

**Good News Ministry's**  
**Christmas Day Tradition**

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**Good News Ministry is a non-profit 501C3 Christian Ministry**  
**Box 3193**  
**Mission Viejo, Ca 92690**  
**(949) 348-1284**  
[www.GoodNewsMinistry.net](http://www.GoodNewsMinistry.net)

## 1. Introductory Message from Sam

Dear Brother or Sister,

**Christmas Day... a joyful, fun, hectic, and exciting day... at least for most of us; unfortunately not for everyone. For some it is the loneliest and most depressing day of the year.**

**The Christmas Day Tradition ministry program explained here will bless you, your family, and others for many years.**

**My name is Sam Parsons and I am a missionary pastor and Director of Good News Ministry. We are a missions organization that visits thousands of people each year, in hospitals, nursing homes and retirement facilities. We bring them the love and hope of Christ.**

**For just a moment consider what it would be like if you had no-one to share Christmas with.**

**Perhaps you remember Ebenezer Scrooge from Charles Dickens "A Christmas Carol". In a scene from one of the movie versions, young Ebenezer was at boarding school.**

**Christmas time came and all the young men were laughing and running about, excited about going home for Christmas, but not young Ebenezer. He was left behind. What a sad scene that was!**

**Well, in skilled nursing homes, and hospitals, all over our nation, thousands of people experience that same loneliness. They are left behind, alone, abandoned on Christmas Day. It happens something like this . . . for some, a family member will come to take Aunt Martha or Grandma or Grandpa home for Christmas dinner . . . at least for a few hours. But others with no family or friends are left. They had no one, these lonely forgotten dear old people sitting in half-lit hallways, or in cold dark rooms, lit only by the flicker of TV light. Rock music may be blaring on hallway speakers. Usually Christmas dinner consists of a cold turkey sandwich, served by a skeleton crew who themselves have been left behind. It can be a terribly sad place, full of loneliness, doubt, bitterness, and frustration. As the day drags on, the general feeling that No One really CARES about me, sets in. Many feel even God has forgotten them for Christmas!**

**This is where you come in . . . the exciting family Christmas Day ministry program I mentioned earlier.**

**Each year on Christmas Day we visit thousands of people like the ones I described. We storm into these nursing homes and hospitals with smiles, laughter and singing. The halls are filled with children running about, hugging and kissing, joyous and singing. For one glorious day we come Ho Ho Ho-ing our way into their lives and hearts with the love of Jesus.**

**Giving is a wonderful thing to do, and Christmas is about giving, not merely getting! The lesson this will teach your children and your children's children will be a legacy that will be treasured for a lifetime. Pray what God would have you do.**

**There will always be greater need than you or I can personally meet. See if God is directing you to give of yourself in this way. I believe you will experience great joy and**

**confidence walking in His strength. Just visiting one lonely soul on Christmas day will make a wonderful difference in their life.**

**Read James 1:27 and pray.**

**A Christmas day visit can be as simple as stopping by one nursing home, and knocking and entering one room to say Merry Christmas. Or perhaps, you could just take a gift to someone, or sing for someone. Some may wish to make it even grander by buying, wrapping and giving dozens or even hundreds of gifts, with singing and hugging and loving up a hundred people in one or several nursing homes or hospitals.**

**This special ministry can become your own family tradition. It can take on your family's personality and flavor. Below are some suggestions on how to get started at making a difference in the lives of others. I promise, it will change your life as well.**

**Enjoy this Family Christmas Day adventure, and thank you for taking the time to consider what God would have you do.**

**In Christ service,**

**Sam Parsons  
Senior Pastor/Director  
Good News Ministry**

## **2. Mission Statement**

### **Our Statement of purpose:**

To share the hope, and the encouragement of God to the sick, aged, and infirm.

To visit widows, orphans, and the prisoners with the love of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

To articulate the calling God has put on our hearts through His Word, and through music, and a spirit of joy.

### **Our Spiritual mandate:**

... based on James 1:27

“Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.”

