

Bits of SONShine Final Newsletter 2021



To God Be The Glory

1973

47 YEARS

**THE SONSHINE SOCIETY
HAS REMAINED FOCUSED
ON RECRUITING, TRAINING
AND EQUIPPING LAY-CHRISTIANS
TO BRING THE LOVE OF CHRIST
AND HIS SAVING GRACE
TO THE AGED AND CONFINED.**

2020



Ministry Tribute Issue

YOU SHALL RISE BEFORE THE GRAY HEADED AND HONOR THE PRESENCE OF AN OLD MAN, AND FEAR YOUR GOD: I AM THE LORD. LEVITICUS 19:32

FROM DARKNESS TO SONSHINE

By HERM HAAKENSEN, SONSHINE FOUNDER
(EXCERPTED FROM PREVIOUS BITS)

It was October 11, 1973. My son Erick and I set out at dusk, each in our own 32 foot gillnetter boat, to fish for salmon in the Strait of Juan da Fuca, off the shores of San Juan Island. My boat, the Jan Marie, had been our first boat which we purchased together, and then Erick, through long hours of work, in addition to attending college, had been able to purchase his own Gillnetter, which he named the Paula L. I, a commercial real estate developer, had taken up gillnet fishing just a few years prior in response to Erick's great interest and love for fishing and the opportunity to extend and cement a strong father-son relationship.

Commercial salmon fishing in Washington is done at night by state law. This meant maneuvering an 1800 foot net in and out of a 32 foot boat while keeping an eye out for rip tides and debris, as well as other ship traffic.

The night of October 11 began uneventfully. It was rough but not excessively so. I set out my net for the second time when it suddenly became very calm. Then it happened!! The storm struck from the west. In minutes what had been a calm, placid body of water, became a raging enemy as the gale slammed into the boat from the West. The wind increased to 50 knots as the Jan Marie absorbed this terrible pounding. I looked at my watch—it was now 12:15am., October 12, Columbus day 1973. I decided it was time to leave.

The net was stretched taut in the gale. I slowly brought it in. The strong wind was pushing me dangerously near the rocky shore. When the net was safely in I headed for harbor. I was running at half speed when suddenly the rocks of Dead Man's Island loomed up on my portside. The waves were now crashing over the Jan Marie, pounding her cabin and threatening to tear her apart. A monstrous wave then struck, nearly capsizing us. The Jan Marie rolled on her side and there was a sickening T-H-U-D sound as she struck a submerged rock. I pushed the throttle wide open and headed out for deeper water not knowing she had already received a mortal blow. It suddenly occurred to me that Jan Marie was



HERM HAAKENSEN

December 20, 1922 — June 3, 2002

Founder and Director of SONSHINE SOCIETY

"I will make you fishers of men."

very stable but low in the water. A quick examination showed water pouring in through a ragged hole in her AFT portside. The automatic pump could not keep up. She was sinking.

Since a personal experience with Jesus Christ almost 20 years prior, my praying had usually been like a simple on-going conversation with the **LORD**. It was the strength of these prayer conversations that enabled me to do, without panic, the tasks necessary to keep the boat afloat while seeking help. I was desperately trying to call Erick on the CB with no response. He was unable to hear me call over the roar of the storm. I gave a mayday on the emergency channel but no response. Then, like a voice from heaven, I heard Erick's voice "Paula L. calling Jan Marie". The deck was now submerged and I sloshed around in ice cold seawater. As I stepped off her bow to the Paula L. I watched as the Jan Marie plunged to the bottom of the sound 30 fathoms below, knowing that if I were still aboard, I could not have lasted more than a very few minutes in that turbulent icy water. **GOD's** love and provision are always on time.

Prior to and up through this time of the "Jan Marie Saga", I was temporary Sunday School Superintendent of a small church in Lynnwood, Washington. As part of a community outreach, I contacted a Nursing Home just 2 blocks away on the same street. Through the management, we issued an invitation for the Residents to attend our Sunday School. We offered to provide free transportation to and from the church. Out of over 100 Residents, there was not even one who accepted our offer. Something was wrong! It just seemed impossible that out of more than 100 people there was not one interested in Christian worship, prayer and instruction. The thought that something was wrong kept gnawing at me until I decided that **GOD** was trying to show me something. I sincerely believe that He led in the series of events that followed.

With permission of the administrator of the Nursing Home, the next Sunday morning, armed with my bible and an old guitar I walked into the multi-purpose room, timidly turned off the television and announced to the 5-6 people there that we were going to have a Sunday School class. It truly was a sad scene as most of the people there, though well cared for, were listless, sad and indifferent—but how powerful the Word of **GOD** is!!

For about 6 months I struggled on alone. At first, our meetings made little visible impact, but after the first two months, although attendance had changed little, I noticed Residents in wheelchairs would be sitting just outside the door, listening. Gradually, some of them began to enter and at the end of 6 months Sunday morning services had grown to 15-18 Residents. I needed help! Along with friends from church, I quickly learned that a faithful loving ministry produced results. Our little Sunday morning gathering had grown to 50 or more Residents. Listless frowns had turned to smiles and dull silence had been replaced by joyful singing. As time went on I began to receive requests from other nursing homes for a similar program in their facility. What to do? What to do?

The Jan Marie sank on October 12, 1973. A week later, October 19, I and several co-workers signed the incorporation papers for Sonshine Society, Inc. Our only purpose was and is to "**Recruit, Train, and Equip**" concerned Christian Volunteers for nursing home Ministry. Without a doubt the sinking of the Jan Marie was the catalyst to the formation of the Sonshine Society. Although my complete hope for eternal life is through faith in Jesus Christ and His atonement, I want to make a difference in this world and I know **GOD** has led me to this area of ministry where people are truly helpless and hurting. When a child cries—everyone listens; when an old person cries—few, if any listen. †



A Reminder

**In a world of rush and hurry, many things get dim and blurry,
As life's pace accelerates each passing year.
"Quicker-faster" is the by-word but the best advice that I've
heard,**

Is something I'll pass on for you to hear.

