

Unity Acres
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40th Anniversary

Dear Friends of Unity Acres,

Today is the first day of the rest of your life

Hi there! It's been a long time since we've spoken... I've missed that. So many things have happened; I don't know where to begin.

Let's start at the beginning! Peaches (my cat) passed away last year, and she is sorely missed. Old people have left, new people have taken their places. In other words, things are normal here at the Acres.

Hold it, time for a cup of coffee! ... I'm back and the coffee tastes good. I'm stalling because I don't know where to begin. It is so magnificent, it is hard to believe and it has happened to me. We had talked about our belief in God and miracles and things like that. For me it was always kind of light and airy.

I believe in God. In every corner, in every fiber of my existence. In case you are missing it, I am leading up to something! What say we jump right in!

Almost ninety days ago, perhaps a little more, I became quite ill. (That is an understatement!) Most people figured I was a goner. Everybody except God! He has other things for me to do! Today I believe that! Anyhow! --- I slipped into a coma, and there I stayed.

While I was under, many things were shown to me. Many things.

At first they didn't make sense, then slowly, very slowly the fog started to lift. (Our God must shake His Head every time He sees me.) I have a tendency to be thick at times.

According to the hospital, I was in a coma for sixty-one days. Many people, including my own doctor, had me slated for Boot Hill. I realize I've been repeating myself, but it still amazes me.

God had taken me from death's door, shown me His power, shown me the beauty of Heaven, shown me Who is really in charge. In reality, He showed Himself to me. Not the Burning Bush, or Moses type, but in a way that's relative to me.

If anyone doubts, send him/her to me.

There are many miracles in my life. Many indeed.

My sobriety! My lack of faith - healed!

The great condition of the Acres is in itself a miracle. In my own life the Acres steered me back to God's family. They gave me back my dignity.

This article is too long to stand by itself. So I am going to divide it into three segments.

God is Good!

God is at the Acres!

God is our Guide.

John Lusby

It has been a few years since I have had the privilege of writing a segment for this newsletter and I wanted to let everyone know how I am doing. I celebrate my sixth year of sobriety this year and it is in part due to the loving open arms shown to me by the entity that is Unity Acres. In case you have forgotten I will give a quick recap of my story. I came to Unity Acres on December 4, 2003 totally broken as a person; also spiritually my journey had not yet begun. I was a full-time alcoholic for the better part of thirty-five years and I became homeless six months prior to arriving at Unity Acres. I have (as I mentioned earlier) stayed sober since the day I got there. I have an apartment now where I have been living for almost two and a half years. I held a good job at a local hardware store for almost three years, and now I am a self-employed general contractor. I am currently going to night school to earn my General Equivalency Diploma so I can begin attending nursing school in the fall of this year. It is my desire to become an LPN.

Since I left the Acres many wonderful things have happened to me. While I was there I was led to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. I received my ordination as an independent Christian minister in 2007 and I am currently working with my church (Pulaski Wesleyan Church) to help the men at Unity Acres find Jesus in their lives and to grow in their walk with Him. I feel as though this is part of what God has called me to do as part of His will for my life. (It is also a great way for me to give back to the Acres for all they did for me.) I feel to this day a genuine bond to Unity Acres and I never wish for that bond to cease. I still have days when the world gets to me as all of us do, but now I have God to Whom I can cast all of my troubles without fear of being rejected. It has truly been a journey for me and I look forward to seeing my Savior face to face someday soon

Well that is all for now, my wishes for a healthy and prosperous year to all of you, and I hope to write to you all again very soon.

In Christ,
Rev. Bill Bogart

Needs: Baseball Gloves, Baseballs, Used Guitar

Please continue to remember our friends and former residents in nursing homes and other institutions:

*LEWIS SCHREIBER and FRED BUSHNOE, Both at: Vale Haven Manor, 24 E Oneida St, Oswego NY 13126

*GEORGE WHITE, 94-B-0605, Woodbourne Correctional Facility, 99 Prison Road, P O Box 1000, Woodbourne NY 12788-1000

*EUGENE RODRIGUEZ, Pontiac Nursing Home, 303 E River Road, Oswego NY 13126

*DENNIS MURRAY, Rosewood Nursing Home, 614 S Crouse Avenue, Syracuse NY 13210

*ROBERT ANGEL, Maple Manor Adult Home, Canning Factory Road, Richland NY 13144

*TOM WOJCIKIEWICZ, WALTER BERGMAN, both at: Sunrise Nursing Home, 17 Sunrise Drive, Oswego NY 13126

June/July/Summer Prayer

Note: The month of June and the First Friday of each month are devoted to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Patron of our chapel at Unity Acres. This center of prayer and worship is in our 'B' or 'Main' Building. How richly symbolic is the nearness of our chapel to the business, meeting and communication places. The 'nuts & bolts, dollars & cents,' day-to-day realities are thus united to the sacred place, and the Sacred One, so near. The sanctuary lamp, ever burning, reflects the silent, humble, but real presence of Jesus in our midst. Here, Eucharist is celebrated and renews Christ's presence, and the love of His Sacred Heart. (But) the chapel is for everyone, whatever their faith journey. All – residents, staff, visitors – are welcome. May they sense the welcome of Him who says: "Come to me, all you who are weary ... Learn from me, for I am meek and gentle in heart." – Matthew 11: 28-29

(A Prayer Box is the entrance to the chapel, to receive any and all prayer requests. They in turn are entered in our Prayer Intention Book. Thus all requests are perpetually brought to the altar of God.)

Sacred Heart

"They shall look upon Him Whom they pierced"
– John 19:37, Feast of the Sacred Heart

Thank You, Jesus, for our spring and summer seasons, each with their unique beauty. May we know that You, Ruler of all times and seasons, bless us still more by the love of Your Sacred Heart. Grant that our hearts will respond with love.

Freedom

"If you obey My teaching, you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." – John 8: 32

We humbly thank You, Lord, for our freedom. Have mercy on us if in any way we have abused it or disregarded the responsibility that goes with it.

By Your grace, may we break free from all those addictions which lead to spiritual and moral – and other – imprisonment.

Father Robert Jones