

Wandering Stars

In January 1997, astronomers announced they had made another discovery through the orbiting Hubble space telescope.

As scientists peered at a cluster of some 2,500 galaxies called Virgo, they saw for the first time heavenly bodies that had been theorized for some time. What they saw, wrote John Noble Wilford in the *New York Times*, were lone stars without a galaxy to call home. These isolated stars drift more than 300,000 light years from the nearest galaxy – that's three times the diameter of the Milky Way Galaxy.

“Somewhere along the way,” wrote Wilford, “they wandered off or were tossed out of the galaxy of their birth, out into the cold, dark emptiness of intergalactic space. Astronomers theorize that these isolated stars were displaced from their home galaxies as a result of galactic mergers or tidal forces from nearby galaxies. There, they drifted free of the gravitational influence of any single galaxy.”



Like these isolated, wandering stars, people can drift from the fellowship of others. It is true of Christians, who can slowly wander away from the community of Christ, where love and grace and shared values bring strength and inspiration.

It is also especially true in health care – in the work that we in Life Care, Century Park and Life Care at Home are called to do. God never created us for the cold of isolation. He created us to be together in deep devotion to one another, to experience the warmth of fellowship and the unity of purpose.

In my travels, it is evident that the associates in our centers who understand and practice this principle are those who deliver the optimum service to our residents and achieve the best results for their centers.

In reality, it is all about love – love for one another, love for our residents, love for the mission to which we are called, and love for the God who made us – not as isolated wanderers but as one great family.

– Beecher Hunter