



# Elderly...



“The forgotten  
people group.”

“Elderly, the forgotten people group.”

# Introduction:

Everyday the numbers of older people grow exponentially.

Who will care for these people?

Where will the money come from?

What responsibility does the faith community have?



“Elderly, the forgotten people group, and  
their spiritual needs”

# Overview:

---

- **Part One:**

“Why the “widow: what is the ROI?”

- **Part Two:**

“Who are the widows and what  
does the future hold for them?”

- **Part Three:**

“What role can we, the faith  
community play?”

“Elderly, the forgotten people group.”

# Part One:

## “Why the ‘widow’ and the ‘orphan’?: what is the ROI?”



“Elderly, the forgotten people group.”

# Part One:

## “Why the widow and the orphan?”

- God reveals his heart for three groups of people:
  - **Widows (elderly)**
  - **Orphans (fatherless)**
  - **Strangers (immigrants)**

“Elderly, the forgotten people group.”

# Part One:

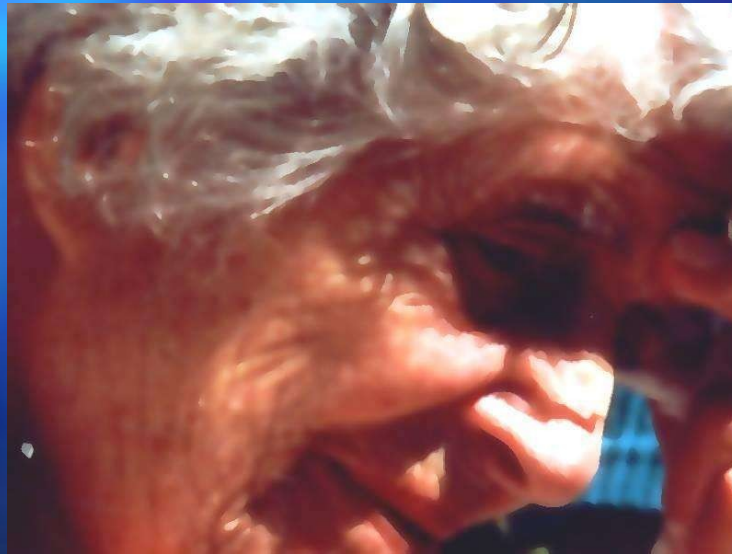
## “Why the widow and the orphan?”

- **God Infuses His Character.**
  - By going to the widow we learn:
    - Philosophy of ministry.
    - We face our mortality.
    - Values are transferred.
    - Intimacy.

“Elderly, the forgotten people group.”

## Part Two:

“Who are the ‘widows’, and what does the future hold for them?”





“Elderly, the forgotten people group.”

## Part Two:

### “Who are “widows”, & what’s next?”

---

- Profile of the “widow.”
- Global, national and local trends.

“Elderly, the forgotten people group.”

# Part Two: “Who are “widows”, & what’s next?”

- Profile of the “widow.”
  - Over the age of 65. (more than 24 million)
  - Five times as many widows vs. widowers.
  - One third of them live alone.
  - 5.5 million live at or below poverty line.
  - Six million have difficulties with activities of daily living, (ADLs).
  - Two million live in 17, 000 nursing homes.

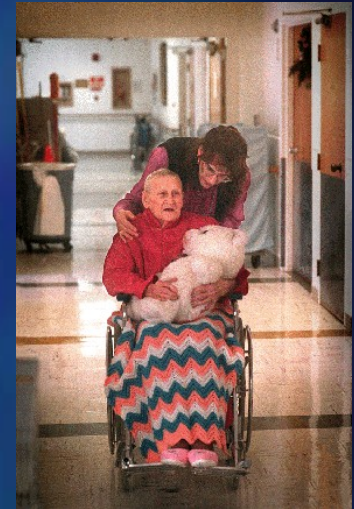


“Elderly, the forgotten people group.”

