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Dear Friends,
It was a long day. I had already worked an eight-hour shift. I would end the day with pastoral visits at the local community hospital.

I reported for my assignment on the evening shift in Pastoral Care.

Speaking with people who have all kinds of infirmities can sometimes be extremely draining. And yet many that are elderly look for someone from Pastoral Care to stop by for a visit. In many instances, it is not a long conversation that provides the encouragement. Often a brief word of prayer or a touch on the hand can make a difference.

Halfway through my contact list, I felt exhausted and needed a few moments to recharge my batteries. I dragged into the visitor's lounge which, at this time of the evening, was empty. It did not take long to sink into the comfort of the sofa and close my eyes for a brief but peaceful interlude. From out of nowhere, Margaret appeared. She was an older lady who perhaps could not sleep that

evening. She had wandered from her room into the lounge.

I was just starting to feel the refreshing effects of my brief moment of rest when Margaret started talking to me. . . .

[Read](#) the entire article >>>

What's Happening



What does it mean to be an overcomer? Pastor Edwards continues his verse-by-verse study of John's epistles on Tuesdays at 7pm. Don't miss out on the enlightening discussion. [Get Directions](#).



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So What Do You Get the Pastor Who Has Everything?

What should you get your pastor for Christmas this year? Let me say right off: don't give him cologne, new ties, or dress shirts. There's a pretty good chance someone else tried giving him those things last year . . . or the year before . . . or the year before that.

What your pastor needs is something unique, original, and cutting edge. Enter Balmy Clergy Supply, Inc.

We've taken the best ads from the BCS Christmas Catalog and want to share them with you for your pastor's benefit. He is sure to enjoy these gifts:

Praying Pants

Research indicates that clergy are the swiftest of all Christians to get down on their knees and pray for the needs of others. As a result, they wear out their pants faster than others. Pants are costly. Therefore Balmy has designed The Praying Pants for durability. The Praying Pants are made of woven Kevlar fiber with air bags on the knees that inflate prior to impact. A sensor detects the change in the angle of the knee, and a soft cushion

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Early Exit Alarm

Tired of all those people leaving church before the end of the service? A simple laser projector at each door sends out a piercing alarm each time the beam is broken. This splendid device will encourage church members to remain dutifully seated until dismissed. \$2,555.09

Heavenly Security Systems

The perfect Christmas gift for your pastor! Protect his church from burglary with Balmy's Heavenly Security Systems. . . . Once the alarm has been tripped, an infrared scanning device locates, tracks, and photographs the thief. The unit then automatically flips on all the interior lights, and a digitized recording of a 250-member choir singing Handel's Messiah fills the building with over 170 decibels of sound. Optional features include the Avenging Legion of Angels Holographic Companion to the Messiah, and up to 15 minutes of your pastor's favorite sermon. Guaranteed to bring any burglar or vandal to their knees! \$12,995.32¹

[Read](#) this month's sermon >>>

¹ Samra, Cal and Rose, 206-208, *Holy Humor*, 1997.

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Bibleway Ministries!

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