



# Compassion

Sharing hope...

2021 - First Quarter

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## GraceLinks

In Acts 16, the Word of God tells us that the Holy Spirit twice prevented Paul and his co-workers from going where they wanted to go to share God's Word with people. For this reason, Paul went to Troas where, one night, he received a vision of a man urging him to come to Macedonia to share God's Word with the people of northern Greece. So, that's what Paul did.



In 2020, it seemed as though a door was being shut when the Department of Corrections "closed" our prisons to all visitors and volunteers in early March because of the Coronavirus. Just like that, Institutional Ministries' "face-to-face" ministry to hundreds of men and women in prison was put "on hold."

But our Lord has graciously provided another way in which we may share the Gospel with men and women in Wisconsin's prisons. Under normal circumstances, inmates in Wisconsin's prisons may send and receive email communications through a system called *CorrLinks* – or *GraceLinks* as we have dubbed it since it has provided us with an opportunity to continue sharing God's grace. This system was added a few years ago, so that individuals in prison could communicate electronically with the people on their Regular Visitors list. At the same time, individuals in prison may also receive information from DOC-approved sources, many of which are religious in nature.

After some investigation by our Executive Director, it was determined that Institutional Ministries could utilize *CorrLinks* to email daily devotions to men and women in prison at a cost of ten cents per email, a cost which is paid by the ministry. All that the offender is required to do is email Institutional Ministries to inform us that they want to receive our devotions.

In June of last year, the ministry began sending invitations to men and women in prison to receive our devotions. Every time a prison inmate is referred to our ministry, our Executive Director sends them a letter inviting them to receive our devotions via *CorrLinks*. To date, hundreds of invitations have been sent out, and we now have more than 150 men and

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## Going Home

Going home took on new meaning for me one day in the NIC unit (Newborn Intensive Care) at the hospital. It is always the hope and goal of the care team that these little ones get to go home someday and most of them do. Since I'm not always present when the babies are sent home, I usually give my blessing to the family when their time to go home is near. And when I return to find the infant's bed in the NIC unit empty, I rejoice that another infant got to go home.

### GraceLinks

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women who receive our devotions six days a week!

Please join us in thanking our Lord for this electronic way in which we may share God's Word with men and women in Wisconsin's prisons. And pray that many more individuals will choose to hear and learn God's Word in this special way!



*by Chaplain  
Charles Iles*

I was called to the NIC unit on a Wednesday evening. Little baby John had entered the world early and with great difficulty. He was breathing with the aid of a ventilator. He had suffered severe brain damage because of respiratory arrest and the nurse informed me that the parents were struggling with the decision of continuing life support. The parents wanted baby John baptized, so we gathered around his bed and gave him the gift of *new life*. It was a bittersweet moment because we all knew why we were baptizing John in the hospital. Baby John was soon to go home – to heaven.

As I left the bedside and started out of the room, I saw Annie and Jake. They had twins three months earlier. One had died soon after birth and the other, Mason, barely survived. Today Mason's parents were taking their son home! There were lots of smiles and congratulations, but there were also tears. I was overwhelmed by emotion; two babies going home, but in such different ways. Mason went home with his parents; a short time later I was holding baby John as he died and went home to heaven. "To live is Christ and to die is gain" (Php 1:21). Baby Mason and baby John embodied those words and touched me in a special way. What a privilege to be present at this time of such great emotions of both grief and joy. What a privilege to be able to share the love of Christ.



*by Chaplain Mark Wenzel*

# Inexperienced Parents

Andy and Mindy were young inexperienced parents. Tragically, without understanding the possible trauma it could cause, Andy shook his crying baby. The baby later started to show serious problems, so they took their baby to the hospital. Unfortunately, the child eventually died from “shaken baby syndrome.” The parents cried. The doctor reported the unintentional abuse to the authorities and the police came to arrest the father.

The child’s death was truly tragic, but I was also troubled by the way these young parents were treated by some of the hospital’s staff. Sadly, the staff seemed to ignore and avoid the parents. They did nothing to provide support for the parents in any way. It was as if they were asking: shouldn’t the mother and father have known better? How could such a terrible thing happen?

As the pediatric chaplain, I met with the father and mother before the police arrived. I extended to them the comfort of Jesus’ saving love and promises. In the midst of this tragedy, Jesus was still

their Savior. He died upon the cross for all our failings. With tears in his eyes, the father asked me what he should do. We set up a Bible reading plan to keep him in the comfort and guidance of the Savior during his jail time. On the cross, Jesus had done the humanly impossible hard work of providing them with forgiveness. In faith, these parents would now embark on the hard work of forgiving one another and living in the peace of Jesus.

The journey ahead of them would not be easy. I recommended a church to the mother where she could turn for support from the pastor and congregation while her husband was in jail, and together, we prayed for the Lord’s comfort and strength.

