

## Climbing Mountains

Virtually everyone we meet has a mountain he or she is trying to climb. Perhaps it is the growing concern over the health of a family member or friend, or even oneself. Maybe it is a financial dilemma, a problem with children, a worsening relationship, or grief over the loss of a loved one. Whatever the circumstance, internal struggles develop.

In the book *Can a Busy Christian Develop Her Spiritual Life?* Jill Briscoe gives a pertinent illustration.

*Years ago, as I waited in line at a local shop, I heard the gossip. My neighbor's husband had left her. The night before he had packed his things into a van and driven out of her life.*

*I knew my neighbor casually. When we did speak, which wasn't often, it was about the weather. Our subdivision was the type where people led their own lives and neighbors didn't really get to know one another.*

*When I returned home, I struggled with what to do. Should I visit my neighbor, or pretend I knew nothing about her situation and go on with my day? In my mind, I could see her sitting at her kitchen table, alone. She was in her 50s and the kids were grown.*



*Finally, I got up the courage and walked over to her house. When she opened her door, I said, "I heard through the grapevine your husband left you last night. Can I do anything to help?"*

*Immediately, she burst into tears and said, "Come in. Come in." I spent the entire morning with her – listening, putting my arm around her, and having coffee. But it was the start of a relationship.*

Sometimes, when we think of a needy world, we think of faraway places and masses of people in desperate circumstances. In reality, our needy world might be right next door.

In the centers of Life Care and Century Park, and in the work of Life Care at Home, that needy world is all around us, folks hungering for a hug, a listening ear, the encouragement of a friend.

– Beecher Hunter