



# DESERT MINISTRIES INC.



www.DESMIN.ORG

AUTUMN 2010

## “Streams in the Desert”

Dear friends,

“**L**et’s take the long way home...” used to be a familiar expression. It meant taking some extra time to walk along home with some friend or relative. I remember as a boy, walking Davey Herron half-way home, and then he would walk me half way back, and then often we would repeat the passage, innocently but purposefully taking some extra time to be together. You don’t hear those words much anymore. I wouldn’t want to speculate why, but I suspect that it has to do with the hurried way we have decided to live out our days and decades.



I notice the words again recently in the title of a new book by Pulitzer Prize-winning author, Caroline Knapp. It’s a memoir about her friends, mainly the three who are already gone, and the times they spent together walking their dogs, rowing and just sitting down for an unhurried chat, kind of like the “Where are you going?” “Out.” “What are you going to do?” “Nothing.” —sort of thing: “Let’s Take the Long Way Home.”

I recommend not only the book but the idea. When I was a cub pastor back in Pittsburgh, one of our elders, Bill Gillies, gave me a quotation for my files which I have never forgotten, even if I cannot find it now nor do I remember the author. It read: “It is only as time with its relentless fingers has stolen away most of the pages from the book of life that we realize how few and precious are the remaining ones.” A trifle sentimental maybe, but since when is sentiment ruled out of order in our daily round of thoughts.

Peggy and I are getting to the age when we so frequently hear of some major illness and passing away of one of our family or friends. The burden of having to say goodbye to that old gang of mine is a mighty hurdle to jump over time and again as we walk along beyond the Biblical “Three Score and Ten.” In our concern for those who “live in the Deserts of Human Life,” we try to reach out to touch those who are lonely, who have lost someone they love, or who are just reaching into the wilderness of old age.

Thanks for sharing the journey with us and all who are devoted to DMI, Inc. “Christ Will See You Through” is the name of one of our books; and he surely will. But meanwhile, while you are still able, spend some extra time and prayer and energy, “taking the long way home.” God bless you and keep you in his care.

Cordially,

Richard M. Cromie

## “Blessings for Bayonnias”

**O**ur Special Projects Committee has approved a direct disbursement to the Children who live in the actual deserts of Haiti and who in recent times have been ravaged by the Earthquake and its aftermath, including the more recent spread of deadly disease. We chose to approach the problem directly through the work of OFCB Ministries, a Christian organization with which we are personally familiar. They do wonderful work in the town of Bayonnias, in the mountains to the North of the Capital city. A couple of hundred thousand refugees have come into their area in recent months following the increasing problems in Port-Au-Prince. Rev. Actionnel Fleurisma, the Director, was educated in Charlotte and spoke recently to gather more aid and assistance for the children and their families in the area.  
*God bless him.*

In recent years, we have been sponsoring scholarships for young ministers for continuing education in Pastoral Care. For some reason this year, there have been so few candidates applying that we decided to act directly to bring “the living water of Jesus Christ” into the lives of those who live in the deserts. If you would like to know more of this project, please contact the office by phone or email.

God bless you,  
RMC



## Marketing Update:

The **Desert Ministries** marketing effort continues to move forward. September and October again saw a jump in web hits. In response to this growth, and in an effort to keep the trend moving upward, we have expanded the site. New elements include linking more directly to authors, adding an author section and updating the sermons.

The “outside” communication efforts continue with direct marketing toward all audience and continued online efforts. Next up on the online front – time for Desert Ministries to join Wikipedia!!

On a personal note, I would like to thank everyone for the prayers and thoughts directed towards my brother Gunnar and our families. It is never easy to see someone so prominent in your life fight Cancer (or any other hurdle), but knowing the support he has and the determination he brings to the fight gives us hope everyday. While odds are slim, reports are good (chemo is shrinking some of the liver tumors!!), so please keep the prayers coming.

**Cory Hughes**

*Check out our website [WWW.DESMIN.ORG](http://WWW.DESMIN.ORG)*

## Hello to everyone!

The year is going so quickly. **Thanksgiving** my favorite Holiday will soon be here. There is so much to be grateful for. Here at the office I am so thankful to receive notes, gifts for DMI and orders for our publications. Each time we hear from you my spirits are lifted and you help me to feel fortunate to have a hand in serving the Lord. Please continue to help us reach those who need uplifting publications.

We have been busy here at the office sending the publications that address a specific need such as cancer, Alzheimer, divorce and rape to support groups. We have also been sending sample copies of *What To Say When We Pray: Finding Power in the Lord's Prayer and Sometime Before the Dawn: Responses to the Resurrection* to a number of churches to consider for Bible Study.

Thank you again for your support of Desert Ministries. I look forward to helping you in any way that I can. You may reach me at 704-849-0901, or email me at [desertministries@gmail.com](mailto:desertministries@gmail.com) or write to me P.O. Box 747; Matthews, NC 28106-0747.

