



# Widows' Watchman Ministries

---

*Dedicated to meeting the needs of our  
widowed community.*

*Assisting in the repair and maintenance of all  
areas from their hearts to their homes  
as directed in God's Word.*

---

*“Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is  
this, to look after ... widows in their distress and keep oneself  
from being polluted by the world.” James 1:27*

## **Introduction**

Wilford A. Martin's (1911-1997) devotion to God and tireless dedication to area widows inspired the development of Widows' Watchman Ministries. Through prayerful consideration since Mr. Martin's passing, those close to him saw the need to continue what he had started. Over the last few years many more have also seen the need to assist those widows in our churches and communities, this led to the forming of a board of directors in the year 2000. The members of the board are made up of community and church leaders and in late 2001 we received our 501(c) 3 status from the federal government.

The focus of Widows' Watchman Ministries is to meet the needs of our area widows, to encourage the development of a healthy recovery, to maintain wholesome attitudes and meaningful self worth through a relationship with Jesus Christ and participation in the continual learning and healing process of life.

# **Why is Widows' Watchman Ministries Needed?**

## **National Statistics**

Although widows have been recognized on a limited basis, their numbers in our population are staggering. In 1980 the population of widows was 35.7 million, in just eighteen years it rose approximately 10 million to 45.2 million nationally according to US Census Bureau in 1998. This has made an enormous impact on millions of families and extended families.

## **South Carolina Statistics**

In the year 2000 approximately 230,000 widows resided in South Carolina alone. During the next few years, until the year 2005 we will find the amount of widowed women in our state will rise to almost 250,000, these widows are right here in our communities and churches.

## **Baby Boomer Impact**

With more and more baby boomers rapidly approaching retirement age, there will be an increase in the proportionate deaths among men. With women also outliving men in most cases and our life expectancy on the rise, there will be an additional increase in the number of widows in our churches and communities.

## **Target Population**

Our area of impact is simple. Widows at least 60 years of age and above are our primary focus.

- Those still trying to maintain their residences as well as those in our retirement communities and rest homes.
- Widows in need of fulfillment and added richness to maintain their spiritual and emotional health.
- Those willing to share their experiences and lessons with others in a similar situation and the youth of today, will be encouraged to take part.

Currently we are serving (in a limited capacity) portions of Abbeville, Anderson, Greenville, Greenwood, Laurens, Pickens and Oconee counties.

# **What is Widows' Watchman Ministries?**

## **Mission Statement**

Dedicated to meeting the needs of our widowed community. Assisting in the repair and maintenance of all areas from their hearts to their homes as directed in God's word.

## **Goals**

Widows' Watchman Ministries aspires to enrich the lives of widows and their families, offering them the opportunities to share life experiences and form lasting bonds with those in similar situations as well as being able to give back to the community through mentoring and the continued restoration of their will.

The following are goals that guide Widows' Watchman Ministries:

- To abide by God's word with regard to the operation of its business practices.
- To abide by God's word with regard to the care and restoration of widows.
- To provide an environment in which the healing love of Jesus Christ can be shared.
- Restoration of hope and continual enrichment of widows and their families.
- Offer opportunities and the means for those in our churches and communities to share in the lives our widows.
- Provide widows with the skills and abilities to adjust through transition.
- Provide opportunities for those in our churches and communities to assist in the financial needs of our widows.
- Offer volunteer opportunities for our churches and those in our communities to assist with the maintenance and repair of our widows' homes.
- To meet the needs of widows in our churches and communities and adjust our services to meet those needs whenever possible.

## Guiding Principals

Widows' Watchman Ministries holds the belief that we are not only called to minister to widows, but to model the Biblical principles set forth for all business practices. In this way, Widows' Watchman Ministries is an example of a Godly business. We hold the following principles, which guide how we conduct the business practices of this ministry.

- To glorify and honor Jesus Christ.
- We have committed ourselves to pray for God to supply all of our needs and to be wise stewards of all we have been given.
- We will stay faithful to the vision of Widows' Watchman Ministries. Our mission statement will be reflected in all that we do.
- We will commit ourselves to the pursuit of excellence. We believe that we have a commitment to our Lord that all aspects of our ministry should be above reproach.
- We will continually strive to improve Widows' Watchman Ministries and our service to widows and their families.
- We will be debt free.
- We will operate within our financial means.
- We will at all times conduct our business in an open and honest fashion.

## **The Widows of Widows' Watchman Ministries**

The Widows of Widows' Watchman Ministries come from a variety of backgrounds. They all have one thing in common - they are widows. Widows, whose families can not or will not assist them through this difficult time period (which will be the remainder of their lives), will be able to look to Widows' Watchman Ministries to provide them with the guidance to make it through their life changing events.

