17).

Chaplain K. Wenzel





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Our Mission

“To share God’s law and the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ with all individuals who are or have been institutionalized, and their families.”