May the Lord Bless you and keep you,

**Mary Miller**

*Executive Assistant*

## Memorial Gifts and Gifts of Honor May, 2010 – November, 2010

**In Memory of Enola Glenda Harberts**  
**Mother of Board Members**

**Steven and Stewart Harberts**

*Dr. and Mrs. Richard M. Cromie and Family  
Mr. and Mrs. Michael DeCramer and Family  
Ms. M. Elinor Fleming*

**In Memoriam (continued)**

**Robert Lynch Thompson**

**Board Vice President Since 1982**

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Mr. and Mrs. Michael DeCramer and Family  
Ms. M. Elinor Fleming  
Mr. and Mrs. Jack Armstrong  
The Overtstreet Family*

**In Memory of Leona Mary Snyder**

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**In Honor of Dr. Richard M. Cromie**

*Mr. and Mrs. Leon A. Ducray, Jr.*

**In Memory of Charlotte Thurman**

*Rev. Wallace Thurman*

**In Memory of James McCaffrey**

*Mrs. Lillian McCaffrey*

**In Honor of**

**Dr. and Mrs. Richard M. Cromie**

*Mrs. Jean F. Armstrong*

**In Memoriam**

**Dr. Edwin Ruh**

*Edwin Jr., Beth and Bette Ruh  
Dr. and Mrs. Richard M. Cromie*

**In Memory of Janet K. Weigel**

*Dr. and Mrs. Richard M. Cromie*

**In Memory of Buddy Lockwood**

*Mr. and Mrs. Charles Lockwood*

**In Memory of Marty Papp**

*Mrs. Elizabeth H. Papp*

**In Honor of DMI Office Staff**

**Peggy, Cathie and Mary**

*Dr. Richard M. Cromie*

**In Memory of Laura Grace Hans**

*William and Mary Lea Blake*

**In Memory of Erlene Frye**

*Dr. and Mrs. Richard M. Cromie  
Mr. and Mrs. Michael DeCramer*

**In Honor of the Wedding Anniversary of**

**Dr. and Mrs. Richard M. Cromie**

*Jeanette D. Lindblad*

**In Honor of the Birthday of**

**Lauren Lindblad**

*Jeanette D. Lindblad*

**In Memory of Lucille Wood**

*Nancy N. Rohrich*

**In Memory of Marta Sheddon Smith**

*Nancy N. Rohrich*

**In Memory of Thomas Patrick Burns**

**“Chairman of the Board”**

*The Matthews Starbucks Group*

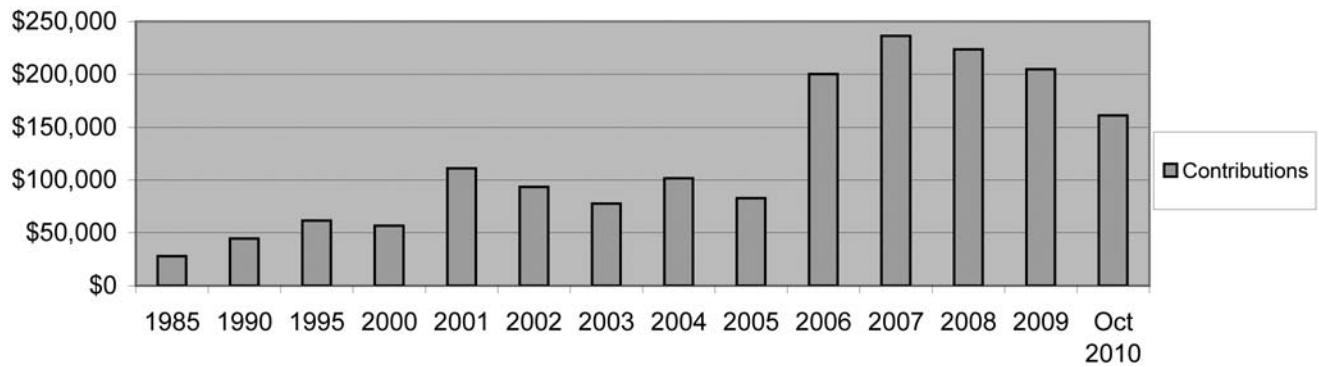
**In Memory of Robert James Dillion**

*Dr. Richard M. Cromie*

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## Contributions



## We Get Letters and Emails... April, 2010 – November, 2010



“Good afternoon, I would like to order at least 10 copies of the book *Recovery from Rape: A Journey into Hope*. These books will be used to help victims heal from rape or sexual assault. The books would also be a great addition to our sexual assault support group.”

–Lenore, NC,

*Rape and Sexual Assault Program Manager*

Together we can prevent Sexual Assault in our Community

“Thank you for sending out the complementary copies of *Recovery from Rape: A Journey into Hope*. Within the first week of receiving these booklets, we had the opportunity to give both of them to recent victims of sexual violence. Our organization would like to request five more copies be sent to our office. Thank you for the work you do!”

