



Understanding & addressing assisted suicide

A Presentation for WELS Nurses Association Spring Conference


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A 120 Year Legacy

“Where the Care of the Soul is the Soul of Care”

With the government death benefits received after her only child, Ernst, died during the Civil War, Sophie Boessling donated her land and \$4500 to begin the “aged and orphans” home in 1898.



Two days after the home opened, Sophie, then a resident, died unexpectedly, having seen her dream become a blessed reality.



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Care of the Soul

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JESUS CARES MINISTRIES
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A Continued Commitment



Our Vision: to share eternal hope, provide hope and inspire hope.

Our Mission: to share Christ's love as we serve the spiritual, physical, intellectual and emotional needs of people entrusted to our care and others whose lives we touch.

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A MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH OF THE SOUTH
HOPE THROUGH HOPE

A Dedicated Ministry

“Where the Care of the Soul is the Soul of Care”

Serving seniors and individuals with intellectual developmental disabilities.



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HOPE THROUGH HOPE

How can YOU further our mission?

Join: use our services and programs, or apply to work with us

Volunteer: share your gifts of time and talent

Donate: give financial gifts to expand our Gospel outreach

Pray: *I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone (1 Tim 2:1)*



Join



Volunteer




Donate




Pray

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Assisted suicide





Physician prescribes a lethal medication.



Patient takes prescription of his or her own free will.

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Dealing with assisted suicide



A matter of
faith OR reason?

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Our position

We oppose physician-assisted suicide for people in each and every circumstance.

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Through the eyes of faith



"The LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being." (Genesis 2:7)



"All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be." (Psalm 139:16b)

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A matter of reason

1

People have the **right to make choices**, even uncomfortable ones.

2

Assisted suicide is more **compassionate** than living with an illness.

The danger with #2 is the people most often included in this group are vulnerable — seniors and those with disabilities.

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Compelling alternatives

Point out the danger and moral hazards of assisted suicide.



We cannot let difficult and emotional cases make bad law.

Seek to improve and expand access to palliative care.

It's imperative we engage doctors, nurses and others in the medical community as advocates.



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Protective legislation

Palliative care improvement with passed laws prohibiting suicide (example: Maryland 1999)

“ In Maryland ... there was an increase in the legitimate prescription of opioids and other strong medications used for pain control. Indeed, physicians universally expressed a mixture of relief and elation on knowing that, for the first time, such protective legislation existed. ”

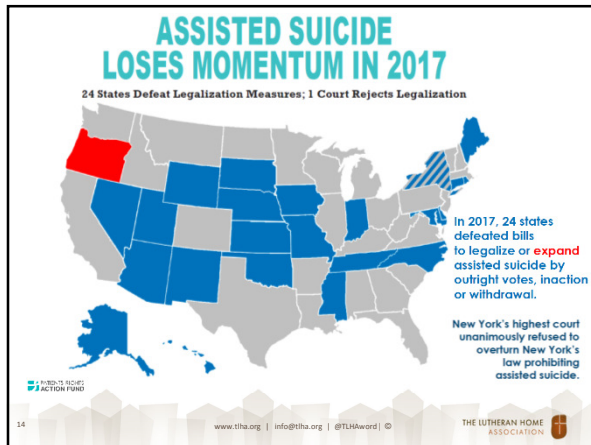
-Palliative care expert at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine

Source: The Effect of Legalizing Assisted Suicide on Palliative Care and Suicide Rates: A Response to Compassion and Choices, March 2017 by The Lozier Institute

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Resources available

- Patient's Rights Action Fund: patientsrightsaction.org
- Minnesota Alliance for Ethical Healthcare: ethicalcaremn.org
- Christian Life Resources: christianliferesources.com
- Alliance Defending Freedom: www.adflegal.org
- Family Research Council: www.frc.org
- Family Policy Alliance: familypolicyalliance.com

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Congregational-based outreach and in-reach ministries of hope

Jesus Cares Ministries (JCM)
and
Senior Outreach and Nurture (SON)


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Now to 2038



10,000 Americans will turn 65 every DAY

The **population of persons 65+** is expected to grow to 53 million in 2020 and **over 80 million by 2050.**






30% of persons 65+ are unchurched.


Source: Barna Research Group

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Growing population + unchurched



Congregations actively engaging seniors will provide renewed **opportunity for member nurture** as well as reinvigorated efforts to **reach seniors in their community with the message of Jesus Christ.**

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An opportunity



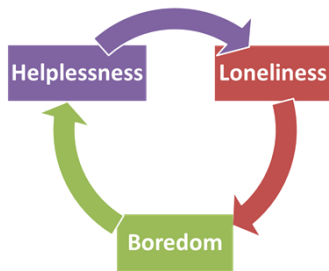
- **Develop a senior outreach and nurture (SON) ministry model.**
- **Base the foundation in the Son of God, our Savior, Jesus Christ.**

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Issues facing the aging population



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Proposed SON ministry model



Support



Education & learning



Worship



Evangelism



Fellowship



Technology

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SON ministry model: Support



Meaningful resources, activities and Bible studies for continued nurture of the Christian faith and spiritual growth.

Opportunities for seminars, evangelism training, witnessing training and retreats will be provided.

Parish Nursing.

SON ministry model: education and learning



Seniors must continue to be engaged and learn. The church is the perfect place for this opportunity.

Conferences, seminars and workshops can be hosted by the congregation to enhance a senior ministry internally and for the community.

SON ministry model: worship



Seniors need to be encouraged to participate in worship on a regular basis.

Other opportunities for engagement include: special choir groups, transportation assistance, modified worship for memory care and stroke victims.

SON ministry model: evangelism



Many seniors are willing to participate in evangelism or outreach programs. Seniors have an affinity and knowledge of senior centers, senior housing providers and nursing homes. Additional evangelism or outreach awareness activities may include meals on wheels and providing drivers to seniors for medical appointments.

SON ministry model: fellowship



Seniors want to be involved in meaningful activities in their congregation and in the community. Such activities may include special days, clubs, group activities to plays or events, and participation in church related or sponsored functions such as the OWLS conference.

SON ministry model: technology



An on-line community for WELS/ELS seniors to support this ministry by the congregation through social media. New technologies will continue to evolve to provide support for these endeavors.

10 step formula for success

- 1** Work with TLHA to develop a congregational-based senior ministry.
- 2** Recognize opportunity for a senior ministry. Coordinate each element of senior ministry under one large “umbrella” ministry (SON Ministry) of the congregation.

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- 3** Select a congregational coordinator. With congregational approval, this may be either a lay volunteer, male or female, or a called worker whose primary purpose is devoted to senior ministry.
- 4** Assess existing senior ministry, opportunities in congregation and community.
 - a. Profile current membership over age 62
 - b. Survey senior adult interest and needs
 - c. Determine senior ministry priorities and concerns
 - d. Determine community needs for senior adults
 - e. Identify available resources
 - f. Formulate annual objectives

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- 5** Create team to support the goals and objectives of the SON Ministry.
- 6** Encourage seniors on an annual basis to be on the SON Ministry Team
- 7** Educate the differences between nursing homes, assisted living, memory care, independent living and home health care.

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8 Utilize congregation for a setting of educating, mentoring, senior experiences and fellowship.

9 Build relationship with TLHA for ongoing support, encouragement and leadership. Assess programs, utilize resources, develop training and mentor/coach lay volunteers.

10 Focus on the care of the soul.

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Thank you

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