

Charlie's Friend

My younger brother, Dr. Harold Hunter, has begun a new phase in his life. On this past Saturday, he was inaugurated as president of the Trinity College of the Bible and Theological Seminary in Newburgh, Indiana. My wife, Lola, and I had the privilege of participating in the presidential inauguration ceremony held on the campus of that institution. Harold pastored churches in Tennessee and Florida from 1962 until 1991, when he entered full-time evangelism. Throughout his ministry, he has made time to visit nursing homes. This past Friday, he and his wife, Marilyn, joined Lola and me on a tour of Parkview Care Center in nearby Evansville with Connie Kirwer, executive director.

Recently, Harold shared a story that is of particular interest to those of us who work in Life Care, American Lifestyles and Life Care at Home. He tells it this way:

Not too long ago, I was visiting a nursing home and met a frail little man sitting quietly in his wheelchair with a faraway look in his eye. After I introduced myself as an evangelist, he exclaimed, "Oh, my, I just wish I could do a work for God like you, Dr. Hunter."

We chatted awhile, and I mentioned his faraway look and told him that I supposed he was reflecting on some pleasant event from long ago. His response was quick. "Oh, no, Dr. Hunter. Every morning after breakfast I sit here from 9 until noon and pray for this list of God's servants I have here in my hand."

With that, he showed me a crumpled paper in which were scrawled the names of family members, of pastors, of Sunday School teachers, of missionaries and friends. His finger shaking, he pointed at one and said, "This is my best friend Charlie's son. Charlie is gone. We served in France during the war. But his boy's been an alcoholic all his life. It took over seven years of praying, but a little over a year ago, Charlie's boy got saved and gave up the bottle. He comes to see me every week. I know Charlie would be proud. But, oh, boy, Dr. Hunter, I sure wish I could serve God like you do."

As I shook his quivering hand and turned to leave, I whispered in his ear, "My brother, I was just thinking the same thing about you."

Harold's story reminds us: No matter what your station or circumstance in life, the opportunities for service are limitless for every child of God. And that especially includes what you do in Life Care, American Lifestyles and Life Care at Home.

--Beecher Hunter