

Intensive Care

By Wes Seeliger

I have spent long hours in the intensive care waiting room watching with anguished people, listening to urgent questions: “Will my husband make it?” “Will my child walk again?” “How do you live without your companion of thirty years?”

The intensive care waiting room is different from any other place in the world. And the people who wait are different. They can't do enough for each other. No one is rude. The distinctions of race and class melt away. The garbage man loves his wife as much as the university professor loves his, and everyone understands this. Each person pulls for everyone else.

In the intensive care waiting room, the world changes. Vanity and pretense vanish. The universe is focused on the doctor's next report. If only it will show improvement. Everyone knows that loving someone else is what life is all about.

Could we learn to love like that if we realized that every day of life is a day in the waiting room?

Jesus said, “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you” (*John 15:12*). And we are to bear with one another in love (*Ephesians 4:2*).



Chiefland Church of Christ

Meeting at 211 NE 2nd Street in beautiful Chiefland, Florida
PO Box 2539 • Chiefland, FL 32644 • (352) 493-1242

THINGS ABOVE

“Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth”

—[Colossians 3:1-2]—

MARCH 8, 2009  VOL. 4, No. 51

www.ChieflandChurchofChrist.com

Faith That Moves Mountains

By Pat Hunt

Being diagnosed with both endometrial and ovarian cancer is certainly a mountain to be reckoned with. The chemotherapy and radiation treatments can be a larger mountain to climb than the actual cancer.

I have put my trust in certain things and people and this has produced in me a good attitude and a positive outlook on what is happening to my body. You should never put your faith in anything until you have evidence that it is trustworthy and loyal. I have been blessed with many people whom I have relied upon and have complete faith in, including my doctors and nurses, my devoted husband and family members, friends, coworkers, and, last but not least, my church family at Valrico.



In Philippians 2:3, Paul is advising the Philippians to “do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself.” This passage is describing our Valrico church family to a tee. We all know how blessed we are to be a part of a loving and caring group. Any act of kindness simply builds up a person’s faith and makes them strong. That is true for the giver and the receiver. When good deeds are done on your behalf, it humbles you to want to do good to others as well. It’s contagious and that is exactly what God intended! I pray that we never take advantage of this blessing we have at Valrico and that our love for each other will only grow deeper so we can guard ourselves against the devil when he tests our love for one another and our love for God.



Whenever I find myself in a “pity party” (which I have had over the last 8 months and probably will have more in the future) I read Philippians 4:4–8 —

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say rejoice! Let your forbearing spirit be known to all men. The Lord is near. Be anxious for nothing but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let our requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, shall guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, let your mind dwell on these things. The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things; and the God of peace shall be with you.

Thinking about the good things of life and all the blessings God gives us every day, even when we are sick, leaves no room in our mind for the negative or depressing things of this world. As I think of good things like children laughing and playing, sunny days and magnificent sunsets, I find myself more and more looking above the clouds and thinking more of heaven and how beautiful, lovely and excellent it will be. Thoughts of heaven where there is no pain or suffering and being able to praise the Lord for eternity will certainly build you up and allow you to move mountains, no matter how large or small.

Sometimes we wonder why bad things happen to us. For a moment, consider the opposite: Why do *good* things happen to us? We need to remember the words of God to the apostle Paul when Paul had prayed three times for the thorn in the flesh to leave him — “And [God] has said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness’” (2 Co 12:9). There is a beneficently higher purpose to our suffering — we can help others as they suffer. The apostle Paul wrote (2 Co 1:3–7 NLT), “*All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is our merciful Father and the source of all comfort. He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us. For the more we suffer for Christ, the more God will shower us with his comfort through Christ. Even when we are weighed down with troubles, it is for your comfort and salvation! For when we ourselves are comforted, we will certainly comfort you. Then you can patiently endure the same things we suffer. We are confident that as you share in our sufferings, you will also share in the comfort God gives us.*”