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**THE NURSING HOME MINISTRY**

**By Irvin L. Rozier**

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Isaiah 61:1: "The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord hath annointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he had sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound;"

About a year after I was called by God to preach, a door of opportunity opened up for me to preach at a local nursing home. As I walked down the hall to the chapel area, my eyes were filled with tears of compassion for the condition of the folks I encountered. Over the next few years, the Lord opened doors in nursing homes in several surrounding cities whre I ministered for a season. Yet, this first nursing home I preached at was to remain part of my ministry for fifteen years.

One thing about nursing homes is that the folks come just as they are. Some in wheelchairs, some on walkers, some walking or being pushed in wheelchairs by another resident. It was a supreme effort for many to be at a church service and the Lord looked with favor upon our times together. I had to be the choir director, the Sunday School teacher, the special singer, and the preacher. The Lord surely taught me many things during this ministry.

We never took an offering, yet one particular lady would always present me with something. It might be a penny, a soda cracker, a piece of candy, or a coupon for something. She had a nervous breakdown when her Mama ran off with her husband. This special lady had been well-educated, she could speak Greek, could play the piano, and sing fairly well. She would always dress in her choir robe when she came to the service. I believe the Lord has a special place in Heaven for folks like her.

Brother Dixon would be at the front waiting on me to arrive. He couldn't or wouldn't talk but when the songs were being sung, he'd sing right along with everyone else. His favorite was "Amazing Grace". When I would preach and state a truth, he would shout "Amen" and "Right about that!" Other than that, he wouldn't carry on a conversation. HIs job was to carry my Bible to the chapel. When he saw me, he would give out a great big smile and reach for the Word. He would lay it in his lap and I would roll his wheelchair to this spot. He always wanted to be right in the front. The "Amen corner" I called it. He's been in Heaven for some time now but his faithfulness, despite his handicaps, remains with me

forever. He was an inspiration.

Charlie was a cripple with a severe speech impediment. His mind was sharp and he loved the Lord. He especially enjoyed the songs. When I first met him, he was a bit grouchy but over the years, the Lord did a great work in his life. He became a sweet brother in Christ. I got to where I could understand some of his speech. When I would ask those folks to remember my Mama in prayer, tears would roll down his cheeks as I saw his lips move in prayer. He would always ask, "How is your Mama?" One of his favorite songs was "Hallelujah Square", particularly the verse, "I'll see all my friends in Hallelujah Square, what a wonderful time we'll all have up there, we'll sing and praise Jesus his glory to share and there won't be a cripple in Hallelujah Square." He knew one day he would be made whole and would be free from his crippled body. Last year, 2002, the Lord called him home. I had the special mission of preaching at his funeral. He was a dear friend and I'll see him again one day.

Over the years of the nursing home ministry, I've seen many come and go. Not all died, some recovered and went back home. Some were transferred to other facilities.

Many of these precious people had a really close relationship to the Lord. Their hardships had made them draw near to the Lord and exercised their faith. I'm glad those people prayed for me.

Isaiah 61:3: "To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he might be glorified."

author of My Walk with the Lord, [www.selahbooks.com](http://www.selahbooks.com), preacher, retired military

## **What You Should Look For In A Nursing Home**

**By Jeanette Pollock**

There are a lot of nursing homes operating in the United States today.

Their businesses, fuelled by America's hectic way of life, have prospered and now cater to a lot of people.

However, people still keep looking for nursing homes. Why, you ask? Because people just do not get any younger.

People get older all the time. That is one fact of life that we cannot deny.

Population keeps growing all the time. That is another fact that we cannot deny.

Put together, these two facts make up another undeniable fact: More people get older all the time.

And so, nursing homes can expect a continual rise in popularity as time goes by.

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With the number of nursing homes out there, you can expect that the qualities of these nursing homes also vary.

What should one look for in a good nursing home?

Here are some qualities you need to look at in order to get a good nursing home:

1. Legality –a nursing home should, of course, be licensed to legally operate by the government. This means that the nursing home has passed certain requirements and has fulfilled certain specifications ordered by the government.

Although this may not necessarily assure you of a nursing home's quality, it does assure you that someone has approved of its operation.

2. Administration –of course, the next step is to check out the people who will actually take care of your elderly. No matter how beautiful the premises, if the people are ineffective, your elderly will be miserable.

We have all seen movies of nursing homes with abusive attendants. We know what could go on in dealing with the wrong people. What you need to do is observe the people around you and how they react to the administration.

This observation alone will give you valuable information regarding the administration and the staff.

3. Comfort –after you have examined the nursing home staff, you need to take a look at the premises.

Do you think that your elderly will be comfortable in this nursing home? Do not judge the nursing home based on your experience. Remember that the elderly are much more sensitive to comfort than you

are.

You need to take into every little detail and see if that alters the nursing home's comfort value.

4. Safety –a nursing home should, of course, be safe for the elderly. You should be assured that the nursing home has every precaution against any accident that might happen.

See if proper measures have been taken and precautionary devices installed in order to prevent accidents or incidents.

After all, you do pay them to take care of your elderly.

5. Food –the basic need of people. The food served in the nursing home should be edible. If you don't like the look of the food, how much more can you trust the nursing home to provide your elderly with the little things that matter?

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The food should be edible not only to the elderly but also to you. You need to make sure that the nursing home takes the specific needs of each person in preparing the food.

6. Medical services – the nursing home should contain, or at least have quick access, to emergency medical services.

You need to be assured that should something untoward happen, your elderly will have the best care possible.

Jeanette Pollock is a freelance author and website owner of

. Visit

Jeanette's site to learn more about nursing homes.



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