**Certain things must still move slowly when engaged in service
lowly**

**For regardless of what folks say or what we hear,
Without fear of a disputer—I'll declare that no computer
Can stroke a hand or help a body dry a tear!!**



FROM SONSHINE PRESIDENT DUANE OLBERG

As Bill Goodrich and **GOD** Cares Ministry prepares to assume the ministry that **SONShine** Society has done over these last 47+ years, I have many thoughts and memories I would like to share:

It has been a real blessing to have been a part of Sonshine for over 41 years, ministering in the local care centers, doing weekly Sunday services, as well as memorial services for the dear ones that have gone on to Heaven.

Being a part of the **SONShine** Board. Knowing Herm Haakenson personally and sensing his heart for the "Hidden People in Plain View". Traveling with Herm and Trish to present **SONShine** to other churches in America. Fishing with Herm on his gillnetter boat the *Good News*, to get the fish for the annual **SONShine** dinners. There would be up to 400 in attendance. This was work for many!!

As president for the last nine years I have had the privilege of working in the office with Patty and Woodé. They truly have been **GOD**'s choice to run the ministry of **SONShine**. With their retirement, after so many years of faithful service, I will miss the daily interaction with them. Also the good coffee treats made by Patty and Sharon.

The prayer times shared each week with Sharon, Highland, Patty, Woodé, and myself. You really get to know people's hearts when you pray together.

GOD has truly Blessed **SONShine** Ministry. Only Heaven will reveal the many souls that have come to know the **LORD** Jesus as their Savior. Also the many that have been encouraged in their walk with Him.

Now that I am 81 years old I feel at peace in passing the baton on to Bill and **GOD** Cares Ministry. I will cherish the memories and pray **GOD**'s best for the ongoing Care Center Ministry. The many memories I have of the many faithful people that have given so much to the ministry and that are now in Heaven, blesses my soul. These memories will take up many sessions around the Throne of Heaven.

Last but surely not the least is... *To **GOD** be the Glory for the great things He has done.*

Blessings to all.

Duane Olberg

My name is Mary MacDonald, **SONShine** Society board member. Everyone calls me 'Mimi'.

I have served almost 29 years on a local ministry team at Richmond Beach Rehab, an Avamere Nursing facility, with Duane Olberg. Now, I am retired from banking.

I always had a love affair with the elderly, even as a child. I hung out with my mom's friends as they seemed non judgemental and wise, unlike my peers. The Nursing Home Ministry was right down my alley. Truly, it is a ministry that fills a hole in my heart. After 25 years in banking, I wanted out so I contacted a career counselor who gave me an aptitude test. He said I would make a great Nursing Home administrator! Well, that was exactly what I had in mind. It was not what **GOD** had in mind, however. Duane asked if I wanted to join him in a Nursing Home Ministry and I've been with his team all of these years. What a glorious way to praise and honor **GOD**. **SONShine** has a special place in **GOD**'s heart!



DUANE OLBERG, PRESIDENT FROM 2011 TO PRESENT.

— KEEPING THE BOAT AFLOAT —

In reviewing the years of **SONShine**, many Volunteers have graced the doorway of our humble offices and many rich and long friendships have been formed. They have folded newsletters and special occasion cards, stapled packets, collated pages of the songbooks and devotional books, stuffed envelopes, and even applied address labels on newsletters (in the early days) and international mailings. In the Spring of 2018 we went digital with our printing of the songbooks, music books, and all devotional and scripture books that also included collating the pages as the books were printed, so hand collating was no longer a production need for those resources. So that change in operations was the first of many transitions at **SONShine**.

GOD's hand has been so evident in Volunteer help. When a Volunteer would no longer be able to come, another would be there. Never too many or too few. They have helped keep the boat afloat and we have had wonderful Christian fellowship.



IN THE EARLY 90'S (1990'S) MARY HILL WAS A "NEWBY" AT **SONShine**. HERE SHE IS COLLATING THE PAGES OF **SONShine** SONGS AND SCRIPTURES, VICTORY EDITION WORDS ONLY HYMNAL. SHE CONTINUED FOR THE NEXT 25 YEARS TO VOLUNTEER.

Keeping On, Keeping On

The first edition of *SONShine Songs and Scriptures* hymnbook was published in 1974 with the piano accompaniment book soon after. Herm wrote a training guide, *All the Days of my Life*, containing instruction on beginning and continuing a Nursing Home ministry. These resources helped people far and near to begin their own Care Center ministry. In 1975 our newsletter, *Bits of SONShine* was published and has continued through the years to be the "tie that binds" our national, and international, organization together. It has served to inspire and instruct, and remind us we are not alone in this ministry that **GOD** has called us to.

In 2002, **GOD** called Herm home after a brief illness. He worked up to his final days and his work laid the foundation upon which the ministry continued to function and grow.

GOD leads His dear children along. The board asked me to be the interim president following Herm's home going. The interim continued for 9 years and **GOD** led us to develop and publish several more resources. *SONShine* now has over 40 resources and **GOD** has led wonderful writers, such as Betty Jo Mathis and husband Pastor Don, to write for this ministry, including *Strength and Peace*, a scripture and devotional book that is highly respected and requested.

Duane Olberg has been our president, since 2011. Duane has led by example, being a Nursing Home minister for over 40 years, and having a servant heart like our founder. The work has continued on under Duane's leadership and **GOD's** provision.

