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# JENKS BAPTIST CHURCH

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FROM THE HEARTLAND TO THE WORLD

Dear Pastors,

My name is Paul Foster and I started the Jenks Baptist Church in Jenks, Oklahoma about three years ago. I get letters of recommendations weekly from fellow pastors informing me of a ministry I should consider getting behind. Sometimes it's a little overwhelming. My heart goes out to them, for there is such a great need for these ministries and so little funding available. I have not written a lot of these letters, but I feel this one is definitely for this hour.

Let me take a moment and introduce to you my mother in law, Barbara Martin. She has been married to Gerald Martin for 50 years, has 4 children, 14 grandchildren, and 1 great grandson. The best word to describe her is passionate. She loves her country and she loves her Lord. She is a gifted songwriter and an accomplished soloist. She is well versed in our constitution and its original intent. But there is something she is involved in that is quite unusual and almost non-existent. In fact, in my opinion, is one of the neediest and neglected ministries in America today.

She has dedicated her life to reach those poor lost souls in nursing homes. I know it just breaks our hearts as pastors, to see those forgotten loved ones, war heroes, mothers and fathers, widows and widowers, put away, mostly for convenience sake and forgotten about. If I understand my Bible correctly, what Barbara is doing is the purest of "pure and undefiled religion". We need hundreds just like her that would go into these homes and be the last glimmering light that these folks would see. For many, this might be their last chance for salvation. For some, it might be a last good friend to say goodbye to. They love to hear her sing the old hymns. They cherish the tapes and CD's she leaves them. Many ask, with tears in their eyes, when she will be back to see them. Some have been won to the Lord.

I think I'm passionate about this today because my parents are both in their mid eighties, serving the Lord as missionaries for 57 years. I can't be there for them, for God has called us to different parts of the world. As they get older and should they decide to stay in Korea, I hope God puts a Barbara Martin in their lives.

Yes, it's great that you can have her come sing in your church. Yes, she can sing many original songs that she has written as well as some of the classics. She can hold seminars on the original intent of our forefathers. But in my opinion, the greatest thing she can do is be a blessing to the widows and widowers in our nursing homes across America. Even though many churches have nursing home ministries, this ministry should be looked into. Barbara is worthy of support and I encourage you to get to know her. Brothers, we don't have 50 different nursing homes ministries to choose from. These folks don't have much time. What a sad commentary, that our nursing homes can claim Psalm 142:4 which says, "I looked on *my* right hand, and beheld, but *there was* no man that would know me: refuge failed me; no man cared for my soul."

Serving Together for Him,

Paul Foster  
Pastor and Friend