### **Our Driving Directive:**

... based on Proverbs 17:22a

“A cheerful heart is good medicine”

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### 3. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

*Q: What is this unique ministry?*

A: This program is designed for one day of the year . . . **Christmas day!**

It is an exciting day for sharing God's love by taking the love of Christ to the shut-ins and forgotten people in hospitals and nursing facilities who are left all alone on Christmas Day.

*Q: Why should I even consider visiting on Christmas day?*

A: Here's one reason (especially if you have children)... kids know all about "getting" on Christmas, but this is a fantastic way to teach them the lesson of giving. It's a practical, living example of Christ's love in action . . . sharing your family's love at Christmas.

Remember the Word says:

*"For God so loved the world that He gave! . . ."*

*Q: But why Christmas Day?*

A: Skilled nursing homes and hospitals typically use a small crew for holiday coverage. The main kitchen staff, nursing staff, janitors, drivers, activity department etc., and people with seniority or clout typically have Christmas Day off.

Some patients and residents have families that are able to visit them, or possibly even take their loved ones home for Christmas dinner. But left behind are those who have no one. These 'forgotten ones' are the main focus of this Christmas Visitation Program.

Usually the facility lights are turned down to conserve energy, the overhead music is blaring Rock n Roll or Hispanic music. The residents usually have cold turkey sandwiches, or something that may resemble a turkey dinner for Christmas dinner.

The crew may be unhappy to be there and residents have resigned themselves to a lonely Christmas. Even sadder, you may find some residents sitting by the doorway, anxiously waiting for a family member, who often will never come. As Christmas Day slowly ebbs away with no visitor, the gripping loneliness and isolation set in.

But . . . it may not be as hopeless as it seems. There can be a miracle of hope even for the one with no family left in the entire world. That hope, that miracle, is . . . you!

And it gets better... this could also be the best Christmas your family has ever had.

## 4. Ten Easy Steps for Your Visit

1. **Locate a Nursing home** or Hospital in your area by looking in the phone book under Convalescent Care or Hospitals. Or go to [www.Newlifestyles.com](http://www.Newlifestyles.com). This site is designed for your particular area and will assist you in locating a nearby facility.

2. **Call Ahead** of your visit, and ask to speak to the Activity Director or Social Services Director. If they are not available, leave a message that you are coming with the nurse's station. You may wish to find out how many beds they have. For those that wish to bring gifts, it will give you an indication of how many to bring.

3. **Leave a Gift if possible.** If you are buying gifts for the residents or patients, we suggest you buy a few extra to bless the staff who are working that day. Even if a patient is away for the day, leave a gift on their bed for when they return. Be sure to wrap all your gifts to give them something to open. We suggest you wrap men's gifts in one color paper, and women's in another. This will avoid confusion. (There are usually 3 women to 1 man.) You may need to help unwrap their gift by tearing a corner or two for them. It's a great idea to have one of your children hand out the gift with a cheerful "**Merry Christmas / God loves you!**" (Our children hand out the gifts as my wife pulls them out of a large sack.)

4. **Be careful** to not have too many people in your party in a room at the same time. More than perhaps 4 or 5 in a room could overwhelm some residents/patients.

5. **Go in cheerful**, and excited to see them. Even if they fail to respond to you, give them the love of God.

6. **Walk the hallways singing.** Stop for a minute or two at each room. If you enter a room to hand out gifts, or sing songs, always knock before entering. Singing in the hallways, while your children or one of your party knock on rooms, and give hugs and gifts will help you cover more rooms in less time. Remember . . . if you are only able to visit one room on that day it is better than visiting none.

7. **Talk to them.** Ask them their names, ask for song requests. Hugs and kisses are wonderful gifts to bring as well.

8. **Look for the subtleties.** Be sensitive to their tears. Don't be upset when they cry, they need to cry. Cry with them.

9. **Memorize a few songs.** If you are playing a guitar or leading singing, memorize at least three or four songs. It may be difficult in the heat of the moment to be looking at a song book.

10. **Be blessed!** Be prepared to have your socks blessed off!