We rejoice at what has been accomplished in this ministry for almost 5 decades now. But we also know we have only begun to meet the needs of a changing and aging society and the tremendous growth and diversity of Long Term Care Centers. *These are true mission fields right in our own backyards.* We believe it is in obedience to **GOD's** Word to minister to those living in isolation in need of the Gospel and Christian fellowship. It is our prayer that in the coming years EVERY Care Center will have a Christian ministry present. To **GOD** Be The Glory.

Sharon Haakenson



SHARON HAAKENSEN, PRESIDENT FROM 2002 TO 2011



I see her in her tiny room,
And taking notice of the gloom,
I call her name, but she hears not;
This lonely one who's been forgot
By busy folks like you and me
Whose ears can hear, whose eyes can see.

She's dozing in her morning nap,
One withered hand within her lap;
Her useless foot just drooping there,
A lap robe tucked about her chair.

I hesitate this one to rouse,
Perhaps she's dreaming of her spouse,
And days gone by with children young
When games were played and songs were sung.
When back was strong—hands were able,
Mind was clear and limbs were stable.
But then she awakens, bless her heart,
And finding me, she gives a start.
"It's you!" she cries, "Oh, friend of mine,
You've brought a bit of **GOD's** sunshine!"

We chat a bit and reminisce.
(WHY DO I SLIGHT SUCH TIMES AS THIS??)
She's so delighted by my call
And shows me pictures on her wall
Of sons and daughters far away;
Like me, they're thoughtless day by day.
Forgetting how the minutes drag,
The helplessness and sorrows nag.

We speak of Heaven, then we pray.
I rise to be upon my way.
She begs me soon to come again,
"You've brought sunshine—you are my friend!"
I cringe with shame. It cost me not
To cheer a lonely soul forgot.
In fact, the benefit was mine.
'Twas me who needed her SonShine!

WRITTEN ESPECIALLY FOR THE SONSHINE SOCIETY
BY BETTY JO MATHIS



PASTOR DON AND BETTY JO MATHIS

AND IN THE END...

THE LOVE YOU BEAR, IS EQUAL TO THE LOVE YOU SHARE.

As this is the last issue of *Bits of Sonshine*, I want to say once more, what I have said in previous issues—and this comes from my heart.

Thank you to each one who have written letters of encouragement to us, sharing with us about your ministries...your ideas, what has been effective in your particular situation (how-you-do-what-you-do!), that we in turn have been able to share on our Mail Box Page to help and encourage *Bus* readers and fellow-laborers in this needed mission field. It has been a huge help for so many across the U.S. and Canada.

I wonder how many times over the past 33 years, I have answered the phone with “Good Morning” or “Good Afternoon, **SONShine!**”...and heard the voice of a familiar long-distance **SONShine** friend or the voice of a new friend—those calls have been and are the best part of my day.

My heart-felt thanks to each of you for helping to brighten, enrich, encourage, and bless my days at **SONShine!** I pray God’s direction and leading for each of you, as you - as we - continue to serve (when we are able to again) the Residents of the nations Nursing Home/Care Centers and all facilities where folks are confined.

PATTY/**SONShine**

TRANSITIONS...(OF A KIND)

During the last 6 months there has been much talk of transition. We are now in a time of transition and these times can be difficult and hard to deal with...

But one type of transition has been, in many ways, very helpful! And that only has to do with the change in printing technology.

SONShine began with the old school way of making our materials. Using a “very used” offset press, we managed for 25 years to make resources available to Nursing Home/Care Center Christian Volunteers in support of their labor in this mission field.

I must back up a bit, prior to printing our materials “in-house” for 25 years, our resources were printed in Lynnwood, Washington in a printshop of a good friend of Herm’s. When he retired, **SONShine** brought it in house and I became a self-taught printer, of sorts.

The next stage of printing our resources was a turn to current technology in the guise of digital machines that could easily outperform our offset workhorse. Going from 2-color, single-sided printing to full color duplex printing (that is, printing on both sides of a sheet of paper in one pass) and collating the pages as they are printed, was a significant advancement in performance and output. Saying goodbye to the old ways was tough to do, I missed the chunk-chunk-chunk of the ol’ Multi 1870 offset, but digital was faster, cleaner, and with far less mishaps (that occurred all too often on the offset).

Transitions. With the loss of Volunteer collaters came the loss of frequent fellowship with like-minded Christians who were very supportive of **SONShine** and its’ mission.

Now we shift even more with the loss of this organization. It is with a thankful heart to **GOD** that this mission will continue through the auspices of **GOD Cares Ministry**. **WOODÉ**



PICTURED SEATED IS PATTY HAWLEY, OFFICE MANAGER FROM 1989 TO PRESENT.
STANDING IS WOODÉ, PRINTSHOP/IT MANAGER FROM 1995 TO PRESENT.

PASSING THE BATON

It was about 35 AD when the Apostle Paul met the Risen Christ on the road to Damascus. He was commissioned and empowered by His **LORD** to run a particular race... *to carry my name before the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel.* (Acts 9:15)

In 1973, Herm Haakenson was commissioned and empowered by His Lord to run a particular race....to carry the name of Jesus to Care Centers across the United States and to equip lay-Christians to reach “a hidden people in plain view.” After the **LORD** called him home, his daughters continued to run that race for their **LORD** and Savior.

About 30 years after the Apostle Paul began his race, he was able to write to Timothy, a young man that he had discipled, *I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.* (II Timothy 4:7) In a sense, Paul was “passing the baton” to his dear friend knowing and believing that the race to carry the name of Jesus to others must continue until the King returns.