Women who have been married for any number of years and suddenly or even not so suddenly finds themselves without their lifelong partner (through death), will find their circumstances at times unbearable. Widows' Watchman Ministries is there to provide an outlet for these widows, to show them their value in God's eyes. Their future relies on them being able to adjust to even the day-to-day tasks once performed by their husbands. In some cases those tasks can just be paying the bills, mowing the lawn, home repairs or even auto maintenance.

Through the association with others in similar situations they will be able to learn and adjust smoothly. Through our Mentoring Ministry they will be able to give back what they have spent a lifetime learning. Most of our Widows are and will be 60 years of age and older. We intend to meet their needs, whatever they may be.

Widows' Watchman Ministries will learn of and contact these widows through various ways. Such as speaking at support group meetings, churches, civic organizations, government agencies, businesses, as well as word of mouth. Media outlets such as radio and newspaper will provide us with continued growth.

# **How Widows' Watchman Ministries Will Improve a Widow's Life**

## **Spiritual Encouragement**

"The widow who is really in need and left all alone puts her hope in God and continues night and day to pray and to ask God for help" I Timothy 5:5

*To encourage means: to inspire with, courage, spirit, or hope.*

Encouragement is the foundation to recovering from any life changing event: to provide widows with hope, through God's healing love; to inspire them to seek Him first in their daily lives; to give them the courage to move on with life, while never forgetting the joys of the past; to have them grow in the spirit through His word.

One of the ways that we offer encouragement and maintain contact with our widows' is through our quarterly newsletter. (samples contained in this packet)

## **Handyman / Mr. Fix It**

Offers assistance in moderate home repairs. From basic projects to somewhat more complex projects, our qualified volunteers will evaluate and assess the needs of our widows homes and determine the best way to have them repaired - help with repairs or suggest a reputable, reliable and honest company to help.

## **Mentoring Ministry**

By providing these women with an outlet through mentoring to the young women of tomorrow, they find value in themselves and can remember the positive things that they have experienced in their lifetime.

## **Activities**

Having activities such as arts & crafts, sewing, and needlepoint allow the women to discover new hobbies and become more interested in some forgotten skills, this keeps the mind active and healthy.

## **Adopt-A-Widow**

This is a program in which an individual takes an active part in the life of a widow, through ministering to their needs - calling and visiting, becoming a friend that they can count on and trust when they need help with an issue.

## **Grief Support Groups**

We will start and sponsor grief support groups in surrounding areas, led by local pastors. This will offer the widows the opportunity for healing and growth of friendships and bonds with others in similar life situations.

## **Future**

The future will see a financial assistance program as well as additional activity programs, such as trips and day tours. There will be an increase in ministry presence within our retirement communities and rest homes.

# Newsletter Samples

# Handiman/Mr. Fixit Project



Local summer camp 2001



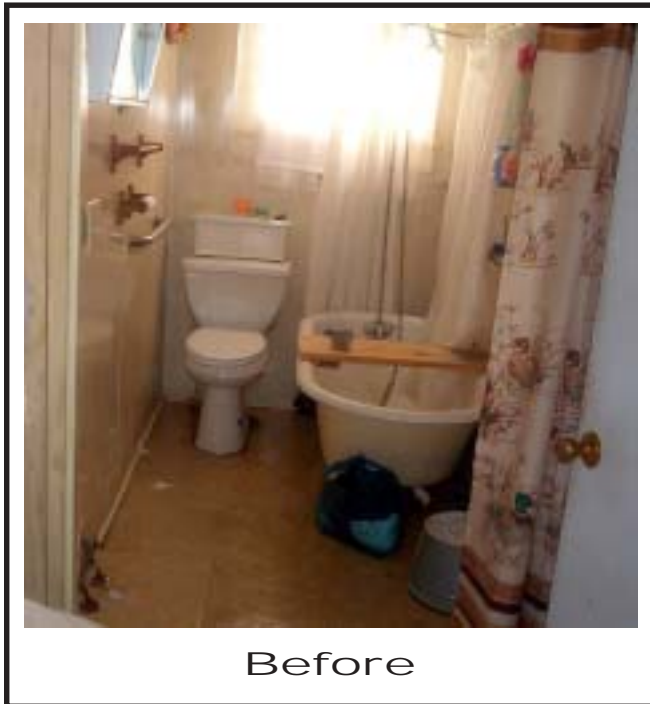
BEFORE



AFTER



# Handiman/Mr. Fixit Project



**RYOBI.**



Thanks to Ryobi Tools in Anderson, SC for there donation of much needed power tools to the ministry. [ryobitools.com](http://ryobitools.com)



After - This bathroom was for a widow who is wheel chair bound. The bathroom was in severe disrepair. We gutted and rebuilt it so that it would be handicap accessible. She can now sit in her shower chair and bathe without difficulty. This project would not have been a success if it was not for the volunteers from our



ministry and her own home church, as well as the financial resources provided for this project.

