

# Remembering the Forgotten

I was a Youth Pastor in Midland, Texas for several years...

- One of the least popular things we did was to visit people in the nursing homes...
  - We did it two Wednesday nights a month...
  - Most of the kids dreaded it (even some of the parents strongly complained about it)
    - Terrible odors
    - Awkwardness of trying to converse with someone who seemed unable to engage, incoherent...
    - The general dreariness of the surroundings
    - There was nothing really "FUN" about it...
- I tried to explain to my teenagers, that ministry has nothing to do with what's good or pleasant, or fun for self...
  - You don't visit sick people, or hurting people, or depressed people, or lonely people, or dying people hoping they'll entertain you...
  - You do it for 2 Reasons:
    - (1) Selfless Kindness & Love...
    - (2) It's Where Jesus Lives...

## Matthew 25:31-40

"But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats; and He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left. "Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry, and you gave Me *something* to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me *something* to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in; naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me.' Then the righteous will answer Him, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry, and feed You, or thirsty, and give You *something* to drink? And when did we see You a stranger, and invite You in, or naked, and clothe You? When did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' The King will answer and say to them, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.'

I can never forget the experience I had in visiting a home where they kept all these old parents of sons and daughters who had just put them into an institution and forgotten them - maybe. I saw that in that home these old people had everything - good food, comfortable place, television, everything, but everyone was looking toward the door. And I did not see a single one with a smile on the face. I turned to Sister and I asked: "Why do these people who have every comfort here, why are they all looking toward the door? Why are they not smiling?" I am so used to seeing the smiles on our people, even the dying ones smile. And Sister said: "This is the way it is nearly every day. They are expecting, they are hoping that a son or daughter will come to visit them. They are hurt because they are forgotten." – Mother Theresa

My experience has shown me that these people didn't care who it was at their door...

- son, daughter, complete stranger...didn't matter
- Cabin fever was their life...they had nothing to do all day...
- They were thrilled to have human physical contact – to share human laughter – to be looked at, to remember – to feel that they might matter to someone, even if only for a short while...

## **We're All Shut-ins Now...**

- Maybe we can understand, if we want to, a little more what it's like for your world to be so small
- To be unable to see or do or interact relationally...
- Maybe this can illuminate our perspective and rekindle our compassion for those who the "shelter in place" makes little difference to their normal routine...

## **I can't stop thinking about Michael Margoles...**

- **It's extra hard in these times because I can't visit and hug his daughters...**
- **I can't plan for a memorial in the near future to honor him, to joke about his eccentricities, and to appreciate his consistent cheerfulness, kindness, and unashamed, deep love for Jesus...**
- **He used to tell me how lonely he was...and how he was praying everyday for the Lord to introduce him to a companion, a kind wife to share his days with...**
- **He fought depression...but "he didn't wear it" – He always sought to encourage**
- **I don't want to lose sight of this man's life...**

## **I wish I'd expressed my feelings and done more for him when he was alive...**

## **Pick Up Your Phone & Reach Out to Someone**

- Get your COTC Directory Out (Get a PDF version)

Norma Gherig  
Barbara Drust  
Mary Urso  
Kimberly Roessing  
Michael Schumacher  
Joe Cascio  
Gerry Maddams  
Bob & Betty Unger  
Don & Ruth Devries  
Gerri Ritchie  
Bob Meeks  
Widows & Widowers...  
Elderly Couples...

## **1 John 3:16, 18**

We know love by this, that Jesus laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren...Dear children, let's not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions.