

## LUTHERAN HEALTH MINISTRIES of the FOOTHILLS

Marcia Potter, RN, Parish Nurse (818/209-9535 or Salem\_Nurse@yahoo.com)

### *I MET YOU ONCE AGAIN IN A NEW DAY*

This month's thoughts are dedicated to special blessings that come through people, the passing of time and what that means to healing. Our Health Ministry continues to be very active witnessing to the private situations that impact our parishes, our work, our families and our very lives. I'm thinking, in particular, about two families with whom I visited over the past month. In both cases, a "family caregiving" team was drawn together to witness and respond to the crises. In both situations, family members were involved who were miles apart—across time zones and life circumstances. Through a Health Ministry *family caregiving team*, biological family members, acute and skilled care staff, financial services experts, pastors, parish members, neighbors and home health professionals circled around to be present at the bedside, over the phone and with each other. We assessed problems, searched for the best choices for care, made decisions together, and helped to safeguard and restore the opportunity for the elder family member(s) to live with dignity and independence. In short, we worked with heart, hands and souls to witness to God's call to be *advocates*.

When I respond to your calls, in behalf of this Health Ministry, I am carrying the Health Ministry vision and mission forward. At two homes this month, the doorbells were answered by elder members once so ill we wondered just how healing might come about and what life would look like on a day-by-day basis. In the days of reflection following our visits, what comes to mind is the degree of change and healing that has occurred. I think back over the months and the family stresses, and I see in their faces and hear in their voices a sense of renewed hope. I feel like I've met them once again in a new day—strengthened and lifted. Coming to peace with where they are now. How thankful I am for all of you who have partnered in faith to meet human and spiritual needs. Thank you God for the professionals, for the parish-family members, for the pastors and staff, and for the folks who responded with care when called.

***For this reason, ever since I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all of God's people, I have not stopped giving thanks to God for you. I remember you in my prayers and ask the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, to give you the Spirit, who will make you wise and reveal God to you, so that you will know him. I ask that your minds may be opened to see the light, so that you will know what is the hope to which he has called you, how rich are the wonderful blessings he promises his people, and how very great is his power at work in us who believe. Ephesians 1:15-19.*** Thank you good and gracious God for the gift and opportunity of family caregiving.