



4196 Center Road
Brunswick, Ohio 44212

Ecclesiastes 3:11 & 22:...He has planted eternity in the human heart.... So I saw that there is nothing better for people than to be happy in their work. That is why they are here!

A few months ago I sent out a letter to inform you that I was stepping down as the Executive Director due to a serious heart problem I had developed. The Search Committee found Audra to replace me as the new Executive Director. She has been able to continue the vision and work I have dedicated my life to at Oaks Family Care Center. Now I would like to share the rest of the story, as an old radio broadcaster would say.

In October of 2009, doctors told me that my heart was only functioning at 18% and was enlarged as the result of a virus. Because the heart damage was gradual and not like a heart attack, this came as a surprise since this doesn't run in my family and I had no other heart problems. With medication and a pacemaker the hope was to raise my heart's functioning capacity to 30%. The first specialist did not give me much hope of a long life but said that my demise would be "quick and painless!" I therefore urged the Search Committee to do their search quickly so I would have time to train the new Director.

Maintaining the needs of Oaks, which included a variety of groups and counseling, was very difficult for me because of my low energy level and other physical problems, caused by low heart functioning. However, my family, staff, and volunteers helped to fill the gaps. People began to pray for me and my needs were put on many different prayer chains. I felt God's presence and His peace during this time. There was so much that I had to be grateful for so I told people that when this old heart stopped God had a new body waiting for me in heaven. I felt sad for my family because of the grief this was causing them, but I was ready for the journey that would end this life and open up into a new dimension with my Lord. I trusted Jesus to walk with me through it all.

In April I was referred to a pacemaker specialist who repeated a series of tests to see how my heart was functioning before putting in the pacemaker. When the doctor read us my test results he exclaimed, "You have experienced a miracle!" My heart was functioning at 54% which is in the low normal range and I would **NOT** need a pacemaker! The heart failure specialist told me to go home, he also didn't need to see me again! I feel better today than I have in a very long time - I am so thankful to God for His healing touch!

Thank you for all your prayers, God heard them. I know now that my work here isn't finished. Oaks Family Care Center is stronger today because of the new leadership team that includes the new Executive Director and a strong Board of Directors. Serving God through Oaks Family Care Center continues to be a joy and God has clearly shown me that the work he has begun is not finished.

Because of my illness the plans for converting to a medical center were postponed. Audra will continue to move the Oaks forward in this area, however, space at Oaks is used to the fullest and we have had to utilize other facilities for some of our larger groups. This limited space also limits our services and what we can provide for people. After much prayer, Stan and I have decided to expand the building to be able to meet the growing needs of Oaks. We have gotten approval from the Brunswick zoning board and are now looking for a loan to provide the capital needed for this construction. This building expansion is our "Faith In Action" and will not cost the Oaks anything. We are trusting the community to unite with our faith to help us with this project. If you have a talent or resource that could help with this project please give Stan a call, but what we really need is to cover this project with prayers.

Betty