

## The Power of Thanks

In the middle of **National Nurses Week**, LeAnn Thieman has extended greetings and a poem saluting those who have chosen the profession. Thieman, a nurse herself, Hall of Fame speaker and author of 12 *Chicken Soup for the Soul* books, has appeared twice as keynote speaker at annual meetings for Life Care's directors of nursing (in 2010 most recently).

In preparation for both editions of *Chicken Soup for the Nurse's Soul* books, she read 2,000 stories for each, noting many common themes. "But the most predominant was 'Thank you,'" she said.

"One story thanked the nurse who ministered to a lonely wounded soldier in Vietnam on Christmas Eve. Another told of a nurse at the bedside of a burn unit patient, afraid to look in the mirror. The nurse administered medications and treatments, then put her earrings on the woman and told her she was beautiful. In yet another, a nurse speaks softly as she tenderly bathes a dejected, agonizing AIDS patient, renewing his dignity and courage. The stories go on and on with people thanking nurses for their extraordinary care. But these nurses insist they were simply doing their 'jobs' ... caring with compassion and competence."

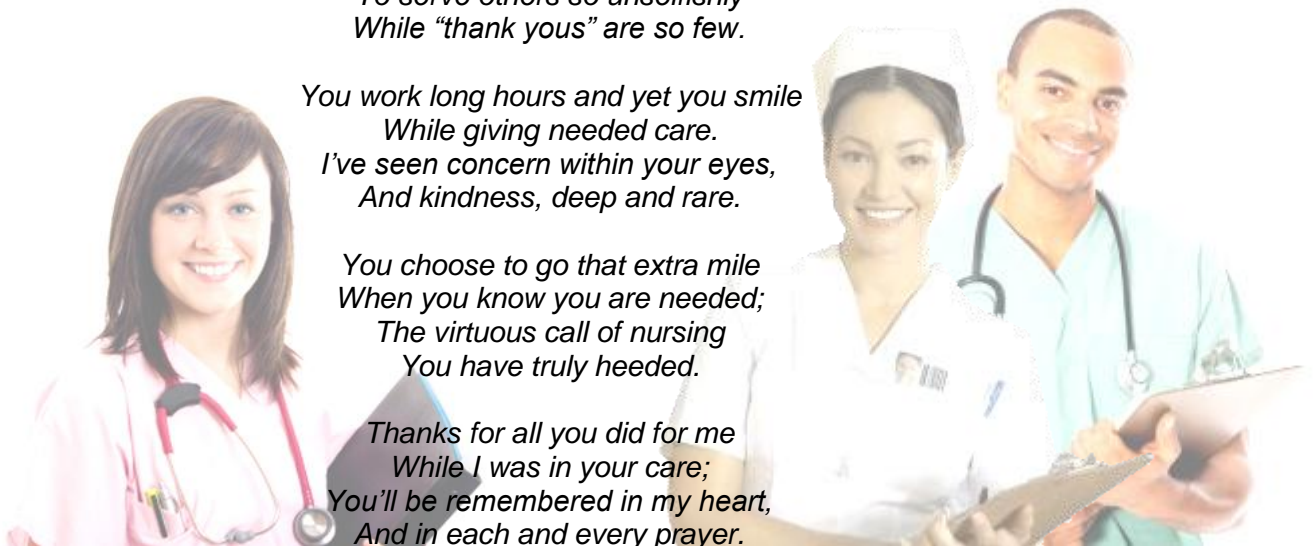
Thank You for Your Care

*It must be very hard at times  
To do all that you do;  
To serve others so unselfishly  
While "thank yous" are so few.*

*You work long hours and yet you smile  
While giving needed care.  
I've seen concern within your eyes,  
And kindness, deep and rare.*

*You choose to go that extra mile  
When you know you are needed;  
The virtuous call of nursing  
You have truly heeded.*

*Thanks for all you did for me  
While I was in your care;  
You'll be remembered in my heart,  
And in each and every prayer.*



The praise for the skills and the heart demonstrated by nurses is appropriately given in this, their special week, and beyond.

And as we prepare to head into **National Nursing Home Week**, we can add that such commendation also applies to those of other disciplines who have also responded to God's call upon their lives, and answer it in good stewardship.

– Beecher Hunter