



Spring 2010

News for NOMADS

NOMADS On a Mission Active in Divine Service

2010 Annual Meeting

Marion, North Carolina
Tom Johnson's Camping Center
October 4-8, 2010

2011 Annual Meeting

Forest City, Iowa
Winnebago-Itasca Travelers
River Oaks Rallygrounds
September 19-23, 2011

**We have a new fax #
at the NOMADS office
816-216-6947**

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Jim Sippel

Your UM **NOMADS** connection

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE NOMADS BOARD MEETING

April 21 - 24, 2010

Many of the things which the Board discusses are probably of no particular interest to the vast majority of the membership of NOMADS. The various committee chairmen present and discuss problems which occur in the operation of their committees. The Board sets the parameters under which each of these committees operate and tries to help the committee chairs properly complete their duties. Very few of these things affect individual NOMADS directly and I therefore will not speak of them here. Let me assure you, however, that the operation of all of these committees is critical to you and to the agencies we serve. The Board is committed to making sure that the organization as a whole operates so smoothly that you wonder why we even have a Board. Hopefully we almost make that happen. NOW -- what happened at Board meeting that you care about and may want to know?

Carla says that many of you have not yet paid your dues. Please send in these as soon as possible. You cannot work a project unless you are a NOMAD and you cannot be a NOMAD without paying your dues.

The New Member application/packet is being re-designed to more effectively advise new NOMADS of what to expect when they arrive at their first project.

Your contributions and the contributions of others to NOMADS have been used as wisely as the Board and the Grants Funding Committee are able to manage. Since January 1 until the time of the Board Meeting our agencies have been granted \$62,000 from NOMADS for projects where NOMADS have worked. Thank each of you for working with these grant sums and making the agencies better for it.

General Concerns - WELL, these are things which cause gray hair because people do something they really shouldn't do. The nice part is that there are almost none of these problems. That is a credit to you NOMADS and we as a Board thank you for being wonderful.

The Board has been asked several times about websites, facebook, blogs, etc. The Board feels that it only wants one website and that it is www.nomadsumc.org. We don't want to feel pressured or obligated to monitor other sites. We don't have a problem with NOMADS members exercising their right to free speech and freedom of off or online assembly but as an organization we decided to only support and monitor one website. We trust that NOMADS will be a credit to our LORD in the way they act online.

I previously informed you about the deadline for signing up to run for the Board. This year you must have your applications in before July 4.

Member Renewals

We're so pleased that most of you will continue your NOMADS involvement this year. We will soon be updating our current membership roster.

If you stop receiving weekly updates and other correspondence but believe you are current with your dues, please call the office right away!

When we vote for the directors, the Board is also asking you to vote for a change in the By-Laws. We presently have ten (10) directors -- five at large and five who representative the five jurisdictions. The Board feels that it really needs the input of the Chair of the Project Coordination Committee and the Chair of the Disaster Response Committee in order to properly conduct the business of NOMADS. We therefore ask you for a By-law change which recognizes this and allows appointment of the PCC Chair and the DRC Chair as voting members of the Board of Directors. We have had them participate in Board Meetings in the past but they have not been voting members of the Board.

Most of you know that we have been exploring the possibility of a new design and updated technology for our website. This has turned out to be more expensive than first thought. However, we have a surprise. A person who is NOT a NOMAD has given a substantial gift to NOMADS to honor one of our wonderful NOMADS couples. The Board has made the decision to use these funds to upgrade the website in honor of this couple. This should cover a great deal of the expense. We know that each and every NOMAD will be surprised when you see what we can accomplish through this technology.

Thank you for your attention
Jim Traviss, Board Chairman

Gather Together

The **North East Jurisdiction Reunion** will be held again this year at Ives Run in Tioga, PA Sept. 7 - 10. Reservations can be made individually by all those wishing to attend. Duane and Linda Wakefield are chairing the event and will be sending out more details soon. Just be sure to mark your calendar early so we can all get together for food and fun.

