



# Compassion

Sharing hope...

Celebrating 115 years

2017 - Second Quarter

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Proud of Me, Really?



Special Gifts & Memorials



NEWS

Want to learn more?  
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on the web!

## They Listen Quietly

Luke 10:39 tells us that Martha's sister, Mary, "sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said." And although the Word of God does not tell us specifically, Mary may have listened silently to her Savior's words.

There are some men and women who do that at the Bible studies which I am privileged to lead in Wisconsin's prisons. They sit and listen silently to the Word of God as it is read and studied.

That doesn't mean that they're present just because coming to a Bible study is something that will break up the tedium of life in prison. Nor does it mean that they're not interested in learning about a Savior named Jesus. And it doesn't necessarily mean that they're not paying attention.

It may be that they struggle when they read. Or that they are more reserved than average. Or maybe they just want to listen and learn without saying much, if anything. Others may speak and ask questions. That's fine. But they prefer to just listen.



That's what Kyle does. He faithfully comes to our Bible study and almost always listens to the Word of God without saying anything at all. Of course, when I meet with Kyle privately, then he does converse with me. We talk about a wide variety of topics and always discuss our study of God's Word. But in our Bible study, he most often just listens.

And that's okay with me. The Holy Spirit works through the Word to strengthen faith in Jesus even when a Christian only sits and listens quietly.



by Chaplain Charlie Iles

# Man in Crisis

Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick." Matthew 9:12.

The evening text conversation had started out simple enough. I had been planning to meet with Jay, and we were trying to set up a time when we could get together and talk. What I would discover later that night, was that Jay had relapsed. I texted him:

Me – 8:48 "I'm thinking we can get together Thursday night."

Jay – 8:53 "Sounds good to me. Just let me know when and where and I'll be there. Have a good night and be safe. Looking FORWARD to Thursday. This is eating me alive so I NEED/WANT to get it off my chest/conscience."

Me – 8:55 "Ok. We will get together. Hang in there."

I walked away from my phone for twelve minutes. When I came back, I found the following messages waiting for me:

Jay – 8:57 "I'm trying Mark, but to be honest with you, I'm pondering suicide."

Jay – 8:57 "That's the TRUTH"

Jay – 8:57 "I NEED to get help BAD"

Jay – 8:58 "like RIGHT NOW"

Jay – 8:58 "My phones at 8%"

Jay – 8:59 "NOBODY'S there for me or wants to help me so why NOT"

Jay – 9:00 "I'm walking to a facility right now. Mark, WILL you help me get to this place?????"

Jay – 9:01 "I'm so GLAD/HAPPY you texted me earlier, otherwise I think I would have killed myself...still might"

Jay – 9:02 "I'm in VERY BAD shape Mark and I'm SORRY for bothering you with my \*\*\*\*\* problems"

Jay – 9:04 "I'm walking up Lincoln Ave right now. My phone might die but I NEED HELP...will you help me Mark?????"

After reading these latest text messages, I quickly responded (praying that his phone hadn't died, or that I wasn't already too late):

Me – 9:07 "Where are you heading?"

Jay – 9:08 "My grave"

Jay – 9:09 "haven't ate in 2 ½ days and I'm just sick of

life, so if I do something stupid Mark, PLEASE Let my mom know that I LOVE her and that I'm TRULY sorry for being a \*\*\*\* up. And let my sister know the same thing."

Me – 9:09 "Where are you?"

A few minutes later, Jay answered my text and by 9:22, I had him in my car and we were headed to the facility. I dropped him off at 9:53 and the staff began assessing his situation. At 11:00, Jay calls to tell me he is waiting to be taken to another facility where they have room to admit him.

We are now hoping to get Jay into a transitional living/treatment facility. He needs to be off the street. He needs to be safe. He needs to get the help he so desperately is seeking.

Please keep Jay (and all those we serve) in your prayers, as we continue reaching out – sharing hope with those who need it most!



by Chaplain Mark Wenzel



## Proud of Me, Really?

I know it shouldn't surprise me, and yet I regularly find myself feeling amazed at the way God always knows exactly what he's doing, all the time. For example, whenever we study the story of the Lost Son (Prodigal Son), the ladies in my Bible class relate to the characters in different ways, depending on their past or present experiences. Obviously, Jesus knew this about this parable (not to mention the entire Word of God), for it always seems to "meet us" wherever we are in life, and touch each of our hearts in just the right way.



When we were about half-way through the story in our Bible study this week (before we got to the Father's response at his wayward son's home coming), one of the ladies in the group shared her story about her earthly father. She told us how her father had always been there for her with open arms, how he repeatedly opened up his heart and life and home. "Regretfully" she said, "I always ended up taking advantage of his loving and giving actions. Eventually, my addiction would win out and I'd use again while living in his home, and jeopardize our relationship – again." The shame and regret was written all over her face, as she talked about how she had repeatedly hurt her kind and amazing father. "Then one day", she continued, "I got completely honest with myself. I didn't know where, or to whom else I could turn for help, so I went to my father. I admitted to him that I messed up again, and that my whole life was a mess." With tear-filled eyes, she went on to share what her father had said in response. "I have never been as proud of you as I am right now."

