



October, 2023



Dear friends

You would have to be an “old-timer” to remember the logo used with this letter, since it was the very first logo when ALM ministry started in September of 1978.

September of 1978? If you do the quick math, you may recognize that ALM has just celebrated its 45th birthday! And I’m thinking it appropriate to reminisce a bit, thanking the Lord for all He has done through these years.

I found a scan of the first “brochure” we printed, in 1979. Although the reprint quality is not great, you will enjoy reading what Dad and Mom said 45 years ago, as they were just starting in this ministry. Noteworthy is that the beliefs and values they declared in the first two paragraphs remain the heartfelt beliefs and values even today, here at ALM.

Yes, ***He is still able to do exceeding abundantly more than we can ask or even think!*** (Ephesians 3:20) **HE CAME THAT WE MIGHT HAVE LIFE AND MIGHT HAVE IT MORE ABUNDANTLY!** (John 10:10)

I found an additional item of interest in a newsletter from that first year, May of 1979. Here again we rejoice in saying that this remains an accurate description TODAY of what we do here at ALM.

“A psychologist recently asked us to explain to him the counseling methods which we use here. We explained that our method is very simple... the person relates their problem to us and then we seek to discover Biblical principles which apply in the solution of that problem. And we pray, asking for God’s help in solving the problem. We know that God can make a way when, to us, there seems no answer. With Him, nothing is impossible!”

We are so grateful to the Lord, and also for YOU who have prayed and supported through these years!

John (for Sharon and the rest here at ALM)

Hi! We’re Norman and Betty Charles and we believe Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever! He is still able to do exceeding abundantly more than we can ask or even think! Praise the Lord!

In John 10:10 we read that Jesus came, that we might have life and might have it more abundantly. This is the Lord’s desire for His children.

For some time we have been sensing the Lord directing us toward a broader ministry in personal and family counseling. We prayed concerning a larger place, with space for guests and fellowship meetings, and we imagined lots of trees where we could walk and enjoy our Lord’s creation.

Through the gifts of interested persons, the Lord is providing just that kind of place and ministry. We call it “Abundant Living Ministries!”



Open Arms Childbirth Class

Four Consecutive Thursday evenings 7:00 - 9:00pm
January 4 - 25, 2024

Covering the important information offered in a hospital course, *Open Arms* adds a distinctively-Christian perspective. You will enjoy meeting other expectant couples as you prepare for a great labor and delivery. There is no cost for this course.

Register by contacting the ALM office.

HOSPITALITY

Home-made Ministry

With holidays approaching, many families are thinking about gatherings in their homes. For some this produces excited anticipation. For others, entertaining guests is a dreaded ordeal. Keep in mind that hospitality isn't about showing off your home, culinary skills, or decorating ability. It is about making your home a ministry center!



View hospitality through God's eyes. We're instructed in Romans 12:13 to, "Practice hospitality." 1 Peter 4:9 says, "Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling."



Keep things simple. Do as much meal prep ahead of time as possible, refrigerating or freezing until needed. Let your spouse and children know how they can help. Don't feel obligated to always serve a full meal... a simple dessert with a cup of coffee can set a warm, inviting atmosphere.



Welcome spur-of-the-moment opportunities. Well-planned special events are lovely, but sometimes it is the unplanned get-together that turns out to be the most rewarding. Invite a neighbor for a dish of ice cream. Ask a young family back to your house for a light lunch after a Sunday service. Often these times are the start of long-lasting friendships.



Include the whole family, including the children in planning, prep, cleanup and conversation. But don't let the children steal the entire focus of attention. Teach your children to ask good questions, as they invite guests to share about their lives.



Break out table games, tell jokes. And laugh a lot... Laughing together promotes closeness and is often an instant conversation booster.



Share Jesus' love. Pray before the meal and include a blessing over each guest. Or, what about this idea? When setting the table, place one brightly-colored plate. Once seated, invite all guests to say something encouraging or affirming to the person who received that plate.



Utilize other settings. Hospitality can be practiced anywhere... going to a restaurant, taking someone shopping, doing a weekend outing. Any of these can provide wonderful opportunities to share God's love.



Pray about the guest list. Don't always socialize with only your best friends. The "unlikely" guest Jesus brings your way, may turn out to be a huge blessing!

Written by
Sharon Charles



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Contact Information

Mailing Address: 400 E 4th Avenue, Lititz, PA 17543
Physical Location: 541 W 28th Division Hwy, Lititz, PA 17543
Website: www.AbundantLivingMinistries.org
Email: info@AbundantLivingMinistries.org
Phone: (717) 626-9575 **Facebook:** www.facebook.com/alm4u