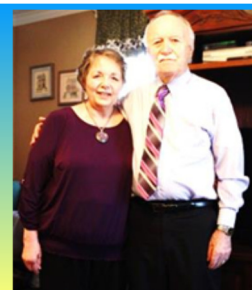




From one heart—
To another heart



Spring 2017 Comforting others with the comfort we receive from the God of all comfort

Musings—Expressing Our Beliefs

Christians express belief in many ways, especially during the Easter season. On **Ash Wednesday**, some Christians have ashes put on their forehead, signaling the start of the 40 days of **Lent through Good Friday**, a period of fasting and praying leading up to the death of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Today there is far less awareness of what this means than in my growing up years. For example, when one of the commentators on a TV channel appeared with ashes on her forehead, the anchor noted that he hadn't yet been to church, letting others know that there was some meaning related to the smudge on her face. On **Palm Sunday**, many churches hand out palm branches to express Jesus' triumphant ride into Jerusalem the week before His crucifixion, death, and resurrection. Other Christians participate in music and drama of **The Last Supper**, depicting DaVinci's renowned painting of that name, the time when Jesus taught His disciples the basics of servanthood and about His coming death and its meaning for them. **Easter**, the celebration of Jesus' resurrection, is misused to be characterized by bunnies and colored eggs, symbols related more to spring than to the hope of the Resurrection for believers. (Don't misunderstand—I like chocolate bunnies and coloring eggs, but not as the message of Easter!)



Throughout the year Christians use visual symbols to express belief. The most recognizable, perhaps, is wearing a simple **cross necklace**. In this era of using initials to express belief, the **WWJD bracelet** was popular for quite a while, reminding the wearer in a difficult situation to ask, What Would Jesus Do? I wear a bracelet that says simply **Imprisoned with Them**, a bracelet provided by *Voice of the Martyrs* organization, reminding me to pray for those being persecuted for their faith and letting others know that I do so. One example of that persecution is in Iraq where doorways of Christians are painted with “**N**” for **Nazarene**, or Christian. The Christians have been told by the terrorists to convert, pay an exorbitant fine, get out, or die. Newscasts have covered at least the most extreme pictures of what it means to be N.

At **Grandma's Comfort** we express our Christian belief by giving a **cup of cold water in Jesus' Name** (Mark 9:4). The back of the **GC** cards in each gift bag invites the recipient to believe in Jesus:

Volunteers made this gift bag for you to show God's love, peace and comfort in action. We hope it will bring you joy and a smile to your face! ☺

God loves us so much that He sent His Son Jesus to

- die for our sins and become the Way back to the Father in Heaven,
- be raised again to life so that we may have a new life in Him here on earth and live with Him forever, and
- teach us to love Him and others.

Put your faith in Him and ask Him to forgive your sins. He promises to throw our sins far away. Become part of His family today! He cares for you! (Read John 3:16 in the New Testament.)



May your Easter be filled with the Joy of Jesus, the Comfort of His Holy Spirit, and the Hope of the Resurrection!

Blessings—Richly Showered on Us

Do you ever wonder why some people (including me) sign their letters “Blessings” or “Be Blessed”? As I pondered what to write about in this section of the *Newsletter*, I thought about what I actually mean by that. The Scriptures, of course, are full of “**blessings**.” In the Beatitudes taught in the Sermon on the Mount (see Matthew 5:1-12), Jesus used the expression “**Blessed are . . .**” to refer to the poor in spirit, those in mourning, the meek, those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, those who are merciful, are pure in heart, are peacemakers, and are persecuted because of righteousness. Standing for the Doxology in church we sing, “**Praise God from Whom all blessings flow**. Writing to the Roman Christians, the Apostle Paul reminds them and us that the **Lord blesses all who call on him**” (Romans 10:12). Paul also tells us that “we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said, **it is more blessed to give than to receive**” (Acts 20:35). So, hopefully, what we mean when we sign our letters with “Blessings” is an attitude or behavior that **showers** God's blessings on us. The hymn writer expresses this desire:

*Showers, showers of blessings, Showers of blessings we need;
Mercy drops round us are falling, But for the showers we plead.* (Daniel W. Whittle, 1840-1901)

Opportunities of the Month

As we examined the amount of children's inventory donated to us following the Christmas extravaganza, we determined to expand our outreach to **children and young people** in difficult situations. Three immediate opportunities were opened. First, to an orphanage and school in **Haiti** we sent: 100 beanie babies, numerous toys, toiletries, teen devotional readings, and a **GC** card signed by all the volunteers who wrote encouraging notes. Second, **GC** crafters had created so many children's hats, scarves, and mittens that we were able to send bags and boxes full to **Reo School** in Lansing, followed by 50 toys, and 400 party bags for the school to use for the little awards given to children.