It seems like a paradox. His daughter had done so many stupid things, trust had been lost, hope seemed to be very distant if not invisible. Yet, the father said that he was proud of his hurting, honest, vulnerable daughter. This real-life prodigal daughter story, brought to mind one of my favorite Bible verses, "If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9). Our good, good Father in heaven tells us that he too is most proud of us, when we stop trying to rationalize our sins to him, stop attempting to blame them on someone else, stop trying to minimize them in some way, but instead, simply admit to our mess, and our great need for him. When we do that, our Father in heaven promises to give us what we need the most – unconditional forgiveness. When we do that, we hear from him what every child desires to hear, "Just as you are, I am proud of you."



*by Chaplain Sarah Guenther*

*"Just as  
you are,  
I am proud  
of you."*



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

*Celebrating*  
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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.”*

### Special Gifts & Memorials 1/24/2017 - 5/1/2017

**IN CELEBRATION OF**  
**Judith Smith 90th birthday**  
Mrs. Norma Medenwaldt

**IN HONOR OF**  
**Rev. David R. Seager**  
Mrs. Michel Stoller  
**Johnny Kramer**  
Mr. & Mrs. Allan Kohls  
**Lloyd Hoeffner**  
Mr. & Mrs. Dale Hoefner  
**Lloyd Hoeffner**  
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Meyer  
**Aunt Ruth Bremer's 98th birthday**  
Mrs. Donna Ohrmundt  
**Rev. Steven Stern**  
Mr. & Mrs. David Pollesch

**IN MEMORY OF**  
**Alfred Kushman**  
Mrs. Joyce Kushman  
**Allen Krause**  
Steven Westphal  
**Armond Schreiber**  
Mrs. Evelyn Schreiber  
**Arne Benzow**  
Thomas Mueller  
**Carol Davidson**  
Mr. Daniel Davidson  
**Carolyn Schaser**  
Mr. George Schaser  
**Curtis Moll**  
Ms. Patricia Hill  
**Just Brothers**  
**(Bill, Ted, Harold, & Harvey)**  
Mr. & Mrs. Dale Just  
**Daniel Wolfgram**  
Rev. & Mrs. Arno Wolfgramm  
**Daryl Martin**  
Mrs. Ann Martin  
**David Bartell**  
Mrs. Virginia J. Bartell  
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Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Adams  
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Mr. Earl Moldenhauer

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**David Schroeder**  
Mrs. Dorothy Schroeder  
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Mrs. Imogene Hoeffner  
**Dolores Frederick**  
Mrs. Elsbeth Kietzmann  
**Don & Mela Eide**  
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**Doris Palubecki**  
Mr. Lawrence Palubecki  
**Faith Schutters**  
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Langhoff  
**Edward Schutters**  
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Langhoff  
**Elmer & Effie Zimmerman**  
Mr. & Mrs. Florian Baumann  
**Lillian Zimmerman**  
Mr. & Mrs. Florian Baumann  
**Paul Edmundson**  
Ms. Roberta Edmundson  
**Everett Edmundson**  
Ms. Roberta Edmundson  
**Frank & Elsie Brandis**  
Ms. Julie DeNicola  
**Fred & Edna Walker**  
Ms. Joyce Schneider  
**Gerald Schuelke**  
Mrs. Lois Schuelke  
**Harvey Zeitler**  
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**Gert Duerr**  
Mrs. Dawn Meise  
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**Wallace Reinemann**  
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Mrs. Betty Wolf  
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Arlyn Retlich  
**Helen Schultz**  
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**Wayne Krueger**  
Ms. Kristin Krueger  
**Wilbert Dallmann**  
Mrs. Betty Jane Dallmann

**Rev. William Staab**  
Mrs. Idella Staab

**IN THANKSGIVING FOR**  
**Chaplain Charles Iles**  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Sell  
**God allowing me to still work**  
Mr. David Letto  
**God's Blessings**  
Mr. Duane J. Frey & Mrs. Kathy Frey  
**Our called workers**  
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Wilger  
**Our 9 precious grandchildren**  
Mrs. Gail Maxwell  
**Institutional Ministries**  
James & Nancy Haferman  
**John Martin Steinke, PhD.**  
Mr. Paul Steinke  
**The Children God gave me**  
Ms. Lillian Baganz  
**The Savior**  
Ms. Sue Miller  
**40 years of God's Blessings through our marriage**  
Mr. & Mrs. Terry Krueger