

## *Always Able to Talk*

We see it often in the work we are called to do in Life Care and Century Park.



The dining room, the atrium or the banquet hall of a nearby hotel is festively adorned with beautiful flowers and ribbons. Across the front of the room a large banner reads: *A Golden Congratulations for a Golden Couple*. It is their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary, and family and friends have gathered from far and near to pay tribute to them.

The four children each take a turn describing their fondest memories and greatest lessons learned from their parents. Then the cake is cut, pictures are taken and everyone enjoys visiting with one another.

Too soon, the afternoon concludes. Friends say goodbye. Family members repack mementos in their cars, and everyone leaves.

Later in the evening, one of the grandchildren asks, “What is the secret, Grandma, to being happily married for 50 years?”

Without hesitation, her grandmother replies, “We were always able to talk about everything.”

Research supports her conclusion. A study of couples happily married for more than 25 years found only one thing they all had in common – each couple “chitchatted” with each other daily. Perhaps, since they already know how to converse with one another, they are more able to talk out their differences when tough times come.

It is also true of a team or organization, and certainly so in health care and hospitality services offered by our companies. Love and respect for one another and consideration of differing points of view must come into play in reaching solutions required to achieve a common mission.

The same holds true for our relationship with God. If we commune with him regularly, then we will automatically turn to Him first when crisis comes.

Have you had a quiet time talking with God today? He is eager to speak with you.

*Let your conversation be always full of grace (Colossians 4:6 NIV).*

– Beecher Hunter