

In the Waiting Room

In *One Inch from the Fence*, Wes Seeliger writes a very provocative piece about life:

I have spent long hours in the intensive care waiting room ... watching with anguished people, listening to urgent questions: Will my husband make it? Will my child walk again? How do you live without your companion of 30 years?

The intensive care waiting room is different from any other place in the world. And the people who wait are different. They can't do enough for each other. No one is rude. The distinctions of race and class melt away. A person is a father first, a black man second. The garbage man loves his wife as much as the university professor loves his, and everyone understands this. Each person pulls for everyone else.

In the intensive care waiting room, the world changes. Vanity and pretense vanish. The universe is focused on the doctor's next report. If only it will show improvement. Everyone knows that loving someone else is what life is all about.

Could we learn to love like that if we realized that every day of life is a day in the waiting room? It is a lesson that many within Life Care, Century Park and Life Care at Home have taken to heart as they work daily to serve those entrusted to us – many of whom are facing great challenges.

--Beecher Hunter