Terry Lair, NEJ Representative

INDIANA NOMADS REUNION, SEPT 14 - 17, 2010 PLA-MOR CAMPGROUND, BREMEN, IN

website: www.pla-mor.net Phone # 574 546 3665
E-mail: pla-morcampground@fourway.net
2162 US 6 E, Bremen, IN 46506

CAMPING FEES: Full hook-ups, **30 amp** - \$25.00 + tax = \$26.75, Full hook-ups, **50 amp** - \$30.00 + tax = \$32.10
CANCELLATIONS Must cancel 2 weeks prior to arrival date to get full refund. There is free wireless internet. No cable TV. Sewer sites: law requires use of a sponge ring (available \$ at the park).

REGISTRATION: PLA-MOR CAMPGROUND requires that for group campers, one person takes care of all the reservations. PLEASE DO NOT CALL PLA-MOR TO REGISTER, unless it is after our cut-off registration date of August 20. Registration deposit requires paying 1 night of stay. The remainder will be paid to PLA-MOR when you check-in.
CASH OR CHECK, ONLY. NO CREDIT/DEBIT CARDS ACCEPTED for reservations, nor at check-in on Sept. 14. Make checks out to **PLA-MOR CAMPGROUND** for your first night reservation and for your check-in on Sept. 14.
REGISTRATION must be received by BEV MORGAN no later than AUGUST 20, 2010.

SEND YOUR ONE NIGHT REGISTRATION FEE, CASH OR CHECK (make checks out to PLA-MOR CAMPGROUND) to: Bev Morgan, 3470 N. 825 West, Andrews, IN 46702

If you have any questions, please contact Jim & Ruth Davidson, rdavi8638@aol.com or 765-589-3033.

The Iowa Heartland Is Beckoning

It's never too early to build into your plans attendance at the 2011 Annual Meeting! We'll be gathering September 19 - 23, 2011 in Forest City, Iowa, a city "Where Nature is Close and Friends are Closer". The Winnebago Industries rally-ground and facilities are a wonderful place to gather to relax, learn, and enjoy friends. Tours of the Winnebago factory will also be available! More details later.....

NOMADS 2010 Annual Meeting

Marion, NC - October 4-8th, 2010. Full information and registration form was emailed to all current and alumni members on Friday May 28th.

It is also being mailed to members without email on June 7th.



When packing your rig for the 2010 Annual Meeting, be sure to Pack your **FABULOUS** outfits left-over from the 50s! There will be a prize for the "BEST DRESSED" man and woman at the Fabulous 50s Party!

Annual Meeting volunteers needed-We are still in need of NOMADS to help with the seminars at annual meeting this fall in NC. There will be 8 seminars...4 on Wed (Oct 6) and 4 on Thur. (Oct 7) 2 in the morning and 2 in the afternoon each day. We need hosts/hostesses for each of the seminars. A couple or 2 singles. They can do one seminar or as many as they would like! Their responsibilities would be to hand out the seminar eval forms as the attendees come in, introduce the seminar speaker, and then collect the evals afterwards. Anyone interested should contact Ron and Becky Hoblit hoblitronbec@yahoo.com.

COMMITTEES at WORK

PROMOTIONS

Jane Waddock, Chair

50 PROJECTS RECOGNITION

At the Annual Meeting in October, we will recognize those NOMADS who have completed 50 or more projects. In order to do this, we are asking those of you who have reached this milestone to submit your names to Carla or to Jane Waddock

(janenick99@verizon.net) by September 1, 2010. We began this award in 2006 and have recognized 7 couples and 2 singles since then. There certainly must be many more who have reached this goal. We want to celebrate your accomplishment!

NEW DVD

The Script has been written and approved by the Board. The next steps are to select a narrator and background music. NOMAD Danny Thompson is continuing to compile videos and still pictures that may potentially be used. We plan for the new DVD to be completed before the 2011 Annual Meeting. This process has taken longer than we originally anticipated. We know many of you are anxious for this new Promotions tool and will work to get it completed as soon as possible.

