

threefold cord ministries



Friends of the Forgotten

January 2012

We are frequently asked about the name of this ministry, *Threefold Cord Ministries*...where it comes from and what is the significance of the name. Well, it comes from the Bible and is taken from a portion of scripture that is titled in some translations as *The Value of a Friend*. **“Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor. For if they fall, one will lift up his companion. But woe to him who is alone when he falls, for he has no one to help him up. Again, if two lie down together, they will keep warm; but how can one be warm alone? Though one may be overpowered by another, two can withstand him. And a threefold cord is not quickly broken.” Ecclesiastes 4:12 NKJV**

There are obvious benefits to having a friend. Friendship meets needs that every human being has; needs for help, for comfort and even for protection. From a spiritual perspective those needs are met in a deeper way, as we place God in the middle of our friendships...that is the “threefold cord” that this ministry to those who might otherwise be alone represents. A “friend to the forgotten” that offers through Jesus what even the very best of friends cannot provide alone.

I was recently reminded of the value of a friend as I sat watching my daughter at a memorial service for her friend. This friendship began as a work relationship, but grew into much more. Though they were separated in age by some 63 years, there was no distance in the connection they had and the depth of care and compassion they had for each other. As silent tears fell down my daughter’s face I saw the great impact that comes from sharing in the life of another person; in the joyful times and the trials, and even in pain of the goodbyes. The value of a friend... it’s a blessing and a treasure. It’s a gift from God to gratefully receive, but also to share.

This mission work to the forgotten is impossible to share without supporters who place value in the ministry of being a friend to those who are alone and in need... But even more importantly, who value and understand that the needs of those this ministry serves are only met completely through the love and grace of Jesus Christ. What this ministry provides in a moment of friendship and encouragement is temporal, but the message of hope and salvation that it provides is eternal; and a message that so many are desperate to hear, and to receive.

As we enter 2012 we are grateful for the faithful support that sustains this work to those who are alone and facing their final days. Thank you for being a part of the “threefold cord” that is a friend to the forgotten ones. God bless you!

Bob and Diane Doering

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