

## Our Free Access

In September 2000, the city of LaGrange, Georgia, became the first city in the world to offer free Internet access for all its residents and businesses. LaGrange, located 60 miles southwest of Atlanta, gained international attention when it gave its 27,000 citizens free access through their cable television network. The city provides all the necessary hardware, software and access at no cost to the public.

Why would a governmental body do such a thing? City leaders cited their desire to create a wired community capable of competing in a high-tech world. The World Teleport Association of New York honored LaGrange with the "Intelligent City of the Year" award for 2000. *Government Technology* magazine also applauded the city by bestowing its "Government Technology Leadership" award.

Years ago, Life Care recognized the value of having a wired company capable of competing in a high-tech world and assuring enhanced communications capabilities. Life Care's Information Systems team has kept our company on the leading edge of communication and information exchange through its resources and the talent of its personnel. The development of the Village Square has produced an extraordinary meeting place where ideas are born and grown and education is extended. We have incredible access to one another and to the outside world.

In the spiritual realm, Jesus' death and resurrection provide free access to God for every man, woman and child in the world. He opens the way for us to connect directly with God, with no need to approach Him through sacrifices, the law, a priest, a church or any ritual. Out of His great love and mercy, God provides everything necessary for us to become His children and receive forgiveness and the promise of eternal life with Him.

We were all born "wired" for a relationship with our heavenly Father. There is a void within us that can be filled only by knowing God personally. We can search for meaning and fulfillment in many different places, but we were created to love and worship God and to enjoy fellowship with Him. Our deepest longings will never be satisfied until we put our faith in Christ and finally make that connection with God.

*We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. Romans 5:1-2 NIV*

--Beecher Hunter