

## **A Desert to Promised Land Story**

(A true story from Christian Care Communities)

Alice cared for her husband for several years until his death. While Alice was still in “the desert” of this loss, she began to have severe headaches. Weeks later, after many tests, she learned that she had an aneurysm behind her eye. Major surgery was required. After the surgery she spent six weeks in the Christian Care Health Center for rehabilitation before trying to returning home.

Once home, Alice realized that she was not going to be able to be her independent self. This was a “desert” time for her – continuing to grieve the loss of her husband, afraid, alone, dependent upon her children and uncertain about her future. This was also a “desert” time for her children – spending their energy doing for mom instead of being with mom. Changing times are “desert” times.

Without the knowledge of her family, Alice made the decision to move to Christian Care’s Chapel House. She did not want her children to feel like they were forcing her to leave her home. At first the children opposed her decision. They were living in “the desert” of denial, guilt, fear of losing the mother they had known, and the loss of the childhood place they called home.

Alice found a new home at Chapel House. It became for her and her family “the promised land”. Alice found a new life of freedom, security and activity. Now her children love being with mom instead of doing for mom. Her daughter said, “Now I have my best friend and mom back.”

Our Fifth Sunday Offering for (Our support of) Christian Care Communities helps individuals crossover from “the desert” to “the promised land”. Thank you for caring! Thank you for your gift! Give generously!