# Part Two:

## “Who are “widows”, & what’s next?”

- **Trends:**
  - **Global**
  - **National**
  - **Local**



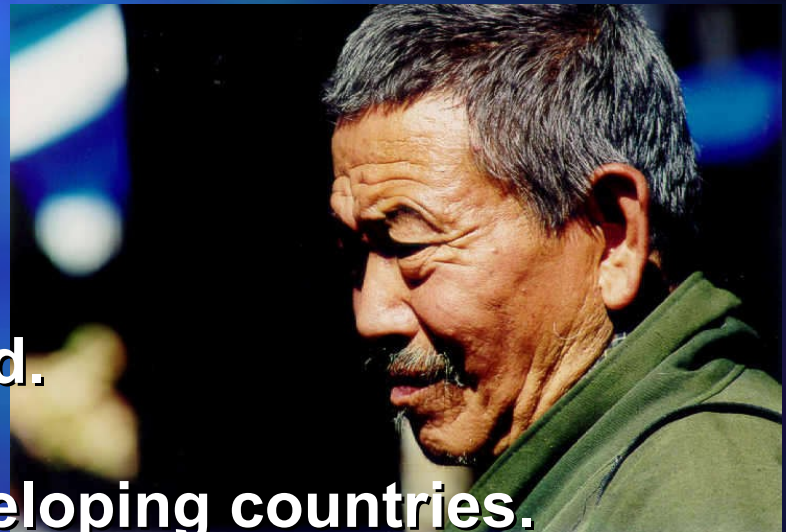
“Elderly, the forgotten people group.”

# Part Two:

## “Who are “widows”, & what’s next?”

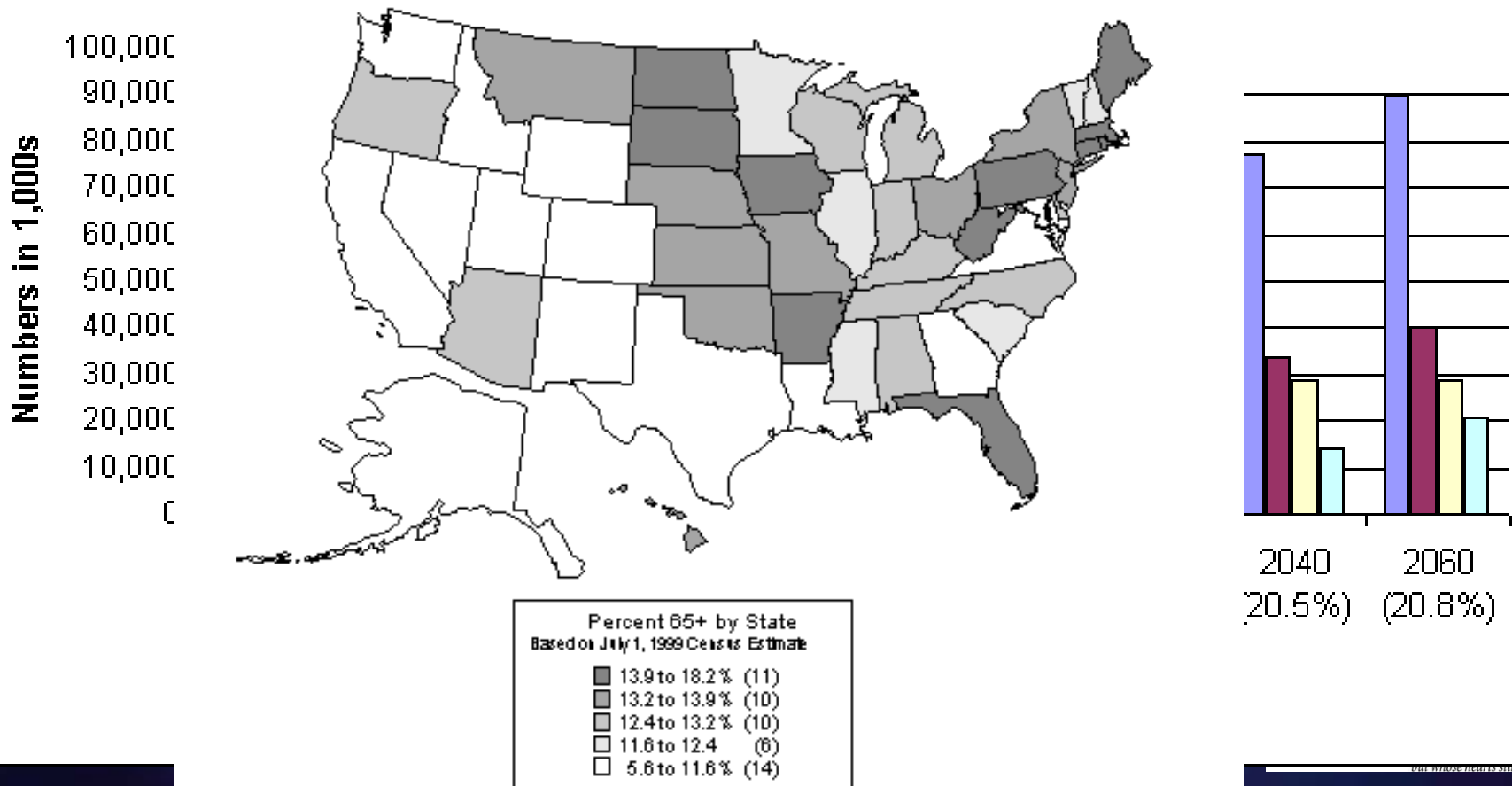
- **Global Trends:**

- Increased life span.
- Inverse family pyramid.
- 70% of elderly in developing countries.
- Majority of the elderly are women.
- Older people are marginalized.



