

Reckless Lovers of Life

Recently, I was alarmed to read that 32 people had jumped to their deaths from the Golden Gate Bridge in 2010, and that was about the same number as the previous two years. No doubt, these individuals had allowed problems and desperate circumstances to overpower them to the point that they didn't want to live any longer. How sad!

On the other hand, most of us are energized to be around positive people – men and women who love life and want to live it to the fullest, who take advantage of opportunities to create little celebrations for themselves and for others.

Max Lucado, minister and one of my favorite authors, renders salutes to such folks, those he calls *Reckless Lovers of Life*, identified in his book, *You Changed My Life: Stories of Real People with Remarkable Hearts*:

- *Here's to the hero of the San Francisco marathon who crossed the finish line without seeing it. (He was blind.)*
- *Here's to the woman whose husband left her with a nest of kids to raise and bills to pay, but who somehow tells me every Sunday that God has never been closer.*
- *Here's to the single father of two girls who learned to braid their hair.*
- *Here's to the grandparents who came out of retirement to raise the children their children couldn't raise.*
- *Here's to the foster parents who took a child long enough for that child to take their hearts – then gave the child up again.*
- *Here's to the girl, told by everyone to abort the baby, who chose to keep the baby.*
- *Here's to the heroin addict-turned-missionary.*
- *Here's to the executive who every Tuesday hosts a 5:30 a.m. meeting for Bible study and prayer.*
- *Here's to all of you reckless lovers of life and God.*

And to Lucado's list, I choose to add one of my own:

Here's to those who reach out with professionalism and compassion to touch and enhance the lives of the frail and infirm elderly entrusted to them.

– Beecher Hunter