POSTERS

We have been made aware that the posters that are available on the current website are not always printing out in an acceptable manner. If you need posters, send a request to janenick99@verizon.net and I will send you a CD which contains the files. These can then be taken to Office Depot, Staples, Kinkos or other similar store and reproduced in whatever size or type of paper you desire.

SOUTH CENTRAL JURISDICTION

As the SC Jurisdictional Representative on the Board, I am so proud of all the hard work of individuals in our jurisdiction who are setting up booths at their annual conferences and telling their Churches about the Best Kept Secret in the United Methodist Church. Thanks also to all the dedicated NOMADS who have worked so tirelessly in our area at the projects and the RTP in Galveston. NOMADS helped 14 families get back into their homes in Galveston, and countless other projects were completed. Thanks again and God Bless,
Carol Stoner

NOMINATIONS

Carol Stoner, Chair

As you have seen in the weekly update, we still have the need for members to step up and submit a resume for the Board of Directors openings which we will have this year. Also there is a need for persons to serve on committees. If you are someone who is willing to help on a committee, please send me and e-mail.

(carol.stoner@juno.com) If you are willing to serve on the board, then send a resume to Shirley Hope, pshope2@gmail.com. We really need your help. Remember what happens to projects that do not have a leader, it usually gets cancelled. We have a wonderful organization with the NOMADS. Don't let it suffer for lack of leaders, and Board of Directors, and committee members. It is up to you!!!!!!!!!!!!

Committee Chairpersons

By-Laws/Policy/Guidelines: Jim Traviss

Disaster Response: Marley Walker

Finance: Cliff Johnson

Funds Development: Ed and Cora Hamilton

General Concerns: George Russell

Grants Funding: Bill Tarbell

IT Task Force: Jerrel Fielder

Membership Recruitment and Retention:

George Russell

Newsletter: Terry Lair

Nominating: Carol Stoner

Project Coordination: Jeannie Coe

Promotions: Jane Waddock

Annual Meeting 2010: Co-chairs: Bill and Wanda Kearney, Larry and Lovetta Bailey, Louise and Roland Davey

Annual Meeting 2011: Co-chairs: Jay and Bonnie Coble, Bill and Judy Schatz

Sunshine: Rubye Russell

Visioning: George Russell

Other: Alumni Liaison and Reunion Advisor-George Russell

Our Financial Supporters

*The churches and organizations listed below have been recent supporters of our mission.
Thank you so much!*

Arcadia	United Methodist Church	Arcadia	OH
Auburn	United Methodist Church	Auburn	IN
Birch Run	United Methodist Church	Birch Run	MI
Buck Creek	United Methodist Church	Buck Creek	IN
Canton South	Class of 1949	Massillon	OH
Caswell Springs	United Methodist Church	Pascagoula	MS
Christ	United Methodist Church, UMM	Fort Collins	CO
Christ	United Methodist Church	Lafayette	IN
Christ	United Methodist Church	Belle Plaine	IA
Christ Church	United Methodist Church UMW	tucson	AZ
Christ Community	United Methodist Church	Avondale	AZ
Clarion	United Methodist Church	Clarion	IA
Clinton	United Methodist Church	Clinton	IL
Derby Woodlawn	United Methodist Church	Derby	KS
Doerschuk	Plumbing and Heating, Inc.	Louisville	OH
Eylau	United Methodist Church	Texarkana	TX
First	United Methodist Church	Pontiac	IL
First	United Methodist Church	Columbus	NE
First	United Methodist Church	Lake Charles	LA
First	United Methodist Church	Zephyrhills	FL
First	United Methodist Church UMM	Yuma	AZ
First	United Methodist Church	Eustis	FL
Genoa Faith	United Methodist Church	Genoa	IL
Glendale First	United Methodist Church	Glendale	AZ
Grace	United Methodist Church	Alamogordo	NM
Lake Alfred First	United Methodist Church	Lake Alfred	FL
Lakewood Phillips	United Methodist Church	Lakewood	CO
Lester Memorial	United Methodist Church	Oneonta	AL
Liberty Hill	United Methodist Church	Hartwell	GA
Lovelady	United Methodsit Church, UMW	Lovelady	TX
Main Street	United Methodist Church	Waynesboro	VA
Marvin	United Methodist Church	Tyler	TX
Marvin	United Methodist Church	Tyler	TX
Marvin	United Methodist Church, UMM	Martinez	GA
North Rose	United Methodist Church	North Rose	NY
Pearsall	United Methodist Church	Pearsall	TX
Roanoke	United Methodist Church, UMM	Roanoke	IL
Romney First	United Methodist Church	Romney	WV
Spirit Of Joy	United Methodist Church	Coolidge	AZ
St. John's	United Methodist Church	Winter Haven	FL
St. Michael's	UMC Craft Group	Lake Havasu City	AZ
St. Paul's	United Methodist Church	Cedar Rapids	IA
Syracuse Calvary	United Methodist Church	Syracuse	IN
Walker	United Methodist Church	Walker	IA
Watertown First	United Methodist Church	Watertown	SD
White Salmon	United Methodist Church	White Salmon	WA
Williston	United Methodist Church, UMM	Williston	FL
Winterset First	United Methodist Church	Winterset	IA