# Handiman/Mr. Fixit Projects



Replaced A Kitchen Sink  
And Installed Faucet



Put Up Hand Rail



Put Up Hand Rails



Painted Trim And Porch



Repaired Window & Installed A/C



Rebuilt shed doors

# Handiman/Mr. Fixit Pick-Up Truck History

In January of 2002 we received a donation of a 1968 Ford F100 pickup.  
At the time it did not run. After repairing it the truck served us well.  
We sold it in December 2002 for \$300.

## “Rusty”



In November of 2002 we had the opportunity to purchase a 1977 Dodge 3/4 ton pickup from one of our Widows for \$600. After putting new used tires on it, it is serving us well. We had a donation specifically for the repairs of the truck and have completed those repairs.  
We also purchased a tool box for the back

## “The Green Machine”



These trucks have been essential in allowing us to complete projects that otherwise would not have been completed. Transporting tools and materials to the project site, picking up donations, delivering food and even hauling unwanted furnishings and trash.

# Mentoring Ministry



# Sunday Afternoon Tea



# Holiday Feast of November 2001



*Your Invited To A*

## Holiday Feast

**November 30<sup>th</sup>**  
**12 Noon**

Location: Norris Hill Presbyterian Church  
Highway 28 in Anderson



We will be providing Turkey, Ham and Drinks.





*Your are invite to join this first ever Widows' Watchman Ministries Holiday Feast. This will be a time of fellowship and thanksgiving for all the blessings we have received through the year. You will also have an opportunity to meet those involved with our Ministry and its Newsletter as well as being able to ask any questions you may have. So, plan to attend and bring a Covered Dish. We look forward to Seeing you Soon!*



**Widows' Watchman Ministries**



**To Be A Part Call 296-4589**  
**When you call let us know what**

*If you plan to attend we must know by November 15th*

(Map to the church on the back)



Would you like to come but need a ride? Let us know when you call, we will

# Holiday Feast December 7th 2002



Your Invited To A  
**Holiday Feast**

**December 7th  
12 Noon**

Location: New Covenant Church  
Simpson Road • Anderson, SC

You are invited to join the Second Annual Widows' Watchman Ministries Holiday Feast. This will be a time of fellowship and thanksgiving for all the blessings we have received through the year. You will also have an opportunity to meet those involved with our Ministry. So, plan to attend and bring a Covered Dish. We look forward to Seeing you Soon!

We are providing Turkey, Ham and the Drinks!

**To Be A Part Call  
379-8114 or 261-8795**  
If your last name begins with  
A-N Bring something Salty  
O-Z Bring something Sweet

**New For This Year  
Youth Talent Show!**

**Widows' Watchman Ministries**

**Door Prizes  
Again This Year!**

*If you plan to attend we must know by November 22nd*  
(Map to the church on the back)



A Great Time Had By All Involved

## **Financial Projections**

Widows' Watchman Ministries is a privately funded organization, not receiving aid from any government agency. The highest percentage (70%) of funding will be from individual donations. We will receive a percentage from churches (15%) and businesses (15%).

## **Fundraising Program**

### *Goals of Fundraising*

1. We do not pressure or coerce individuals into giving. The Lord will provide the donors that have a heart and concern for this ministry.
2. We tell the story of Widows' Watchman Ministries by presenting it to as many groups, civic and religious, as the Lord will open doors. We expect our donors to form from these groups.
3. We publicize Widows' Watchman Ministries through the paper, television, radio and other means in an attempt to make people aware our ministry.
4. We seek grants from foundations interested in assisting those in our widowed community.
5. We seek the expertise of those knowledgeable in the field of fundraising.
6. We build and operate in a fashion as to be good stewards with what we have been given.

### *Strategies to Raise Operating Funds:*

1. Provide literature to prospective donors by means of informational brochures and fundraising brochures. This list will include churches, individuals, foundations, businesses and civic organizations. Continually build a mailing list in an effort to reach as many people as possible.
2. Present information to individuals by means of speaking engagements to churches, civic groups and businesses. Show ways to get involved and solicit help at each engagement. Provide a means for attendees to get on a Widows' Watchman Ministries supporter mailing list.
3. Share with individuals in personal settings the vision of Widows' Watchman Ministries and the ways they can become involved.
4. Reach out to the area churches in the areas that we are serving in, as well as the home churches of our widows.
5. Reach the Christian community through churches and organizations, Christian radio and publications. The goal is to raise awareness and to gain supporters, volunteers and increase our widows base.
6. Reach the corporate community to raise awareness and pursue relationships that would develop funding and gifts in kind.
7. Establish capital for the operation of Widows' Watchman Ministries. (Currently WWM is an all-volunteer organization)
8. Develop two to three fundraising events annually that will raise awareness throughout the community as well as raising monetary support.

### Strategies to raise Capital Funds:

We will use our primary strategies for raising our operating funds. Since this ministry is ongoing and has been supported thus far through donations and volunteers we believe that a concentrated effort will yield the needed funds to sustain the ministry and allow it to grow.