

A Tribute to Nurses

Today launches a nationwide celebration – and certainly so within Life Care, Century Park and Life Care at Home. It is the beginning of National Nurses Week, which runs through Tuesday, May 12, the birthday of Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing.

Our company is blessed with outstanding nurses. Our clinical outcomes and satisfaction survey results give tangible evidence of their professional skills and compassion. One of the finest tributes to nursing that I have read was written by Lois Sigmon Turley, RN. The poem is an adaptation of a popular Bible passage. Turley said she wrote it originally for a high school English class “as a young, aspiring, would-be nurse.” Here it is:

The Proverbs 31 Nurse

Who can find a good-natured nurse?
For her price is far above silver and gold.
Those with whom she works
do safely trust in her,
for she will do her duty well.

She seeks medicines and skills,
and works willingly to help others.
She is like the dedicated servant;
she gives of herself
and considers her own desires last.
She rises while it is yet night
and gives aid to the sick
and comfort to the sorrowing.

A heartwarming smile is hers,
and she uses it;
from her heart it comes,
and is made beautiful in her eyes.

She girds herself with honor
and strengthens her ability with patience.
She perceives that her work is good.

Her candle does not go out by night.
She lays her hands upon understanding.
She stretches out her hand to the poor;
yes, she reaches forth hands to the needy.

(more)

She is not afraid of sorrow,
for her trust is in God.
Pride and humility are her clothing,
and she shall rejoice in time to come.

She opens her mouth with comfort,
and in her tongue is the law of kindness.
She busies herself helping others
and does not allow herself to be idle.

Her associates rise up and call her blessed;
her patients also and they praise her kindness.
Many daughters have helped others,
but you excel them all.
Favor is deceitful, and beauty is vain,
but a nurse that fears the Lord,
she shall be praised.
Give her the fruit of her hands
and let her own works praise her
in the halls of nursing.

Perhaps sometime during the observance of National Nurses Week, it would be appropriate to read this poem to an assemblage that includes our nurses – in recognition of the work they do and our gratitude for their commitment.

– Beecher Hunter