Board of Directors 2009-2010

UPCOMING VACANCY

NOMADS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Attention NOMADS: There will be three elected openings to fill on the NOMADS Board of Directors this year. The term of our current Board Chair, Jim Traviss, will expire at the annual meeting in October. The membership will be electing a new representative for the Southeast Jurisdiction to replace Jim Traviss. Cliff Johnson and George Russell, the At-Large directors, will also be completing terms on the Board in 2010. It is not too early to start thinking about these important openings.

The At-Large directors may be any active NOMADS member. The director representing the Southeast Jurisdiction, according to NOMADS Policies, "shall be a resident of that jurisdiction or have his or her church membership in the jurisdiction."

Please prayerfully consider whether you are being called to this level of service in our organization. If not, perhaps you could lend your encouragement to another member you believe would be effective in this role.

Applicants, please send a letter of application with a summary of your qualifications to Shirley Hope, NOMADS Board Secretary, at pshope2@gmail.com, or 12088 118th Avenue, Ottumwa, IA 52501. The deadline for receiving applications is July 4, 2010.

The duties of NOMADS Board Members are to:

1. Be accountable to the NOMADS membership.
2. Provide encouragement, counsel, direction and evaluation to NOMADS leaders and administrators.
3. Set and track the annual budget.
4. Establish NOMADS policies and procedures and interpret these to NOMADS.
5. Interface with GBGM.
6. Negotiate and enter into Staff/Consultant contracts and/or employment arrangements.
7. Provide a framework, personnel, and encouragement for NOMADS Committees.
8. Provide for future planning and visioning.
9. Provide a framework and support for reunion agendas.
10. Serve on and/or chair committees as assigned.
11. Attend Board meetings and be prepared to participate on issues indicated in the Agenda.
12. Approve updates on Policies and Guidelines as needed.
13. Keep By-Laws current by preparing amendments when needed for members vote
14. Be prepared to serve in other situations that might arise.

Chair **Jim Traviss**

Vice Chair/Chair-Elect **Bill Tarbell**

Secretary **Shirley Hope**

Treasurer **Cliff Johnson**

Jurisdictional Reps:

Charles Townsend Western

Carol Stoner South Central

Jane Waddock North Central

Jim Traviss Southeastern

Terry Lair Northeastern

Jerrel Fielder

George Russell

PCC Chair **Jeannie Coe**

DRC Chair **Marley Walker**

Recording Secretary **Paul Hope**

Ex-Officio **Carla Kinsey**



NOMADS at Heart

NOMADS Put Down Roots in Seadrift

By Geraldine Williams of First UMC Seadrift, TX

A nomad can be defined as a person moving from place to place without a fixed domicile. And perhaps this could be an apt definition for George and Terry Lair, retirees who have spent the past seven years living in their RV as they traveled throughout the United States. They call themselves mission volunteers or NOMADS because they work through a special program of the United Methodist Church known as NOMADS On a Mission Active in Divine Service. Their journeys have taken them to many work sites at churches, shelters and homes to do projects such as building, repairing, painting, etc.