“Elderly, the forgotten people group.”

# Part Two: “Who are “widows”, & what’s next?”

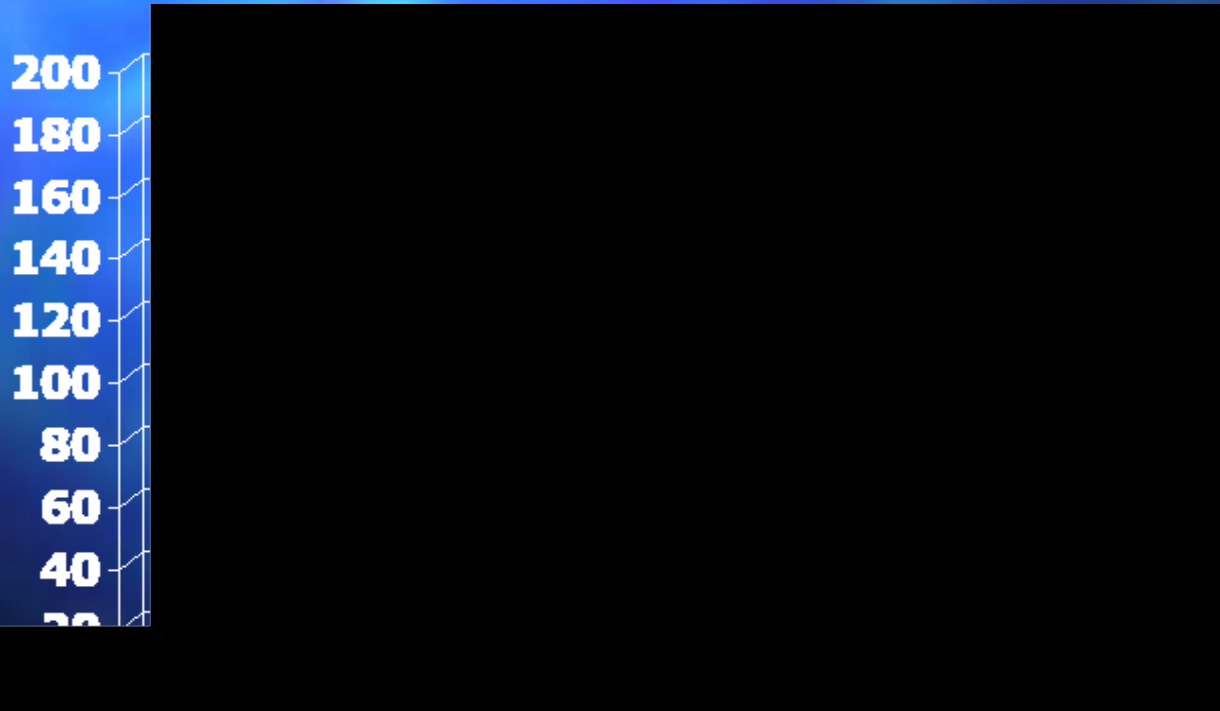


“Elderly, the forgotten people group.”

# Part Two:

## “Who are “widows”, & what’s next?”

- National Trends:



“Elderly, the forgotten people group.”

# Part Two:

## “Who are “widows”, & what’s next?”

- **National Trends:**
  - Aging population.
  - Cost of caring for the elderly.
  - Dehumanizing the elderly.

“...if semantic gymnastics can be used to deny the humanity of the unborn, they can also be employed to deny the humanity of the born. If semantic gymnastics can be invoked to call abortion something other than killing, they can be relied upon to cover up the destructive nature of euthanasia.”

- “Dehumanizing the Vulnerable”

by William Brennan, Ph.D

“Elderly, the forgotten people group.”