47 years after Herm Haakenson and his daughters began their race under the banner of The Sonshine Society, it can truly be said of them that they... *fought the good fight, they finished the race, and they kept the faith.* As was true for Paul, the time has now come for them to “pass the baton” to Bill Goodrich, who was discipled by Herm like Paul discipled Timothy, so that he can run the race marked out for him. The mission field is not going away. The big bubble of the Baby Boomer generation is just starting to impact Care Centers and senior centers across the United States and Canada.

Let’s continue to support and encourage Bill and his team to *run in such a way as to get the prize* (1 Corinthians 9:24 paraphrased) so that when it’s time for them to “pass the baton” they too will be able to say, *We have fought the good fight, we have finished the race, we have kept the faith.* The race to carry the name of Jesus to “a hidden people in plain view” must not end until He returns.

Chaplain Highland Goodman

In this, the final, issue of *Bits Of SonShine*, we will share a couple of the articles that have been published in this newsletter through the years, written by Care Center Volunteer missionaries across North America. They have inspired, encouraged, and taught us.

Reprinted from the April/May 2008 newsletter.

UNTO THE LEAST OF THESE

By BETTY BROWN, BIBLICAL MINISTRIES WORLDWIDE (BMW), MISSIONARIES TO THE DEAF AND DEAF-BLIND.

As we entered the room I saw him in the far bed. His beautiful brown, sightless eyes seemed to be glancing all around. He didn't hear our footsteps as we approached. He had ears, but couldn't hear. J.P. had recently been moved from his apartment at the Deaf/Blind Center to a convalescent hospital. Suffering from Diabetes and pancreatitis, he could no longer walk. Ever since Dee came to work at Commission on Compassion fourteen years ago, she had been his Caregiver. She placed her hand in his hand and, using ASL (American Sign Language), let him know it was her. He was startled as his eyes grew big with excitement and his whole face lit up. She hugged him and kissed his forehead repeatedly. She then emptied the caffeine-free Pepsi she had brought into a sipper cup with a built-in straw and fitted the lid on it. He eagerly began drinking the Pepsi.

Dee uncovered his feet and lower legs, and I was shocked to see skinny little legs and deformed, bony feet that were deep purple, almost black. She poured lotion into her hands and gently smoothed it over his cracked feet and ankles. He received a shaving preparation from her hands and dashed his face and neck several times. Dee took out his shaver and handed it to him. Whenever she visits, she brings the shaver from home because it would disappear if it were left there. He worked to turn the shaver on and when he felt it vibrating, he began to fervently shave himself: each cheek, his neck, forehead, the top of his bald head, ears, and sides of his face, again and again. He went over them repeatedly until his skin was red. Twice Dee moved to take the shaver but J.P. pushed her hand away and continued to repeat the process—probably for 5 or 6 minutes.

Then Dee introduced me, and J.P. wanted to hug me. I used the ASL that I knew to sign my name, that I loved him, and that Jesus loved him. He got a big smile and nodded his head. Dee went to the closet and retrieved an inflatable beach ball which she blew up til it was firm. She handed him the ball and he threw it toward her. Each time she would catch the ball and then place it back in his hands. She explained that she liked to do this as it gave him a bit of exercise.

Tucked under his blanket, close beside him on the backside of his bed, he had a Kleenex box. He kept it in this safe place because it contained his treasures—Kleenex, hard candies, Lifesavers, a small stuffed animal, and a bottle of Vicks. Dee “talked” with him for a while, assuring him that Jesus loved him, and prayed with him. She then filled his cup with cold water and told him goodbye, and we left. I had just seen the love of Christ in action—hands ministering to “the least of them”.

How about you? Could your hands become the hands of Jesus to serve these forgotten, and often neglected and unloved members of our society?

Reprinted from the Spring 1978 newsletter.

A LESSON

By LOIS MCKENZIE

Lois was part of the first Nursing Home Ministry team that Herm started prior to the establishment of SONShine. She wrote several of the large-print tracts, still in use today.

She seemed in a state of agitation—not knowing which direction to go. She faced her walker first in one direction, then the other, talking to herself all the while. I had invited her to our **SONShine** class but she was either unwilling to go or could not comprehend what I was saying. I left her there in the hall, still muttering and confused.

A short time later, Agnes appeared in the activity room. One of the nurses had put her in a wheelchair and brought her to our group. While I was pleased to see her there, I wondered if she would be able to participate in any part of the service. Perhaps she could enjoy the music.

She interrupted the class once when she spoke aloud and started to get up out of the wheelchair. Other Residents, concerned that she might fall, called me to quiet her down. I hurried over, patted her hand and tried to reassure her. She didn't seem to respond to my calming influence. Instead, she continued to talk strangely to me. It was important to her that she go to the altar rail. Poor dear, at times in her life she must have connected the altar rail with a church service. In her confusion she thought she was in church.

I continued to sit beside her, I didn't want her to cause too much commotion. She sat rather quietly through the remainder of the class. The speaker explained how one could know he was saved and going to Heaven. At the conclusion of the service, I bent down to tell Agnes I would bring her back to her room. She responded in her typically disturbed way. **That is, I thought she did.** Then I began to try to make sense out of her words. Her accent and extremely soft voice forced me to concentrate, to *really listen* to her.

I did listen and this is what Agnes said: *This has been the most wonderful hour I have spent in years. I now have a peace that I have not known for a long time. I want to go to my room so I can pray.*

That morning in our **SONShine** class, **GOD** pulled aside the veil of confusion and allowed Agnes to make a spiritual decision. Now, Agnes knows she is born again.

I learned something that day, too.



Herm visiting Marie and Minnie at Bethany of Silver Lake.