They want to make clear that they are moving about in their retirement with a definite purpose: to share their Christian faith voluntarily through the work of their hands; to be an example that will encourage others to serve God; to grow in their personal faith by coming to know others; and to experience different cultures and geographies.

Two weeks ago the Lairs were joined by two other couples, Tom and Sue Hill, and Dan and Virgie Brown, as they drove their three RVs into Seadrift and purposefully set down their roots for a three-week stay which they hope will grow the fruits of the spirit of Christ in Seadrift.

Had the Lairs made a direct journey from their home of seven years ago in Newton Hamilton, Pennsylvania, they would have driven about 2,400 miles to get to Seadrift. The Hills, at the least, had driven 1600 miles to arrive in Seadrift from Fostoria, Ohio. In contrast, the Browns had only a 700-mile trip, if driven directly, from their home in Rogers, Arkansas. So, with all of this active moving about, these three couples have defined themselves, in both the meanings stated above, as nomads and NOMADS.

Perhaps the Lairs, the Hills, and the Browns are typical of many retirees. Both Dan and George worked many years as civil engineers while Virgie worked for the school system and Wal Mart and Terry taught 2nd grade. Tom was a fireman/EMT for 26 years and Sue worked 24 years for the postal service. After these active years of employment, they feel drawn to a work that expresses their Christian faith as expressed in James 2:17—"In the same way, faith by itself, if not accompanied by action, is dead."

So, two weeks ago these six retired people set to work making needed repairs and painting at the Seadrift Methodist parsonage. Then last Monday they took on the fellowship hall at the church by painting its walls, cleaning and moving items and laying new wood floors. They will finish their final 3rd week with similar jobs at both parsonage and church.

The NOMADS furnish their own RVs and all costs for traveling; their own meals; their work time totaling 24 to 28 hours per week; and most of their own tools. Specialty items are usually supplied by the hosting agency. But they want it to be known that not all of their time is just spent in work. One side reward that all six of them seemed to like was the adventure of travel and enjoyment of vacation areas. They might decide to do a side trip to Big Bend or to eat in an ethnic restaurant or to indulge in a region's unique beauty such as that found on the San Antonio Bay at Seadrift.

The results of their work in Seadrift are absolutely beautiful and inspiring to the eye, making the spirits of the Seadrift people glad and thankful. When asked for their opinion about why it took outsiders like the NOMADS to accomplish these improvements, the nomads agreed that local people grow accustomed and comfortable in their surroundings



NOMADS at Heart

and sometimes do not recognize needed improvements that an outsider can see with 'new eyes'. By talking and working together with local folks, the NOMADS planted seeds, watered and toiled in the garden of Seadrift. In response, the Seadrift First United Methodist Church members welcomed these nomads to church services, questioned them about their faith and purposes, fed their bodies and praised the products of their hard work.

The joy of Christian spirit that was brought to Seadrift FUMC by the NOMADS will live on because it is God's love in action to his people. Surely the NOMADS' Journey of Hope will be passed from one encouraged spirit to another.

As they pull up their healthy roots, we wish the NOMADS happy travel back to their respective homes and their churches where they also serve and enjoy such things as grandchildren, quilting and sewing, bazaars, Bible study, serving on committees or being a NOMAD board member.

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A tribute to one of our NOMADS

A NOMADS project during Period 2 this winter was completed at the David and Margaret Youth and Family Services Agency in La Verne, CA. One of the members of the team, Ed Elliott, was an amazing worker. At 98, he is the oldest member of NOMADS and really enjoyed his 3 weeks on the project. The following is a tribute written by another member of NOMADS who worked along side of Ed.

