



GENEVA PRESS

June 1998 Geneva Presbyterian Church (949) 837-2323 www.genevapres.org

Olive Greenman Shares Christ's Healing Touch

Nearly one year ago, Olive Greenman wondered if she would survive severe ovarian cancer, which required a nine-hour surgery and six months of chemotherapy.

However, last month, in excellent health, she became the fortieth Genevan to receive the Leisure Worlder of the Month award since 1978 from the community's Historical Society, recognizing her impressive history of philanthropic volunteerism.

"The doctors didn't think I'd survive my severe ovarian cancer," remembered Olive, who has been a member of Geneva with her husband Ken for the past 18 years.

"We just laid it in the hands of the Lord. At that point, there's nothing you can do," she said. "Now I'm playing 18 holes of golf."

Surgeons removed her spleen, appendix, ovaries and tubes, part of her stomach, intestines and liver. Since it began as ovarian cancer, it wasn't detectable until it was well advanced.

"When something's too big for you, you just have to let go and let God take over," Olive said, adding with a laugh, "which is probably what we should have done in the first

place. You feel like you should be doing something yourself, but you can't always do it."

Olive's Christian faith was strengthened by regular visits by the Geneva pastoral staff. "Pastors Cecil Eanes, Arleen Whitney and Ed Ewart ministered and supported me. I appreciate the support and love I got from them. Ed, Cecil and Arleen came to the house where they prayed with me and visited and encouraged Ken and me," Olive said.



Ken and Olive Greenman

"I would never have gotten through without the support of my family, friends and Geneva," she added.

Olive has been a Christian her entire life. She was baptized a Baptist, yet Ken and she raised their children in a Methodist church attended by their children's friends.

"My father's family were all Salvation Army people, very faithful people," she said.

"Kenny and I met at a youth group at church when I was a teenager, at the Methodist Youth Fellowship in Inglewood," Olive said.

They married in 1942 and raised their son and daughter in Inglewood. Her son is an elder and her daughter-in-law a deacon at La Jolla Presbyterian Church, La Jolla, Calif. Her grandson served as the youth representative on the pastoral search committee which called Rev. Steve Murray from St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Newport Beach, Calif., to the La Jolla pastorate.

"Our whole family is very close to God," Olive said, which she finds gratifying as she is aware of the many troubles that can beset a family.

Olive served two years as president of the Geneva Presbyterian Women (PW), when it was called the Geneva Women's Society. She volunteered as Altar Guild chair until her illness. She spent about 10 years as a deacon for the church. She served on the WISH (Women in Service for Him) board also, helping to serve dinner to 50 people for one year. For many years, she volunteered in the Geneva church office. Through the Presbyterian church, she helped with the Mary Magdalene Project fashion shows to raise funds to help rehabilitate prostitutes referred through local police departments. The program reported an 80 percent success rate in helping women trapped in prostitution to take a more healthy role in society.

Recently, working with the Geneva PW, Olive collected 760 Campbell Soup labels and canceled postage stamps

donated by Genevans. The soup labels and canceled stamps, when redeemed or sold overseas, help raise funds to buy supplies, including play equipment and office equipment, for handicapped children. Anyone who wishes to donate used stamps or Campbell Soup labels may place them in an envelope labeled with Olive Greenman's name in the PW box in Geneva's Simpson Hall.

The Leisure World Historical Society noted Olive's efforts, along with other volunteers with the Assistance League of Laguna Beach, to create an Early Intervention Program for children with special needs to counsel parents and provide children (infants through toddlers) with therapeutic stimulation exercises to help them be the best that they can be. Olive held office in the League and worked in its Turnabout Shop and Farmers' Market to raise funds for the organization's many philanthropic projects. She also has volunteered with the Saddleback Hospital Foundation plus many Leisure World organizations including Ebell, Leisure World Library, Historical Society, Women's 18-Hole Golf, Keyboard Concert, and various bridge and other clubs.

We join Olive and Ken in praising God for the wonderful healing He has worked in her life, and we are thankful for the many people who also have been touched by Christ's healing love through her philanthropic efforts.