All of us who do Nursing Home/Care Center Ministry know the importance of music in ministry. As, or more, important than the spoken word, music can bring the gospel as well as soothe, comfort, brighten, and encourage the human heart with beautiful melody. We're so blessed with the divinely-inspired hymns of the faith to share with our Care Center friends. The large-print hymnals, piano music books, and sing-along CD's have helped many a ministry worker and blessed thousands in Care Centers who otherwise would no longer have the opportunity to sing and worship.

A thought from the past—still applicable today

MUSIC IS IMPORTANT!

By HERM HAAKENSON

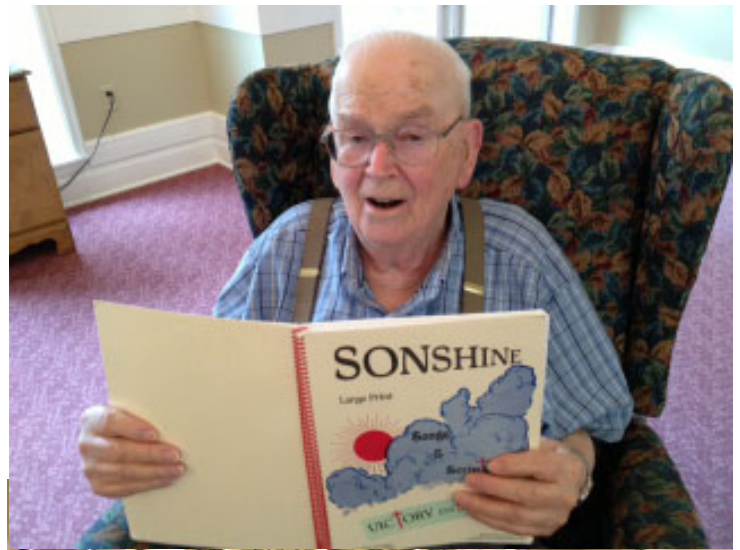
It is generally agreed that music is enjoyed by nearly all Nursing Home Residents. I have been told by Activity Directors that music in one form or another is the most enjoyed activity that they have. Chaplain Don Johnson of Nursing Home Ministries Inc. in the Portland, Oregon area bears witness to this in a recent item from his newsletter. He tells about a lady, named Virginia, who was very good about singing and taking part in the service. One day Don was sharing his thoughts about a certain Scripture and had apparently gotten "carried away" and in his enthusiasm had not noted that quite a bit of time had passed. When Virginia raised her hand Chaplain Don thought she wanted to make a comment on the topic he was enlarging upon. He asked what she wanted. Her reply was, "Can we sing another song?"



THIS IS A PICTURE OF *ONE BY ONE*, A MUSIC MINISTRY ENSEMBLE LED BY WANDA IRWIN. THEY ARE A VERY HARMONIOUS GROUP THAT MINISTERS THROUGH SONG IN NURSING HOMES AND CARE CENTERS IN THE PUGET SOUND AREA.

SINGING IS GOOD FOR BODY AND SOUL!

*A Merry Heart doeth good,
like a medicine!* Proverbs 17:22a



The three pictures above come from Covenant Shores Retirement Community in Mercer Island, Washington. Chaplain Greg Asimakoupoulos (right) leads services each Sunday and does visitation throughout the week. The gentleman at the top of the page is Vic Bergquist, whom Chaplain Greg has dubbed the Cliff Barrows of Covenant Shores! The other pictures are of weekly hymn-sings at the Shores!



CHILDREN IN MINISTRY



They all love it!! One Resident had told them that they were her “bright spots”, and she continually brings other Residents to join our circle of hymn singing. The Residents also sit down with the children and tell of their days growing up.



We sing seven songs with them (The Residents) and then ask the kids to give handshakes and hugs as they are leaving the room.



“Special Music” sung by children harmonizing is always a blessing! They play piano for hymns during the service, too!

ISAAC, MOSES, AND JOSHUA VISIT SEATTLE CARE CENTER

Yes, at Northgate Rehab in Seattle we actually had visits from Isaac, Moses and Joshua in 1999. Well, okay, they weren't the



I Biblical version of these three
S chosen servants but they made
A a big hit with the Residents.
A Jesus said, “*Suffer the little
C children to come unto me and
forbid them not for of such is
the Kingdom of **GOD***” and
“*except ye become as little
children ye shall not enter the
Kingdom of **GOD***”.

Isaac, is Isaac Nelson, grandson of team members Patty and Woodé. Moses is the

son of James and Farah Yusef and Joshua is the grandson of our team pianist and Scripture memorization leader Sharon. Isaac is a regular at Northgate. Joshua made several appearances and Moses was there only once. As you can imagine they all were a real hit with the Residents. We would encourage all of you who have a Nursing Home Ministry to make children a part of it if at



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J all possible. On the surface it
O would seem that young
S children would have only
H entertainment value, but folks,
U they can actually greatly
A enhance your ministry. How?
They soften hearts that have
been hardened by life and
make these hearts a more
fertile field for sowing the
Gospel. Well supervised
children are a real asset to your
ministry.

OK GIRLS

Not to be outdone by her male counterparts, pictured here is Laelani, granddaughter of our pianist Sharon. Laelani is hawaiian for “Heavenly Flower, though it is spelled (Leilani)”. She has been a frequent visitor and the folks feel she is “heaven-scent”. Not all children respond to a Nursing Home setting, but most do. Isaac, now 3, passes out books and shakes hands with the Residents. Joshua, Moses, and Laelani are too young for duties, but just right for charming folks! *Reprinted from the Dec/Jan 2000 newsletter, written by Herm Haakenson.*



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Reprinted from the October/November 1998 newsletter.

THE REST OF THE WAY

O FATHOMLESS MERCY, O INFINITE GRACE!
IN HUMBLE THANKSGIVING THE ROAD I RETRACE;
THOU NEVER HAST FAILED ME, MY STRENGTH AND MY STAY;
TO WHOM SHOULD I TURN FOR THE REST OF THE WAY?

