

# HHRM NEWS

## In Loving Memory

*Of Co-Founder Rev. Rose Marie Meringola-Gaines  
November 9, 1936-March 7, 2017*



After a very unexpected 2 week hospital stay, my mother, Rev. Rose Marie Gaines went home to be with the Lord on March 7<sup>th</sup>. She had what is believed to be an asymptomatic form of lung cancer that metastasized throughout her body. The letter that I tried to send from the hospital to you is included in this newsletter. We are sending this out as soon as we were able to.

*“Yes says the Spirit,  
they will rest from  
their labors for their  
deeds will follow  
them.”*

*Revelation 14:13*

*The Lord impressed this  
verse upon my heart while  
driving to the hospital on  
Monday, March 6<sup>th</sup>.*

*Mom went home to be with  
Jesus on March 7, 2017*

*At 3:50pm.*

## The work of HHRM continues on ... There is much to do.

As the work of HHRM continued when my father passed in 2010, so it continues now. I have worked side by side with my mother over the past eight years as she mentored and prepared me for this day, and so the work and ministry of HHRM continues today, Wednesday, March 15, 2017. I am grateful to those who are beside me to help with the daily operations

and functions of the ministry. We ask your continued support in prayer and finances as we work hard to see the great vision of HHRM accomplished, to continue to meet the needs of families in our community while sharing with them the love and Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. Thank you in advance for your love, prayers and support.

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The following letter was written while mom was at North Shore University Hospital in Manhasset, N.Y. March 6<sup>th</sup> the day before mom went to be with the Lord.

I tried several times to write and share the news of her illness with you all, while we were there, however things changed so quickly each day as you will read.

Dear Partners, Family and Friends:

Warmest Christian greetings! As I write this letter, Tuesday, March 6th, I am at the North Shore University Hospital in Manhasset, New York where my mom who is usually full of amazing, boundless energy is literally fighting for her life.

All of the mission holiday events were wonderful this past season. God faithfully provided and many families were blessed and touched by God's love in action.

After a very busy season, Mom and I took a little break in January for a week and had the use of a dear friend's condo. We enjoyed a day at Disney, the Holy Land Experience and a bit of relaxation in Tarpon Springs. It was a much needed rest.

Then eight weeks ago my mother developed a croupy cough. We went to the doctor's and she was treated for that as a cough. There were no other symptoms. Blood work was done and it appeared that she had a slight anemia. Other tests were done which all came back negative for any blood loss. The doctor suggested she stay with Andrew and I while not feeling well.

Mom continued her work at HHRM, then went back to the doctor's on February 22nd for the cough again. With her continuing to feel weak, they did more blood work and a chest x-ray. The chest x-ray was abnormal so we were sent for a CT scan of her chest. The next day we received a call with results that were not good. We were instructed to go to Huntington Hospital where mom would receive needed blood and information about what is happening in her body.

We were told by her doctor that a large lung mass had been detected in her left lung. A biopsy would be ordered for Monday, February 27th and we would proceed from there. She remained in stable condition.

Monday I arrived at the hospital only to learn that the biopsy could not be performed as planned because mom had atrial fibrillation in the wee hours of the morning. She was stable but not well enough for the planned procedure. They decided to do a CT scan with contrast which showed the presence of something in her heart. Closer ultrasound examination revealed a mass in her heart. We would be moved to North Shore University Hospital in Manhasset where they are better equipped to handle such issues. Mom was transported that evening.

After an examination, a biopsy was scheduled for Thursday morning. We were told that an additional CT scan indicates what appears to be cancer in mom's pelvis and adrenal glands. We would know more after biopsy. This is the first time she has been in the hospital for an illness in her entire life. Without our faith it would all be so overwhelming.

Wednesday evening I decided to go home for a few hours having been by my mom's side day and night. I received a call at 8:40pm from the hospital telling me that mom had suffered a mild stroke. Our family went back to the hospital to find mom weakened on her right side and unable to speak clearly.

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(letter from hospital continued)

Since that time, we have been in the Stroke Unit where she is recovering well neurologically from the stroke. We have had countless episodes of atrial fibrillation, difficulty breathing etc. all effects of what appears to be cancer in her body. Last night she had a terrible episode of sinus tachycardia. Her vitals are stabilized and resting well now. She is not well enough to go under anesthesia so a fine needle aspiration biopsy is scheduled for today.

All of this is quite overwhelming for our family as mom has always been so active and had no history or symptoms until the cough developed. Regardless, we continue to trust the Lord with our mom. We will continue to live out her and my father's legacy, as we always have, with Helping Hand Rescue Mission. She is truly in His hands.

I am thankful for those who are pulling together wonderfully to keep the mission up and running as they continue to serve the hungry and those in need in our temporary absence. Mom really needs both me and my brother Matt with her at this critical time. I'm grateful he was able to come in from North Carolina.

Updates on mom's progress are made daily on our Facebook page for Helping Hand Rescue Mission and my personal page at Andrewkingambino.

At this time I ask for your fervent prayers for our mother. This beautiful saint of God who has believed God for many miracles these last fifty-two years and served Him faithfully all of her life needs a miracle touch in her body. She has been a mother to so many through the years. The almost unbelievable news of her illness has shaken our community but we serve a faithful God and know she is ultimately in His hands.

I ask for your continued prayers, much needed financial support and for God's wisdom and guidance as HHRM continues on the clear pathway established by my parents in 1965. It is truly my heart to live take up the torch and to continue to share the "good news" with the poor of our community. There is much work to be done for the Lord.

Please feel free to call me at HHRM 631-351-6996 or my personal number at 631-678-8250 and I would be happy to provide updates or information to you.

We serve a God of miracles. I have seen them firsthand all of my life.

Join us in believing for a divine intervention in this situation. God is able. We rest in His sovereignty and His will.

Richest Blessings,

*Rev. Kimberly Gaines-Gambino*

Rev. Kimberly Gaines-Gambino, President

The last conversations with mom were on Monday evening, March 6, 2017 when she told my son Drew (24) that she was "going home to heaven". She and I spent the rest of the evening reading Psalms and listening to worship music. She was in a comatose state in the morning and unresponsive. A CT scan was ordered to see if she had had another stroke in the night.

During the CT scan she breathed her last breath and made her peaceful departure to be with her Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ and to join her beloved husband, our father Rev. J.A. Gaines.

*Gifts in memoriam can be made online at [www.hhrm.org](http://www.hhrm.org) or mailed to HHRM.*

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## Upcoming Dates & Events

**Fundraiser Boutique Sale....March 23-25<sup>th</sup> 10am-4pm**

We were never able to have the sale in Feb. due to mom's illness.

**Spring Into Easter Family Celebration April 8<sup>th</sup> 11am-1:30pm**

Special Easter Chapel, Easter Baskets, Chik Fil A Lunch, Egg Hunt

**Office Hours 10-4pm Tues-Fri & Food Pantry is open Tuesday-Friday 1pm-4pm**

**Happy Day Express for children 5-12 years Saturdays 10:30am-12:30pm**

Helping Hand Rescue Mission Inc.  
P.O. Box 325  
225 Broadway  
Huntington Station, N.Y. 11746

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage

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Permit No. 82

## Current Needs & Prayer Requests

God's strength, direction, grace and continued provision as we move forward in this work.

Non-perishable food items (rice & rice mixes, pasta, sauce and canned veggies at this time)

Items are currently needed for our Easter Celebration. 631-351-6996

"Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."- Philippians 1:6