

TOP 10 LIST FOR 2008

Tuesday begins a new chapter in our lives, and in the history of Life Care, Century Park and Life Care at Home. It is labeled 2008. What does this new year hold for us? What should we be striving to achieve? After all, becoming better – personally and professionally – should be a daily goal, and not one defined by 12 months of a calendar.

This past Sunday, the co-pastor of First Baptist Church of Cleveland, the Rev. Jim Gibson, offered his *Top Ten List for 2008* for the congregation. As he preached, it struck me how the points he made had direct application to our centers. With his permission, I am modifying the items on his list – call them resolutions, if you will – for our consideration. It would be my desire that each of our centers should be ...

1. A place for prayer. Spiritual health and a right relationship with God are very important for our residents, and no less so for our associates. We should pray for those we serve, and for our co-workers, that God would bless and enrich their lives through His providence.
2. A place of grace and hope. Grace is defined as a virtue coming from God; kindness, mercy and favor. Hope is a desire accompanied by expectations of or belief in fulfillment. Where these qualities reign, happiness and success flourish.
3. A giving place. This involves our talents, our time and our compassion. These are essential elements in the work we are called to do.
4. A mission place. We must be serious, and recommitted, to being the premier provider of long-term health care and the facility of choice in our community. The accomplishment of the mission ultimately means that the residents we serve get the best care available. We should settle for no less.
5. An evangelistic place. Although this term references the spread of the gospel of Christ, the word, *gospel*, actually means good news. Do we speak of our centers positively and with pride in the neighborhood, in the supermarket, and in other public places we visit? Do we say honorable and uplifting words about the people with whom we are associated? Do we point with pride and commitment to the men and women we are allowed to serve?
6. A serving place. Through love, we serve one another – our patients and our fellow associates. And if we don't love each other, then we cannot perform the highest level of service.
7. A ministering place. We must be sensitive to other persons' needs, even if it is offering a cup of cold water, or cooling a fevered brow, or giving a smile or a hug.
8. An equipping place. We must do all that we can to help our associates live out what God created them to be and do. That's why education and training play such important roles in pursuit of our mission.

9. A place for all people. Each of us should ask, as the day begins to unfold, What do I need to do to indicate that everyone is welcome here?
10. A friendly place. An attitude of personal warmth and hospitality should permeate our environment. It ought to cause everyone who comes through the front door – to live, to work or to visit – to want to come back again and again.

If these 10 objectives are realized, what is the result? As the Rev. Gibson declared about the church, our centers in 2008 can be vibrant, vital and victorious.

--Beecher Hunter