THROUGH DANGER, THROUGH DARKNESS, BY DAY AND BY NIGHT
THOU EVER HAST GUIDED AND GUIDED ARIGHT.
I HAVE TRUSTED IN THEE AND PEACEFULLY LAY
MY HAND IN THY HAND FOR THE REST OF THE WAY.

THY CROSS ALL MY REFUGE, THY BLOOD ALL MY PLEA,
NONE OTHER I NEED, BLESSED JESUS BUT THEE.
I FEAR NOT THE SHADOWS AT THE CLOSE OF LIFE'S DAY,
FOR THOU WILT GO WITH ME
THE REST OF THE WAY.

SUBMITTED BY ISAAC TIESSEN



Pictured above is Trish manning SONSHINE's display table at a Christian Ministries convention in the late '70's. Herm and Trish went to a number of mission conferences, in Spokane and Seattle, as they endeavored to get the word out that Nursing Home Ministry is a needed mission field.

Pictured below is SONSHINE's own inimitable, irreplaceable, irrepressible, irresistible and dearly loved Uncle Ole. He was a common sight at many of SONSHINE's celebration dinners and at various training rallies held around the country and would bring much gaiety to the proceedings. Ole jokes have appeared in nearly every issue of the *Bits Of SonShine* newsletter and enjoyed by many. There's one on page 10.



In this photoset is Sharon, Patty, and Woodé having collated the first copies of the new *Heavenly SONShine Songs and Scriptures* hymnal in 2011 (top photo). This hymnal along with all the spiral bound resources were bound by SONSHINE's parttime bindery pro, Erling Anderson (lower photo). Erling had been binding the books at a bindery in Seattle, even before SONSHINE was doing its own printing.



The photo above was taken at the 13th Annual SONSHINE Celebration Dinner that took place at the Berean Church in Shoreline, Washington in 1986. For many years Herm would go out on the Puget Sound and the Strait of Juan de Fuca in his gillnetter *Good News* and catch salmon specifically to be prepared for the salmon dinners provided at these celebration dinners. The get-togethers were later planned to be presented every 5 years as the attendees were not just from the Pacific Northwest alone! Folks from many parts of North America took part, including missionaries from Canada.

SONSHINE

It is hard to put into words the meaning and impact of almost 50 years of service. **SONShine** began in one Care Center located in Lynnwood, Washington and has grown to literally thousands of ministries throughout the U.S. and Canada. Herm planted the seeds of this ministry called by **GOD**. Like-minded people near and far have watered the seeds and **GOD** has given the increase. We are so privileged to be a part of **GOD**'s work in this mission field. He loves and has provided for His children, aged and isolated from the mainstream. We have been blessed and called to be His hands extended.

When we evaluate the worth of an organization or an individual, as Christians we look with an eternal perspective. What is the fruit of our labor: a 90 year old accepting Christ as Savior at the close of her life; holding the hand of a dear saint so alone in this world; fellowshiping with those confined and unable to go to church; singing the long-loved hymns of our faith— Yes, **SONShine** has grown because of its commitment to these eternal values and the response of **GOD**'s people. Herm had a 3 point message to bring to the people of the church:

1. There is a need (in Care Centers in every community).
 2. You can do it (no special talent or training is needed. (Just the desire to serve and being faithful)
 3. We can help (**SONShine**, now God Cares, can help you get started). We have resources to assist.
- May the mission continue!

Sharon

SOME MAY GATHER MORE GOLD.
SOME MAY SMELL MORE FLOWERS;
ONE THING'S THE SAME FOR YOUNG OR OLD,
EACH DAY HAS 24 HOURS.
SOME DRINK MORE WATER, EAT MORE FOOD;
SOME HAVE MORE FAME OR POWER;
SOME BREATHE MORE AIR OR HAVE MORE HAIR
BUT WE ALL GET 24 HOURS.
SINCE TIME IS THE ONLY EQUAL THING
GOD'S CREATURES GET EACH DAY,
LET'S USE IT WISELY SERVING HIM
BEFORE IT SLIPS AWAY.
PHIL OSOPHY



CHAPLAIN BILL GOODRICH OF GOD CARES MINISTRY OF AVON LAKE, OHIO

Ole panicked when Lena went into labor with their first-born. He, unable to catch his breath, had managed to dial 9-1-1, Uh huh...

9-1-1 Dispatch: "9-1-1, is this an emergency?"

Ole (gasping for breath): "Wife...haf da baby...contractings...two minutes...Vot shewd Aye dew, vot shewd Aye dew?!?"

9-1-1 Dispatch: "Calm down sir, everything is going to be alright. Is this her first child?"

Ole (now in full blown panic mode): "NO...NO!!" "Aye yam Ole, her husband!!"

Reprinted from the February/March 2003 newsletter, written by **SONShine** founder Herm Haakenson.

THE ROOM AT THE END OF THE HALL

Much of the thrust of **SONShine** is toward open public ministry in Nursing Homes. This public ministry is usually conducted in the principal meeting place of the home—dining room or multi-purpose room. However, it is a fact that a good percentage of the Residents in Nursing Homes are bed-bound or at least room-bound and can't or won't come to the meeting room. There is a great need for personal ministry among these Residents. *Some folks* have seen this need and have responded, but *many, many more* are needed.

To those of you who minister in a group setting, we would challenge you to compliment your ministry in going to the bed-bound. It is indeed sobering to contemplate the despair and loneliness of those with no hope in this present world or the next. We have a message of Hope and our **LORD** gives a special blessing when we are with the completely helpless. To those who don't feel equipped for public ministry, we would urge you to consider being a Christian friend to the bed-bound. The fact that you are there in the name of our **LORD** is a Witness in itself.