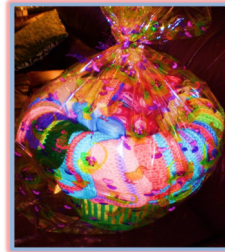


Melissa's Hope Orphanage/School



Third, God brought to our attention **Gateway Youth Services** in Lansing, MI. Their 18-month residential program assists youth ages 18 through 20 who have aged out of the foster home system, have nowhere to live, and do not have life skills, jobs, or college opportunities. The program also gives temporary shelter to children ages 12 through 17 who have run away from home, are homeless, or are experiencing family conflict, abuse, neglect, or improper supervision. What a terrific opportunity for **GC** to provide large welcome bags filled with needed personal items, crafts and games, and the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This opportunity will be ongoing monthly!

Our end-of-year inventory count revealed a large number of handcrafted scarves and hats for women, thanks to the fantastic efforts of the **GC** crafters! A pathway was opened through churches in Oakland County, MI, to deliver about 25 sets to street women and another 25 sets to a community center for those in need. At a very cold time of year, these items were such a perfect opportunity to give help in Jesus' Name!



Easter basket of handcrafted washcloths by Karen

Thank Yous

Grandma's Comfort is richly blessed by the many **thank you** notes others shower on us in response to the gift bags we send.

Dear Sir or Madame, Hello, my name is D.G. and I was given a care package from your organization through City Rescue. Thank you tremendously for your blessings and biblical context. Best Regards.

Ladies, With much Love and God's Blessings I wanted to thank you all for my precious gift bag. In Christ's Love, K.M.

Dear Diane, thank you so much for your labor of love gift for Baby Albert. With his mom arriving in our country only 4 weeks before his birth, her primary concern has been clothes for the baby. What a beautiful blessing that big bag was for them! (picture of Baby Albert enclosed) ☺

Thank you. I love the blue scarf and yellow hat and make-up bag! And the drawing book. I really appreciate those things and the hugs and kisses mug was a bonus. I really feel loved. Those items made me feel special. I hope they are blessings that come your way as well as a lot of love. May God be with you. Thank so much. Love, B. ❤️

And what a blessing it is to hear about the impact the "cup of cold water" gift bags are having in Jesus' Name!

If you would like to receive e-notices when new information has been placed on the website, including the Letter from Diane and the Newsletter, please send your e-mail address to: grandmas.comfort@yahoo.com.

Current Needs

Financial support:

Send a check to address below or use your credit card on PayPal via our website at www.grandmascomfort.org

Purchased items:

Consider purchasing your online orders through Amazon Smile and selecting Grandma's Comfort as your charity. Every quarter Amazon sends **GC** a check for .5% of the purchases.

Gift items:

Jewelry—purchased or handcrafted
Cosmetic bags—handcrafted or purchased
Dressy scarves—may be gently used
Wallets—men or women
Manicure sets, nail clippers, emery boards
Bath & body sets
Fleece blankets
Tote bags
Birthday or baby cards—handcrafted or purchased
Handcrafted items—all kinds

Socks—all sizes, ages:

Toys, crafts, and small craft kits:

Stuffed animals, beanie babies
Drawing/sketch pads, colored pencils
Coloring and activity books, crayons, markers
Notebooks, composition books
Balls, cars, jump ropes, Frisbees
Jigsaw puzzles—adult and child
Yarn—may be left over from other projects

Personal Items:

Washcloths—new or handcrafted
Towel sets
Lotion—regular or travel size
Shower gel—regular or travel size
Razors and shave cream
Kleenex—pocket size
First aid kits
Sewing kits
Chapstick/lip balm
Deodorant
Soap—regular, travel size, or handcrafted
Toothbrushes & toothpaste
Shampoo—travel or regular size
Cough drops
Band-aids

Baby Items:

Baby blankets—handcrafted
Bibs—handcrafted or purchased
Diapers
Pacifiers
Hooded towels, washcloths
Diaper bags

THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH FOR ALL YOUR HELP— FOR ALL THE BLESSINGS YOU SHOWER ON US AND OUR CLIENTS!

Contact Us We'd love to hear from you! Feel free to tell your friends about the ministry of *Grandma's Comfort*.

Pay Pal: It is now possible to give cash donations to *Grandma's Comfort* through PayPal!

E-Newsletter: Besides print version, the newsletter is posted on our website.

WWW.grandmascomfort.org has a contact form. Please write to us.

Grandma's Comfort is a tax-exempt, 501(c)3 nonprofit charitable organization and is licensed by the State of Michigan.

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