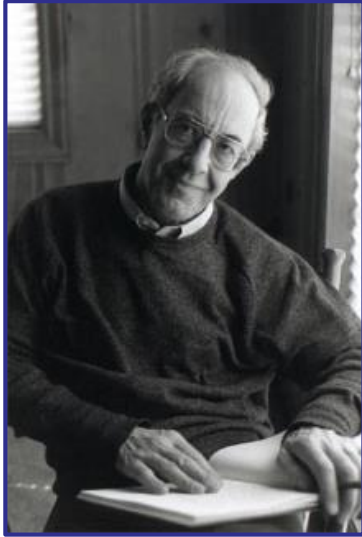


# The Face of God

Dutch psychologist and theologian Henri Nouwen was known for his determination to break down barriers, whether between Catholic and Protestant or therapist and patient.



He spent most of his life pursuing a high-pressure career as a sought-after speaker and author.

Years of travel and dozens of books took such a toll on his health and spirit that he eventually retreated to Toronto, Canada, to become priest-in-residence at Daybreak, a home for the severely disabled.

Nouwen lived a quiet life at Daybreak, residing in a small, simple room, and ministering to the patients at the facility. He had a special relationship with a resident named Adam, a profoundly retarded young man unable to walk, talk or care for himself. Nouwen devoted nearly two hours every day to caring for Adam – bathing, shaving, combing his hair, feeding him.

To onlookers, it seemed a great burden on the priest to spend so many hours on such menial duties. When asked why he spent his time in this way, Nouwen insisted he benefited from the relationship. He described how the process of learning to love Adam, with all of his incapacities, taught him what it must be like for God to love us, even with all our frailties.

Ultimately, Henri Nouwen concluded, “The goal of education and formation for the ministry is continually to recognize the Lord’s voice, His face and His touch in every person we meet.”

Associates in Life Care, Century Park and Life Care at Home have learned the depth of this truth.

They experience the Lord’s voice, His face and His touch in the men and women they serve – residents, family members and one another.

*No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us (1 John 4:12 NKJV).*

– Beecher Hunter