Experience the joy of just serving in Jesus' name to those who are powerless to repay with earthly gain. Try it. We believe you'll like it! We know He will. There is likely someone waiting for you in **the room at the end of the hall**.

THAT YOUR LIGHT... MAY CONTINUE TO SHINE

What an honor it is for **GOD Cares Ministry** to receive the **SONShine Society's** baton. As we step up to this significant assignment, I ask for your prayers; that the **LORD** would guide and bless our efforts to continue what He started 47 years ago. Pray also that He will empower His servants to restart their visits as the care homes begin to reopen. I anticipate some changes in safety measures that will require patience. May we all be open to **GOD**'s grace and leading. If we acknowledge Him in all our ways, He will direct our steps and enable us to continue to shine His great Light.

Behind the scenes, we are gearing up to connect with you through our bi-monthly newsletter, and by phone or internet. We are also expanding our website and office in Avon Lake, Ohio to keep you well equipped with all of **SONShine's** and **GOD Cares'** resources. The **SONShine** offices will remain open until late April, and we hope to have everything transitioned to Ohio by mid-May.

As **SONShine** has so faithfully done, **GOD Cares Ministry** is here to serve you as you serve the Residents of care homes. May our **LORD** Jesus enable all of us to rise up through the devastation of the pandemic, the organizational changes, and any additional challenges that will come with time. To **GOD** be the glory for all He has done and will do as we abide in Him. (John 15:1-17)

In Christ's love and service with you. ~ Chaplain Bill Goodrich,
www.GODCaresMinistry.com



MARJORIE E. BELL
from Bruce Bell, husband

JOHN T. KANE
from Ruthie Maiden

HERM HAAKENSEN
from the SONShine Crew

MELANIE HARTER
from Sharon Haakenson,
great grandma



Many thanks for your wonderful heart for the elderly! I have been using your hymnbooks for nearly thirty years now, every week! Been through several sets of books and the Residents love singing the old hymns and they use the books with the fun songs (*Heaven, Heart, and Home*) with the CD's when I'm not there to play the piano! What a valuable service you have provided for me and the often forgotten in our society!

Mary P.
Illinois

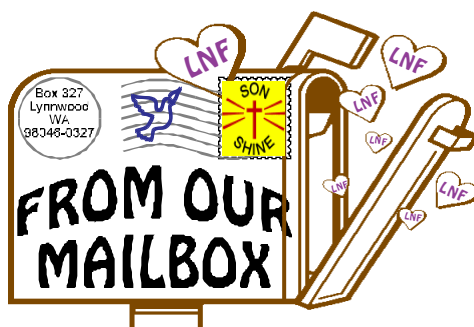
I was so saddened to just read about the end of SONShine, but encouraged that the resources will survive. Thank you so much for being there for 47 years!! WOW!! Your resources—Blessed so many—me included!

Patty, I have enjoyed our conversations on the phone when I first discovered your ministry/organization. You were like a "pen pal" and encouragement to me! Thank you! May the Lord bless you, always.

Virginia S.
Virginia

We served in playing music at 3 Care Centers for about 25 years, retiring in 2015. We are now 91 and 88. We always so enjoyed the SONShine newsletters and the music books. Thank you ever so much for your ministry. All praise to the LORD Jesus.

Leo and Alta H.
Idaho



You dear people have invested your life and heart in Nursing Home Ministry. Countless souls, including mine, are ever so grateful and thankful for GOD's faithfulness shown through you over the decades. My association with you has been sweet and lovely.

GOD bless you so wonderfully as you walk forward one step at a time towards that glorious day of seeing JESUS face to face!

Joel C.
New York

I want to thank you for all your years of service in reaching out to Residents in Nursing facilities.

I have been receiving your **GODLY**, precious, and inspiring newsletter for many years. My mother went into a Nursing Home in 2000. The Activity Director approached me to lead a Bible study for the Residents. At the time I was unsure if I was worthy enough or even biblically knowledgeable enough to teach. Someone introduced me to your "SONShine" materials. I ordered a Bible study, prayed fervently that the **LORD** wanted me to follow this decision. Praise **GOD** I have been doing this ministry for 20 years now, with the exception of the COVID interfering with personal contact and it's all from our **LORD** Jesus Christ and your **GOD** given inspiration. May **GOD** bless all of you!

Darlene P.
Ohio



"PASSING THE BATON"

SONShine IS TURNING OVER THE DISTRIBUTION OF ITS RESOURCE MATERIALS TO GOD CARES MINISTRY

A tear filled day as I try to digest your latest newsletter. Yet gratitude to **GOD** for the backdrop of SONShine thru 18+ years of what has been my main purpose in ministry. Thank you for your friendship, as from the beginning, you embraced me via phone and notes to make me feel so connected.

As I think random thoughts of my relationship with SONShine, I marvel at a book that could be written of the true miracles of **GOD** in stories of how so many of us became aware of and included into the **GOD**-appointed SONShine Society. My story, itself, causes me a few goosebumps!

As a Southern California beach community Christ-follower, reaching out to senior facilities to share the **LORD**, my story has been unlike so many I read in the newsletter. Fewer seniors seem to have had much interest in meaningful past church relationships. *Bible Devotionals* (as I've called my gatherings) are low priority in most Assisted Living and Nursing Homes, although I purposely make them joyful, applicable, and appealing. Over the years and over four facilities, I've encountered only five Activity Directors (who I work with) who have Christian leanings. Bible gatherings are not sought after or in demand in this area.

Since the COVID shutdown of all facilities, I've kept busy writing notes along with a Scripture or two to bring encouragement and a smile or two to a long list of folks whom I can no longer see each week. It's *one-way communication*, so I trust **GOD** to speak and bring comfort and care.

