

Helping Others in Their Time of Need

We received a thank you card from the nurse who cared for my dad in his final days. As family gathered around his hospital bed we were impressed with the care given by a nurse named Sarah. Sarah was gentle, kind and comforting to dad, always lowering her head to his level whenever she talked with him. She had a special quality about her that showed she really cared for her patients. And, dad really appreciated her, kidding with her even though he knew the end was near.

To family members gathered at the hospital, she was thorough, informative and professional. She ***She was a nurse to dad but ... we were her patients, too.*** told us what was happening, but in a compassionate way. She was a nurse to dad but became a friend to us. We were her patients, too.

Sarah was a recent nursing school graduate in her first year as a nurse. Her bedside manner and skill level indicated otherwise. Sarah overheard family members reading something I had written to dad. I emailed it ahead in case I didn't reach North Carolina in time to say goodbye to my father. Sarah commented on how warm, loving and spiritual the note was. In response, my sister presented her with a signed copy of my devotional book, which had a story about dad in it. We also sent a note to hospital administrators about the loving care provided by Sarah.



Sarah's note to us indicated what a blessing it was to provide care for my dad. She said, "The day that I first cared for your father was two days after my grandpa's passing. Caring for a man as special as him reminded me of my own grandpa and healed some of my grief." She went on to say, "The day of your father's passing was truly the hardest day of my nursing career." In response to our letter to the hospital she said, "I never thought I would receive such heartfelt recognition for my care that day. It has renewed my commitment to a profession that I felt called to, in order to help others and serve God. I am forever grateful to have had the opportunity to have known such a beautiful family so devoted to God." What a wonderful note from Sarah!

People have the opportunity to be caring, compassionate people in their everyday life. Ministering to people can be done in whatever field you enter. Like Sarah, it can be a "calling" from God. Sometimes healing is not possible for the patient, but the event can still provide healing of the spirit. Sarah helped *us* through this difficult time, and can be a mutual caring for each others. When you get a chance, be sure to tell someone you appreciate them — professionally and personally. You never know the hurt *they* may be feeling, at the same time they are serving you. You never know the power of a kind word and what it will do to uplift another person. Perhaps one small gesture of kindness will encourage a long career of helping others. We truly believe God placed Sarah in our path, at our time of need. We are grateful we were able to return that love to her.

Scripture: *Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves (Romans 12:10). A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another (John 13:34).*

Question: Who has God placed in your path that you can minister to, and did it end up being a mutual blessing for each other?

You never know the power of a kind word and what it will do to help another person.

Prayer: Dear Lord. We thank you for the people you place around us, especially those who radiate your love through them. We thank you for the opportunity to affirm someone else. And, we pray we will never be too busy to show our appreciation to others. Amen.

