

Assistance Program helps a pastor's widow meet unexpected expenses

Viola Roser was 84 when she was diagnosed with stomach cancer. Her husband, a retired pastor, had died five years earlier. **"Just make me comfortable,"** she told her doctor. **"I've lived long enough."** But the doctor successfully treated her cancer and, 12 years later, she lives in a nursing home in Centralia, MO.

Recovering from cancer wasn't the only thing Mrs. Roser didn't expect. **"When my husband died, I had plenty of cash left over,"** she says, **"But all this sickness has taken quite a lot of my money. I'm down to a very small amount now and I need extra help."**

Fortunately, that help is available through the Board of Pensions Assistance Program. Mrs. Roser receives both an Income Supplement and a Housing Supplement that allows her to stay in her nursing home. For more than 40 years, Mrs. Roser's husband served the Church. And now, she says, **"They're helping pay my bills. I really appreciate it."**

Interview conducted in January 2003.

About the Assistance Program

When the needs of church workers or their families exceed the bounds of the Benefits Plan, personal resources, or other means, our Financial Assistance and Retirement Housing Programs provide an important safety net. Available forms of assistance include:

- Shared Grants
- Emergency Assistance Grants
- Income Supplements
- Retirement Housing
- Housing Supplements
- Seminary Debt Assistance Program

The Board of Pensions of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) oversees benefits programs for church workers and their families, while being guided by the Biblical principles of community and stewardship.

For information on applying for assistance, call 800-773-7752 or 800-PRESPLAN. Or visit the Board's Web site at www.pensions.org.