All joy when I read of SONShine persevering, inventing ways to keep on keeping on. So blessed to know **GOD** Cares Ministry is powering on and (as the slogan goes...) "*we're in this together*"!

GOD bless you and yours as your life changes now, but He is in all our tomorrows and He will shine through YOU! Thank you for your part in all of our lives! Love and gratitude!

Becky J.
California

Sorry to have been so long in supporting this excellent resource. We have found it to be a reliable source of instruction and Christian teaching.

Frank R.
Texas



P.O. Box 327 Lynnwood, WA 98046-0327
THE MAIN THING IS THAT THE MAIN THING REMAINS THE MAIN THING



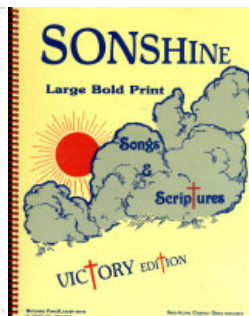
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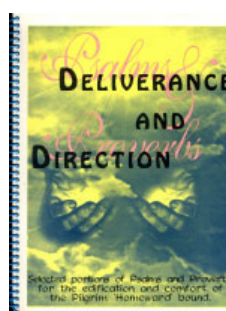
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Sing-Along CD's that match the hymnals. There are 5 **Heavenly SonShine** CD's, 4 **SonShine Songs and Scriptures, Victory Edition** CD's, and 3 **Heaven, Heart and Home** CD's, and they follow in page order with the hymnals.



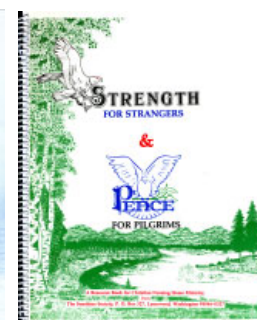
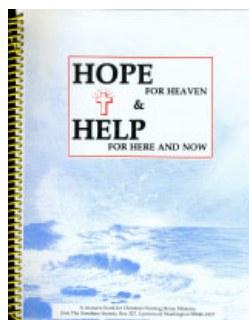
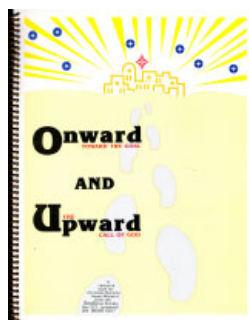
THE THREE LARGE-PRINT HYMNALS HAVE COMPANION PIANO/LEADER MUSIC BOOKS WITH GUITAR CHORDS.



THREE LARGE-PRINT SCRIPTURE BOOKS, WITH SCRIPTURE SELECTED FOR THE EDIFICATION AND COMFORT OF NURSING HOME RESIDENTS.

THERE ARE SEVEN 4-PAGE SALVATION TRACTS AND THREE 8-PAGE SALVATION TRACTS, EIGHT ARE SHOWN HERE.

THE THREE DEVOTIONAL BOOKS, WRITTEN WITH A FOCUS ON THE NURSING HOME RESIDENTS SPIRITUAL WELL BEING.



GOING HOME

Do you remember those winter nights when you had chores to do? Despite the heavy machinery, the fleece-lined earmuffs, and thick wool mittens, you could feel the cold piercing into your body. It seemed that the icy cold would freeze you from the inside out as you inhaled the frigid air. There was only one thought pushing you on. You had to finish the job so you could return home.

DO YOU REMEMBER?

...the old Sears, Roebuck catalog? Its arrival was a time of great joy. Everyone wanted a turn looking through the pages of marvelous merchandise. Mother dreamed over the elegant parlor organ. It was something she had always wanted. To her, owning an organ spoke of refinement.

WHAT'S IMPORTANT?

A MAN OF 90 THINGS ARE IMPORTANT TO HIM. THE WORLD LOOKS AT MATERIAL THINGS - CARS, HOUSING, AND MONEY. JESUS SAID, "A MAN'S TREASURED HERE, NOT COMETH BY THE THINGS HE POSSESSES." I WOULD LIKE TO SHARE WITH YOU MY GREAT-EST TREASURE...

SOME FOLKS CHURN all their lives!

Many of us have had the experience of "churning" butter when we were youngsters. Sometimes, we would just get the churn going and the cream inside would turn into butter. Other times we could churn and churn and nothing would happen. We may have thought, "It's no use!" But we didn't throw the cream out - we started in again. Then, just a few more

DETOUR!

Most of us have experienced speeding down a smooth, wide highway only to be brought to a screeching halt by a large sign reading "DETOUR". That meant we had to reduce speed and settle for less comfort as we took a rough side road. But, haven't we found that the detour was not so bad after all? It caused us to drive more slowly. By doing so, we came closer to and cleaved better the

AS SIMPLE AS A B

I remember my first reading experience. The first grade teacher had assembled a group of children around her. We were each given a book and told to turn to the first page. We were intrigued by the colorful pictures of Jane, Dick and Spot. Then, the teacher asked, "How many of you would like to learn to read?" We were all impatient to enter that new world, so a dozen hands shot up into the air, mine included. We looked at the teacher, waiting for her

Priming The Pump

Many today do not appreciate the conveniences found in the home. Flip a switch - light; turn a thermostat - heat; open a faucet - water. In bygone years, it was not that simple. A kerosene lamp provided light; a potbelly heater furnished heat and a squeaky pump produced water. While we have only praise for the quality of water given by the old pump, we fault it for the demands made BEFORE responding.

Ready or Not... Here I Come!

"Long ago and far away, There was a game we used to play."

Yes, for most of us it does seem long ago and far away that we played "Hide and Seek." This was in a day when there was more room to hide and more time to seek. WHAT A GAME! It could