



**The Christmas Season** ... "Most of the time" it is sparkled with moments of love, goodwill and peace,

Christmas, for me, is joyful *most of the time*. Each year, while cleaning, baking and preparing for Christmas, I often find myself in tears. Bing Crosby's, "I'll Be Home for Christmas" tugs at my heart every time I hear it. I cry because for many it is, "If only in my dreams."



I am one of ten children and I recently asked my mom if she could recall something unique about each of her ten children. She remembers that when she and dad took me to church, as an infant, my lip quivered as soon as the music began. I cried when hearing music all the time. To this day, music brings tears to my eyes often. I have asked God to take away a portion of my sensitivity. I have hidden in the bathroom until a song is over to avoid family seeing the tears. And, sometimes, I just don't even try to fight it.

God gave me the gift of empathy. As a result, I struggle knowing there are lonely people. I envision an uninvited older adult home alone during holidays. I feel the grief of others whose loved one will not be in his/her chair this Christmas. I struggle with how families endure the news of an incurable disease diagnosis especially at Christmas. I struggle with not having the right words to help dull the pain. To help me cope, I try to find someone who is alone to invite to our dinner table. I listen attentively when someone is able to share their grief. I offer a hand when I see a need that I can fulfill. I remind myself to do my BEST and to accept the REST. And, I ask God to help me let the music play!

This Christmas, in my personal life, I am beyond blessed. My parents (87 and 89) are still living. My husband is very supportive and good to me. My adult children, their spouses and our eight children are a big part of our lives. I have no reason for tears other than those of gratitude and empathy.

This Christmas, at Compassionate Care, I am equally as blessed. Sara, Terri and Carol are co-workers who love the Lord and it shows in their daily service on the phone and in every role, they fulfill. It is unbelievable how quickly they have learned the numerous responsibilities since becoming part of our Compassionate Care office team.

Our caregivers are simply amazing. They help us continue to meet the ever-growing needs of those we serve. Without the "yes, I can help" we could not fulfil the mission of helping our clients remain independent in their own homes. There have been times when a two-hour a week need turned into 24-hours of service for more than a month straight. How do we make this happen? We pray. We call. Our staff answer to the need. We are an amazing team and I am beyond grateful. Thank you.

Our clients are kind, understanding, grateful, forgiving, loving and have found a place in our hearts. Thank you.

Daily, and at Christmas, I pray that each of you will feel Christ's presence and His love for you. He will always be a guest at our table, if invited. We are never alone. He knows our grief, understands our pain and loves us unconditionally. I am asking God to help me enjoy the Christmas message in the music that I hear. And, I am asking him to wrap His arms around each of you.

May you be sprinkled with God's love, goodwill and peace.

Merry Christmas!

**Bev**



# Compassionate Chatter

With our Compassionate Care  
Family & Friends



## Wishing You All a Very Merry Christmas!

Have you ever noticed how much the Christmas story includes the elderly? So often we emphasize and wonder at the youth of Mary and rightfully so, as history points to that she was probably a teenager. But did you know that there are three characters in the story of Christ's birth where older generations are honored.

In Luke chapter one, Elizabeth and her husband Zechariah were introduced. It says that "...they had no child because Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years." Of course, no one knows how old they really were as the Bible doesn't specifically say, but the similar story of Abraham and Sara had them nearing 100 years! Whatever Elizabeth's & Zechariah's age, I think it is interesting that God wanted that specific detail entered into history, and that this couple "advanced in years" was going to get the blessing of having a child that was prophesied about hundreds of years earlier, and would prepare the way of the Savior.

Another aged individual in the Luke 2 story was Simeon. He was a devout man of God who had a promise from the Holy Spirit that "he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ." Simeon was used by God to project a public blessing in the temple over Jesus and prophesy the magnitude of his life to come. The passage goes on to say that he could now "depart in peace."

Finally included in the Christmas Story was a precious woman named Anna. Luke 2:36-38 says that she was "of a great age", "was a widow of about eighty-four years" and she never left the temple but served God with fasting and prayers night and day. At the very hour when Mary & Joseph were at the temple dedicating Jesus, Anna "began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem." Her testimony proclaimed the authenticity of Jesus as our redemptive King.

To me, these instances of the elderly in the Christmas story emphasize the value and importance of the older generations in our lives. In a time when youth is glorified and obsessively desired we need the reminder to respect the wisdom and time-tested experience of our aging population. Please know this Christmas that YOU are loved, valued and appreciated by all of us at Compassionate Care.



May you have

the gift of *Faith*,

the blessing of *Hope*,

and the peace of *Christ's Love*

at *Christmas* and always,

The Compassionate Care Office Staff:

Terri, Sara, Bev & Carol



### NICE THINGS WE HEAR

"Our caregiver is a BLESSING to us! My husband lights up when she comes and it is okay for me to leave."

Hugs, A & J



**Compassionate  
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