

Special Counselor to the Dying

When Dr. Elisabeth Kubler-Ross was doing research on her famous book *On Death and Dying*, she came across the story of an African-American woman, a member of a certain hospital's maintenance crew.

The woman spent her day cleaning floors, emptying wastebaskets and tidying up.

The hospital staff began to notice that each time she finished cleaning the room of a dying patient, that person was invariably more content, happier and at peace.

Dr. Kubler-Ross interviewed her to find out why. The woman said that she had known a lot of fear and tragedy in her life, as well as good times when others helped her know of God's love. She'd been up, and she'd been down the mountain. The worst time was when her 3-year-old son was ill with pneumonia. She brought him to the public health clinic, and he died in her arms while she waited her turn.

All this could have embittered her, but it gave her a heart for helping others who were in distress.

"You see, doctor, the dying patients are just like old acquaintances to me, and I'm not afraid to touch them, to talk with them, or to offer hope."

Dr. Kubler-Ross said that consequently the hospital promoted this woman. She was no longer a member of the maintenance crew. Her title became *Special Counselor to the Dying*.

This woman, with few resources at her disposal, made her life count. Of course, if you have been blessed with great resources or great leadership ability, or extraordinary talent, you have greater opportunities for doing good than this woman did.

And, of course, we do. In Life Care and Century Park, you have those resources, the leadership ability, the talent and great opportunities to do good for others.

You do it. Daily. And I am so proud of you!

So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone (Galatians 6:10 ESV).

– Beecher Hunter