*“Like newborn babies, crave the pure milk of the word so that by it you may grow up with the result being salvation. Certainly, you have tasted that the Lord is good!” (1 Peter 2:2-3)*



by Chaplain Kenneth Wenzel

*“He died  
upon the  
cross for  
all our  
failings.”*



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 12/03/2020 to 01/18/2021

### IN CELEBRATION OF

**A Savior**  
Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Bruss  
**A Healthy Year**  
Mr. & Mrs. James Wolf

### IN HONOR OF

**Pastor Darrick Kolterjahn**  
Mr. Jay Zahn  
**Dolores Gunkel**  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Manke  
**John Kramer**  
Mr. & Mrs. Allan Kohls  
**The Fred & Patty Schuettke Family**  
Patricia Schuettke  
**Pastor & Mrs. Philip Henselin & Family**  
Mr. John Murray & Dr. Jane Murray

### IN MEMORY OF

**Adolph Fehlauer**  
Mrs. Carol Ryan  
**Allen Krause**  
Prof. & Mrs. Steven Westphal  
**Norbert & Anita Gerbitz**  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Hegg  
**Carolyn J Wentzel**  
Mr. Arden Wentzel  
**Rev. Arnold Schroeder (Grandpa)**  
Mr. & Mrs. Ric Stuebs  
**Arthur Schmugge**  
Mr. John Murray & Dr. Jane Murray  
**Barbara Steinle**  
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Raddant  
**Diane Patt**  
Mrs. Carol Hoefner  
**Carolyn Stephens**  
Mr. Harold K. Stephens  
**Charles Amara**  
Mrs. Ann Amara  
**Charlotte Roehl**  
Mr. Lawrence Roehl  
**Christine Scheele**  
Rev. & Mrs. Martin Scheele  
**Richard & Jeanne Hamrick**  
Mr. & Mrs. Craig Gebert

### My Wife, Jan, and

**My Son, Steven**  
Mr. David A. Kapanke  
**Don & Jean Villwock**  
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Gebert  
**Dorothy Seifert**  
Mr. Loyley Seifert  
**All the Souls Who Died Due to Covid-19 Virus**  
Mr. & Mrs. Duane Pfaff  
**Dylan Myles Gramprie**  
Ms. Renee Lassanske  
**Earl McCormack**  
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Potthast  
**Elizabeth Johnson**  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Manske  
**Faith Mate**  
Mr. Henry J. Mate  
**Floyd & Flora Helling**  
Ms. Sharon Maves  
**Carleton & Violet Toppe**  
Rev. & Mrs. Frederick Toppe  
**Fritz Blauert (Fearless Leader)**  
Mr. & Mrs. Dale Just  
**Frieda Carow**  
Ms. Lorraine Kerr  
**Gary & Bernice Schwalbe**  
Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Avery  
**George Wentz**  
Mrs. Jean Wentz  
**Georgia Wallum**  
Mr. David Beyer, Sr.  
**Gordy Griepentrog**  
Mr. & Mrs. Dale Just  
**Wilmer Pantzlaff**  
**Roland Schultz**  
**Helen Retlich**  
Mr. Kevin Retlich  
**Herbert William Bonow**  
Mr. & Mrs. John Bonow  
**Hildegard Fischer**  
Mr. Ralph Fischer  
**Jim Hilden**  
Mrs. Shirley Hilden  
**James Rochester**  
Rev. & Mrs. David Rochester  
**Rev. John W. Mattek**  
Mr. Joel Mattek

### Rev. John W. Mattek

Ms. Elsie Mattek  
**Jonathan Polfer, My Grandson**  
Mrs. Joann Seevers Wolfgram  
**Pastor Julian Anderson**  
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Berg  
**Rev. Kenneth Lenz**  
Rev. & Mrs. Kenneth Wenzel  
Rev. & Mrs. Robert Pasbrig  
**Irene, Ray, Rolf, Matthew, & Mark Reineck & Lillian Feldmann**  
Mr. & Mrs. Ken Poetzl  
**Larry Rouce**  
Mrs. Joyce Rouce  
**Pastor LeRoy Lothert**  
Mr. & Mrs. Ted Nommensen  
**Lloyd Hohenstein**  
Mrs. Virginia Hohenstein  
**Rev. Lloyd & Irma Wenzel**  
Mr. & Mrs. Albert Fisher  
**Marilyn Paschen**  
Mr. James Paschen  
**Mark Weber**  
Mrs. Lois Weber  
**Renee Maas**  
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Maas  
**My Husband, Richard, and My Daughter, Rebecca**  
Mrs. Ruth List  
**Robert F. Maas**  
Ms. Julie DeNicola  
**Pastor Rod Warnecke**  
Mrs. Mary R. Warnecke  
**Pastor Roland Welch**  
Mrs. Barbara Welch  
**Ruth Schlavensky Haberkorn**  
Mr. Keith Haberkorn  
**Stewart & Leona Golner, My Parents**  
Mr. David Golner  
**Wayne Krueger**  
Ms. Kristin Krueger  
**Wilma Brehmer**  
Mrs. Patricia Piippo

### IN THANKSGIVING FOR

**My Family**  
Mrs. Barbara Kopplin  
**A Wonderful Husband for 53 Years**  
Mrs. Carolyn Reineck  
**Richard Blauvelt, My Husband**  
Mrs. Corinne Blauvelt  
**52 Years of Marriage**  
Mr. & Mrs. Dale Kretschmer  
**Grace through Christ**  
Ms. Jill Anderson  
**John Martin Steinke, PhD.**  
Mr. Paul Steinke  
**Family, Health & God's Love**  
Mr. & Mrs. Norbert Dargelies  
**My Staff**  
Rev. Philip Henselin