# Part Two:

## “Who are “widows”, & what’s next?”

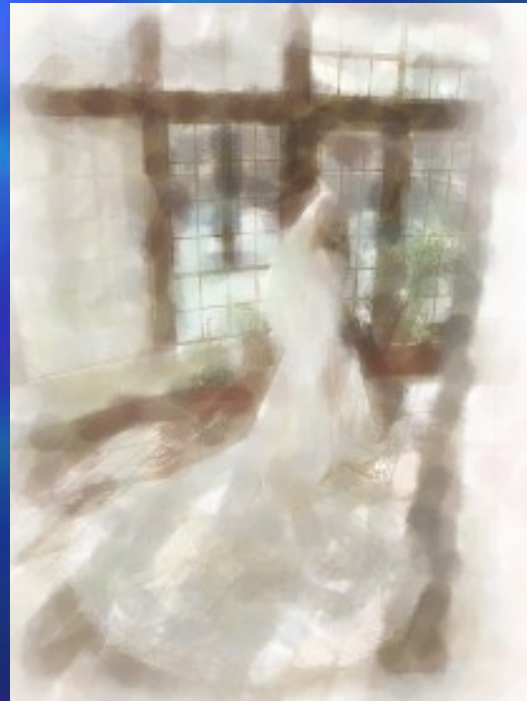
- **Local Trends: Nebraska**
  - 292,527 over 60 years old.
  - 32,000 over the age of 80.
  - Nebraska ranks 6<sup>th</sup> per capita.
  - 30,408 living under the poverty level.
  - 17,738 live in 237 nursing homes.



“Elderly, the forgotten people group.”

## Part Three:

“What is the role of the faith community?”



“Elderly, the forgotten people group.”

# Part Three:

## “What is the role of the Bride?”

- Learn.
  - Educate.
  - Advocate.



“Elderly, the forgotten people group.”

# Part Three:

## “What is the role of the Bride?”

- **Learn.**

- **Attend seminars & workshops.**
- **Visit care facilities.**
- **Use the internet.**
- **Network with offices on aging.**



# Part Three:

“Elderly, the forgotten people group.”

## “What is the role of the faith community?”

- **Educate.**

- Model behavior.
- Create intergenerational events.
- Set aside a Sunday service to honor the elderly.



# Part Three:

“Elderly, the forgotten people group.”

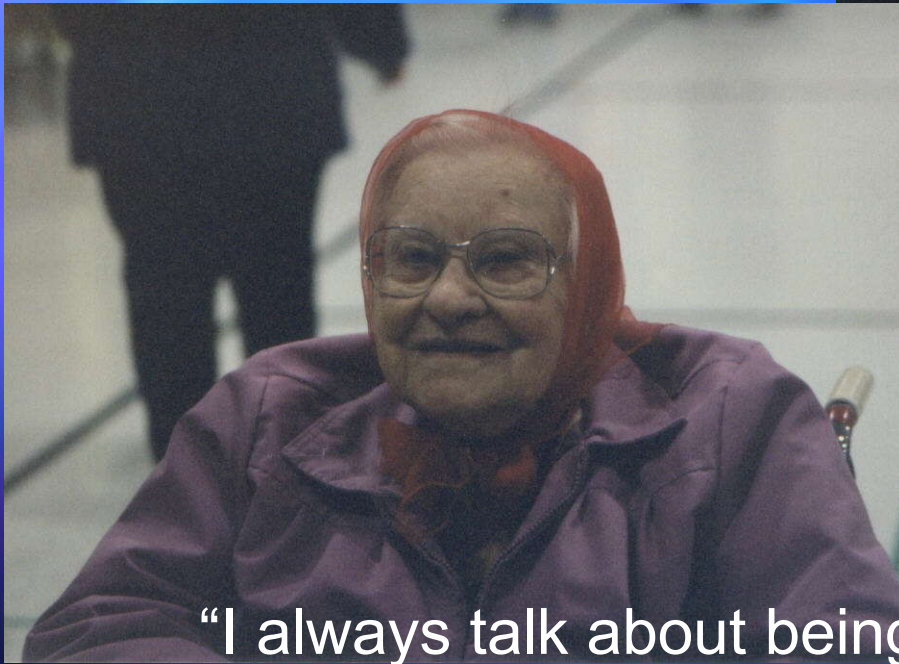
## “What is the role of the faith community?”

- **Advocate.**
  - Penetrate and educate.
  - Criticize and energize.
  - Create opportunities.



“Elderly, the forgotten people group.”

# Final Thought:



“I always talk about being in God’s presence. I met Him today. He turned out to be an 88 year old woman.”

- volunteer

# desert MINISTRIES

*Reaching out to people, "...whose bodies are broken  
but whose hearts still work."*™

For more information:

<http://www.desertministries.org>

[info@desertministries.org](mailto:info@desertministries.org)

**We are a Christian organization dedicated to serving the frail elderly living in nursing homes. Many of them suffer from severe depression brought on by feelings of abandonment and loneliness. They are at the mercy of an industry in crisis. Now when they need help the most, there is no one there for them. We recruit and train people to be "family" and advocates for them. We serve them regardless of their religion, race, ethnicity, or gender.**