“Wait, I Have Another Job for You”

by George Beckman

John was about 95 years old and was ready to die on the island of Patmos. He may have thought, I am old and I have served long and hard. But, apparently he wasn't done. He was given a vision and told to write a letter to the churches. Because God said, “Wait. I have one more thing for you to do,” we have the Book of Revelation. Many of us looked forward to retiring. Look forward to taking it easy. But we also know that God may be saying, “Wait. I have one more thing for you to do.” We can never retire from fulfilling the Great Commission.

Today, I spent the day with Ed Elliot, working on a house in La Verne, CA, that belongs to the David and Margaret Home. Ed was 97 last year when his daughters said, “Dad, we are going to do a NOMADS project in Julian, CA”. Ed signed up. Yes, Ed still has his small RV. Then Ed hurt his back working on his sprinklers in the yard. Some may have thought, “Well, I am done. I can retire from Christian Service.” But, this year, when his daughters said, “Dad, we are going to a NOMADS project in La Verne,” Ed signed up. His back had recovered.

You may be wondering, what can a 98 year old man do? Well today, Ed spent most of the day with a drill with a screwdriver tip taking knobs and hinges off door after door. Every time I saw Ed, he was still at it. We quit at 4:00 PM and came back to our RVs and then walked down to the dining hall for dinner. Ed walked along, smiling happily. After Ed found the light switch, we ate and talked. Back at the coaches, his daughters gave him a hug as he went in for the night. I did, too. Apparently, God always has a job for us. Ed's answer is, “Yes.”

Other ways to participate

Submitted By *Terry Lair*

At the recent board meeting it was noted that **few folks have sent in resumes for the open board positions** so far. As a first year, new board member I thought I might share with you some of the experiences I've had already.

First of all, newly elected board members are encouraged to attend the board meetings at our Annual Meeting, even before they have been formally installed. They get a feel for how the meetings are run and the type of issues dealt with. Although they do not get a vote yet, they can ask questions and offer input if they so desire. Personally I was just thrilled with the way differences of opinion are offered and politely accepted. Sorry to say, not like some of the board meetings back in my home church.

Secondly I was made to feel accepted as part of the team right from the first day. Everyone wanted to talk with me, listen to me and get to know me. My opinions and suggestions were always gratefully acknowledged whether they agreed with me or not.

Thankfully "newbees" are not assigned a committee chairmanship right off the bat, unless they show their desire for such a placement. But they are added to committees where they have expressed an interest or a talent. After all, this board membership is a job, though most likely one they will enjoy holding for four years.

Please, if you care a lot about the future of NOMADS and have an interest in helping to shape that future, get your resume in to Shirley Hope. Even if you have to run for several years, 'til your name is known by the members, the effort will yield its rewards. I can guarantee it.

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ANNUAL CONFERENCES

It's been great to receive news from so many NOMADS who will be hosting displays at tables and booths during Annual Conferences this year. Your suggestions and willingness to promote NOMADS in this way is outstanding. Each year the list is growing. As of this date, displays will be held at the following Annual Conferences - Arkansas, N. Alabama, Indiana, Dakotas, Missouri, Illinois, Iowa, E. Ohio, Kentucky, Oregon/Idaho, Desert SW, Pacific NW Ministry Fair. There may be others that have been missed or we haven't received notification about. Contact **Carla or Jane Waddock** (Promotions chair) if you would like your Annual Conference to be listed and/or if you need help in putting together or manning your display.

Are you an ESCAPEE and a NOMAD?

