

# The Joan Times

Newsletter #3  
from Joan Huguenard  
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## My Story...

As most of you have discovered, there are times in life when plans and expectations evaporate or get squashed or run smack into a brick or velvet wall. I hope you've also discovered that such surprising "endings" are often the most incredible "beginnings".

You may have noticed something missing from the top of this newsletter. I am no longer part of the Movement for North American Mission. The Holy Spirit guided us to recognize differences in style and to disaffiliate before I took a two year assignment.

So I revert to my original plans to do ministry on my own. It will take a while to clearly define the shape of that. For the moment, my energy is focused on finding ways to bring in some income again. It's been very exciting to assess the skills I've acquired in recent years and to formulate ways of offering them to the community on a consultant or free-lance basis. Once I get established, I'm confident that these efforts will support a simple lifestyle on a flexible time schedule so that I'll be free to do many ministerial things as well.

Give me a jingle if you'd like to put me to work in any of the following ways:

1. I'll help you ORGANIZE - office or home. You can be so much more efficient and productive when your time, your files, your space and your procedures have been made manageable. I help you make your own changes!
2. I'll put it in writing for you. I've been sending my own direct mail to local companies seeking business writing assignments and have a couple of good prospects so far.
3. I'll plan your party for you. People are so busy these days but still would like to entertain occasionally. I help make that possible by taking over any or all elements of the event. Theme parties are my specialty but showers, office parties, housewarmings, holiday or family celebrations and, of course, birthdays are all welcome. I am in great hopes that some of my clients will agree to invite their guests to a nearby home for elderly or disabled, and share the fun with a group of residents there. (A hidden advantage - no housecleaning.)
4. I'll entertain your guests at a party, as a storyteller or a clown or both.

## Our Story...

A few years ago, I began to feel interested in giving some of my time to volunteer efforts, but I just didn't know how. Just thinking about it seemed frightening. I wished I had someone to hold my hand and go with me. Then I could know how, and get past my fear.

If you, too, have sometimes felt that way, I'd like to be that person for you. I'll explore different possibilities to find something suited to your personality, desires and needs. And I'll go with you, if you wish.

There are dozens and dozens of possibilities, ranging from being a companion or teaching a skill to the elderly to helping with a meal program for the poor. From working in a hospital gift shop to spending time with a troubled child. From providing transportation on a scheduled or on-call basis to stuffing envelopes with newsletters. (I could use help with that one myself!)

Maybe you'd like to go along to the Guest House some evening - the shelter for homeless persons. We talk or play cards with the guests, help with clothing distribution or sleeping room supervision. Or you might sometime like to help me prepare a meal for 25 persons at Casa Maria, the Catholic Worker House in Milwaukee. The food preparation can take place on or off the premises and I'll need lots of help and donations to do it once a month or so.

Would you be interested in either a Scripture study group or a book club? People have expressed interest in both, so let's see what we can put together. On the enclosed postcard, tell me which appeals to you, how frequently you'd like to meet and when you're available day of week and time of day, giving at least two options.

## Your Story...

You may or may not be interested in hearing more about or supporting my ministry now that I'm not part of a structured, tax-exempt organization. So you will have to tell me if you want to continue receiving these newsletters. Just write YES on the back of the enclosed postcard

with your name and current address. Add 14¢ in postage and mail.

You folks have overwhelmed me with your love for my puppets. Can you believe you've adopted some 240 of them since I courageously bought my first dozen back in August?!? It's been surprising and absolutely delightful to see how many adults have taken puppets to enjoy for themselves. And I have found that the puppet usually steals the show these days when I do clown ministry at nursing homes.

Your favorites have been the pigs (white, black and white, black and red), the little baby lambs, raccoons, skunks, squirrels, spiders (put all five fingers in his legs and he really comes to life!), kittens, beavers and the rabbits, both floppy eared and gray or white ones with ears that stand straight up.

There are bears in five varieties - koala, panda, polar, black and brown - monkeys, gophers and puppies. Of course I don't keep all these critters on hand, so if you're in a hurry when you send your order, it's wise to give a 2nd and 3rd choice.

The maker has raised the price so I'm now asking for \$18.75 for one, \$33.50 for two and \$48.00 for three. Add a couple of dollars if you want the puppets shipped to you or to anyone else. I'll be happy to gift wrap them at your request.

Make your check out to me, Joan Huguenard. I expect to be at this Milwaukee address for at least a few months. After that I've not too much idea of where the Spirit will lead me, but I'm ready. I think.

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