–Executive Director,

*ACADA Home Inc.; Newland, NC*

Thank you for the two copy donation to our library of *Recovery from Rape: A Journey into Hope* by Gretchen Howard. We plan to catalog one copy and add it to the collection, and place the other copy in our vertical file. They will make a fine addition to our collection on an important and disturbing topic.

–Library Director

*Lake City Community College; Lake City, FL*

I am the chair of our pastor search committee and received your book entitled *A Guidebook for a Pastor Search Committee*. I have read it and found it very useful. Would it be possible for you to send me 3 more copies to share with our committee members? We are moving along in the process and it would be helpful time-wise if members could read the book sooner rather than later. When done with the books, we can provide them to our Presbytery Resource Center so that it will be available to other churches in the search process. Thanks very much for sending me the copy.

–SM; New Bethlehem, PA

“When we were visiting with you, I did happen to mention how much I like your books, and Peggy said: “We could print that in our newsletter.” And you said that you’d put some of our letters in before.

Anyway, *The Rhapsody of Scripture* is wonderful.

I can understand and learn from it. I am one of your great number of “lay people” and no theologian, but I sure do like to learn! *The Rhapsody of Scripture* is my ‘Cliff Notes’. I can turn to a page and get a glimpse of what a specific book of The Bible has to say.

Then, the best part is...I love your index in the back of the book, where you have listed verses that are important to you.

My neighbor and I are now doing Bible study one day a week, using *The Rhapsody of Scripture* as our primary guide. From the “lay people”, I thank you from, the bottom of my heart.

–A&MB; Saint Augustine, FL

“Thank you so much for the books, *When Alzheimer’s Disease Strikes*, which I received yesterday. They are greatly appreciated, especially since they are updated and revised.”

“Your ministry is especially encouraging since it approaches many of our problems today from a Christian perspective. Thank God for that.”

–EW; China Grove, NC

“Thanks for sending the book *When You Lose Someone You Love*. I’ve heard great things about it and know it will be comforting to me.”

–JP; Albany, GA

“Thank you for your *Guidebook for a Pastor Search Committee*! Our committee found it very helpful. After 18 months of hard work we have called our next pastor and are looking forward to welcoming her in August!”

–CK; Seneca, SC

Dear Dr. C.,

“Just a note to let you know my husband Jim died after 67 years of marriage. I miss him so much. Your book, *When You Lose Someone You Love* is my constant companion. Thank You!

One of our favorite memories was driving from Ft. Lauderdale many, many Sundays to Worship with you.

Thank you for being in our life. Jim and I felt close to you always.”

–LMcC; Warminster, PA

“I am the Chairman of the PNC for our Church. I am serving on the third consecutive PNC for our church after having previously been the senior high member of an earlier PNC many years ago so I am not a rookie when I tell you that this book is great.”

–CS Donalsonville, GA

“We just love getting your Sermon of the Month on CD! I listen to them over and over. It’s wonderful to hear your voice, just like you were next door.”

–AB Saint Augustine, FL

“I just wanted to send you a note to let you know how much our support group members have enjoyed the Alzheimer’s book. They all love the way it is written and so easy to understand. It has touched many families in our support group since I handed it out to our members. Thank you for making it available to families who face Alzheimer’s in their lives each day.”

–DW, Kernersville, NC

Dear Courtney,

What an unbelievably wonderful and thoughtful gift I just received. I am deeply touched by your thoughtfulness and concern. Thank you so much for thinking of my family and caring enough to share your fathers lessons with me. I will cherish this book as I read it.

In the past 3 years we have lost both my mother and father-in-law as well as my mother who lived with us for 3 1/2 years. It has been an extremely difficult few years and I worry about the affect it has had on us, especially our children. I will look for comfort and guidance in your fathers words.

Again Courtney thank you from the bottom of my heart. God bless.

–BB, Princeton, NJ

Mary: thanks for all the books you sent. We didn’t have a good table placement but many came by and took books. Later in the day we moved the remaining books to the exit table and most of them are gone. We are sending back the supply of order blanks, etc. No one took them and we hated to throw them away.

We hope we can do it again next year and we learned a few things. We will make sure those who took books also take an order packet.

Again thanks for all you did to make this possible.

–MH, Presbytery of Tropical, FL

From the York County Council of Churches: On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff, thank you for providing publications for our Annual New Pastor’s Breakfast. It is only through the kindness of people like you that this event can be a success each year. Again, Thank you!

–Phyllis Weaver, York, PA

“Thank you from the bottom of my heart for the \$1000 scholarship from DMI. My family and I appreciate your support, prayers, and encouragement more than words can say. Your generosity is such a gift to many. I hope you know how much you are appreciated on this journey through seminary.”

–CO; Decatur, GA