*For all those NOMADS who happen to be Escapee members also, we will have an outside booth this September 11-17, at the Escapade in Goshen, IN. If you are planning on attending the Escapade and are willing to help with the booth, please let **Carol Stoner**, (214-287-0140) know. We will work up a schedule once we are there. Also, there are two weeks between Escapade and the NOMADS annual meeting in Marion, NC. If you want to participate in a drop-in project after Escapade that is in the direction of Marion, please let me know also, and I will set something up for us.*

If you are an Escapee member and have not joined our NOMADS-BoF and wish to, please send me your complete address and SKP number and I will add you to the list. At the NOMADS annual meeting we usually have a lunch together, and this year it is scheduled for 11:30 A.M. on Tuesday of the Annual Meeting. Look forward to seeing all of you at the Annual Meeting in October, if not at the Escapade in September.

Submitted by Carol Stoner

Welcome to our newest NOMADS!

Please join me in welcoming our new NOMADS. If you need contact info for any of them, please let me know. A new membership roster will be delivered to you soon, after we finalize our list for this year in June.

Joseph and Patricia Carrington, Warren, PA
James Cocke and Debra Wood, Charlotte, NC
Stephen and Julieta Leslie, Lafayette, IN
Jim and Diana Casten, Plano, TX
George and Sandi Burrier, Morton, IL
Jim and Mary Verkest, Stevens Point, WI
Martha Leonard, Interlachen, FL
Gary Honegger, Jacksonville, FL
Diane Summerhill, Westminster, MD
Carolyn Westberry, Cornelia, GA
Stewart and Shirley Evans, Newark, MD
Larry Rodseth, Spring Valley, CA
Larry and Diana Hull, Puyallup, WA
Homer and Mary Lou Brown, Las Cruces, NM
Becky Thiessen, Toledo, IA
Rick and Nancy Curd, Algonac, MI
Leo and Becky Davis, Watkinsville, GA
Donna Thompson, Cedar Falls, IA
John Briggs and Ruth Edwards, Stilwell, KS
Richard and Betty Miller, Gatesville, TX



Devotional Thought

By Gary Prichard

Oftentimes we are so caught up in our retirement activities we can lose sight of the needs around us. We think we have it bad with all of the housing & retirement issues of making ends meet financially. My neighbor just *lost his wife from cancer*. He was out of work and his wife was a pharmacist at a local hospital. They have two little children. Now he must fend for himself. We don't have to look far to find people in crisis situations and we must have an open heart toward them. I ran across an illustration used by Melvin Newland in a sermon.

Dave Galloway told of a soldier who had just returned from Vietnam. His parents were socialites, very well-to-do. It was near Christmas, and they were getting ready to go out to the first of the round of parties of the Christmas season. Just then the phone rang, and it was their son on the phone. "Mom," he said, "I'm back

in the States." She said, "That's wonderful! Where are you? Will you be home for Christmas? Can you get here in time for the parties? Everybody will just love to see you." He answered, "Yes, I can be home for Christmas, but I want to ask you something first." "What is it?" she asked. "Well, I have a friend with me from Vietnam. Can he come?" "Oh, of course," she answered. "Bring him along. He'll enjoy the parties, too." "Wait a moment, Mom," he said, "I need to explain something about him. He was terribly wounded, and lost both legs and one arm. His face is disfigured, too." There was silence on the phone for awhile. Then the mother said, "That's all right. Bring him home for a few days." "No, mom, you don't understand. He has nowhere to live. He has no one else. I want to bring him home and to let our home be his home." The mother was quiet again. Then she said, "Son, that just wouldn't do. What you're asking

would be very unfair to us. Why, it would disrupt all our lives. I'm sure there are government agencies that would be more than glad to take charge of him. Look, just you hurry home for Christmas now, and then maybe you can visit him once in a while. Darling, I'm sorry, but we've got to rush or we'll be late for the party. Call us again as soon as you know when you'll be home. Goodbye." When the parents returned home from the party that night, there was an urgent message from the California police asking them to call. They telephoned, and the officer said, "I'm very sorry to have to call you, but we just found a young soldier dead in a motel room. His face is disfigured, and he has lost both legs and one arm. From the documents on him it would appear that he is your son."