

A Question from Snoopy

Although I don't often read the comic strips in the newspapers, my all-time favorite is *Peanuts*, which featured the characters Charlie Brown and Snoopy, among others.

They were the brainchild of Charles Monroe Schulz, nicknamed Sparky, who is widely regarded as one of the most influential cartoonists of all time. Schulz had been active in the Church of God (Anderson, Indiana) as a young adult and then later taught Sunday school at a United Methodist Church. He often touched on religious themes in his work.

Here is a memorable one of his comic strips for me:

The first frame shows a dark night, and Snoopy is in the doghouse. He goes to Charlie Brown's front door and kicks it. Charlie Brown looks out the window and says, "Are you feeling lonely again?"



In the next frame, Charlie Brown and Snoopy are walking together, and Charlie Brown says to Snoopy, "It's a terrible feeling, isn't it?"

In the next frame, they are both in bed, covers pulled up, as Charlie Brown is obviously trying to comfort his depressed companion, saying, "You wake up in the middle of the night and everything seems hopeless. You're all alone." Snoopy pulls the covers even higher.

Charlie Brown says, "You wonder what life is all about and why you're here. Does anyone really care? And you just stare into the dark and feel all alone."

In the final frame, Snoopy looks at Charlie Brown and longingly asks, "Do we have any night cookies?"

From time to time, all of us need some "night cookies." Night cookies are essentially lifters or pleasant interludes that are difference makers in people's lives.

One dictionary definition of *difference* is "the state of being unlike or distinct; the quality which distinguishes one thing from another." A *maker* is "one who shapes, forms or molds. A difference maker, then, is one who makes a distinct difference in another by shaping, forming, molding or influencing.

The mission of Life Care and Century Park is to positively impact the body, mind and spirit of the patients or residents and their families through the professional gifts we've been given, administered in an attitude of compassion.

(more)

Every day, to be sure, our associates are handing out night cookies. And they are blessed in the process, as are those who receive them.

Jesus said: *This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you* (John 15:12 NKJV).

– Beecher Hunter