\* just a side note: Don't forget to consider whoever is preparing the Christmas dinner at home. Remember, if you are planning on eating together as a family, your family chef needs your help and heartfelt understanding. Christmas dinner may need to be simplified or pre-planned differently than you have done in the past. Consider a sharing time after dinner to chat about what you observed and your various experiences.

## **5. Suggested Gift ideas**

Selecting gifts to hand out at nursing homes or hospitals can be as simple as a candy cane, or as elaborate as a fancy sweater or home-made quilt. Your family budget is the only constraint. We have found some unique ideas have popped up over the years...

For instance, our family visits approximately 300 to 400 patients each Christmas Day. That's a lot of Christmas wrapping to do.

My wife's bible study group has a Christmas wrapping party in early December, their own special time where they have desserts, coffee, tea, etc. and lots of Christmas singing and laughter while they wrap all our Family's give away gifts. Some of these ladies even quilt and sew to create more gifts, as well as create wonderful treats to give away. This could be a church project or merely a one family project. Or, perhaps two or three families can go in together buying gifts, wrapping gifts, lining up the song sheets, the music etc.

### **Some gift suggestions:**

Cute stuffed animals, real looking baby dolls, hair clips, combs and brushes, lap blankets, socks, baseball caps, decks of playing cards, perfume, lotions, cologne, little boxes, sweaters, or shawls, or anything your imagination can dream of.

Pray about it as you go out shopping.

## 6. “You are My Christmas Person” Gift Idea

Here’s an additional great idea to provide the nursing home or hospital patient. Consider that many patients have either no money or no ability to shop yet they, too, would like to give a gift to family or friends.

So... below is an example of a card we give out to people each Christmas season. It is an “I will pray for you Gift Card”. Hand one or more out blank to a patient, ready to be filled in. It is a neat way for you to provide these patients with something of their own to give when they have no resources to buy anything. It is a very special and unique way of sharing God’s love. We annually give out thousands of these cards.

The following explanation is given verbally, or provided out on a separate little piece of paper to explain how it works. If you just want to verbally explain the card, say this...

*“This card is a gift you can give to anyone you choose. All you need do is select your Christmas Person prayerfully, fill in their name, then your name, and give it to them.*

*Please be sure to sincerely pray each day for the person, as you are promising to do when you sign this card. It will be an awesome blessing for that person to know someone is praying for them.”*

Feel free to copy this paragraph just above and print up as many as you need.

For the card itself (shown on the next page), we make them look nice by printing them on 100 lb book stock in red and green type. The person giving the card could really make it look nifty by signing with a gold pen, but it’s not necessary. Please feel free to copy this card below as is, or perhaps create your own idea.

# Christmas Person

Dear \_\_\_\_\_

You are my New Year’s Christmas Person.

This gift I am giving you is my year’s most special Christmas gift.

I pledge to you, my Christmas Person, that I will pray for you each and every day this next year. I will be lifting you up before God for His tender mercy and grace to fill your life. This gift is given in faith and love, knowing securely that God is going to richly bless you, for He is faithful.

In Christ’ love,

\_\_\_\_\_



## 7. Feedback Form

Dear Ministry Partner,

If you took the opportunity to visit people on Christmas Day please drop us a line and let us know how it went. We would very much appreciate you filling out this short questionnaire, to help us learn how we can serve better. Thank you for stepping up and serving our Lord.  
May God continue to bless you.

Yours in Christ' love,

Sam Parsons  
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Box 3193  
Mission Viejo, Ca 92690  
(949) 348-1284    [www.goodnewsministry.net](http://www.goodnewsministry.net)    Fax (949) 305-4551

### Feedback Form

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What is the name of your home church? \_\_\_\_\_

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Your name

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Address

---

City

---

State

---

Zip

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Name of the senior facility you visited

How many were in your family ministry group? \_\_\_\_\_

How many people do you estimate you were able to minister to? \_\_\_\_\_

How did you feel about your Family Christmas Day Ministry experience?

                                                                    
Excellent    Great      Good      Fair      Ok      Did not enjoy it

Comments: