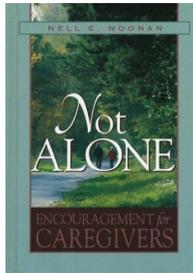


PASTOR'S CORNER

From the Desk of Pastor Daniel Simmons

Book of the Month



**Not Alone: Encouragement
for Caregivers**

By: Nell Noonan

ISBN#978-0-8358-9982-6

Scripture Readings

Comfort for Caregivers

September 1-7, 2019

Proverbs 3:5-6

September 8-14, 2019

Colossians 3:23-25

September 15-21, 2019

1 Peter 5:7

September 22-28, 2019

Galatians 5:22-23

September 29-30, 2019

Psalms 118:24

Caring for Caregivers

(Many Members, One Body)

24 "The Lord bless you and keep you;
25 the Lord make His face shine on you and be
gracious to you;
26 the Lord turn His face toward you and give you
peace." --- **Numbers 6**

Caregivers demonstrate selflessness and unconditional love. In John 15:13 Jesus says, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." Jesus demonstrated His love for us when He died on the cross for our salvation. *Caregivers are Jesus in action.* Their conviction to the significance of other human lives, their compassion and concern for the well-being of each component of human life – physical, mental, emotional, and social – makes each caregivers' position and purpose *a prominent and necessary continuation of care* beyond the offices of the physician, psychologist, counselor and other entities of profession.

Caregivers serve others from a core belief of spiritual compassion that operates *above and beyond the apparent state* of an individual's needs or circumstances. The gift of their attentiveness lends comfort and hope to ailing souls and weary family members. *This call of service is not by any means easy. However, it is of Christian virtue.*

I ask the question, "Who sees about the care of our caregivers?" Doctor appointments, suffering, sickness and demise take their toll on caregivers as much as they do on the families of those being cared for. But through the day-to-day process and after their service is no longer needed, who provides the stimulus to encourage, nurture, and boost the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual stamina of caregivers? I researched books that share information on how others can care for caregivers. Most of the available books I

found are entitled for '*caregivers to care for themselves*'. This helped me to realize that *everyone is a caregiver*, and *everyone needs continual care*. That is why *Christ is our Constant Caregiver*. We - the church - have the privilege and responsibility of caring for each other. The health of the church body can make or break the receiving of potential new members into the fold. We are a vital source of relationship resilience for our physical and spiritual being – which is essential in our service for Christ.

There are many people among us – some within the church body and others throughout the community and around the world - who are caregivers to people of all ages and circumstances with specific needs. I implore you to identify a caregiver for whom you can do something that will remind them that they are loved and cared about for *who they are* as well as *what they do*. You know how your heart feels when you receive a gift, a thoughtfully written card or letter, a meal, or help with a chore that you were not expecting? There is a shift in your entire inner and outer countenance, isn't there? It feels like *an energy lift, a heart hug...a touch from Heaven*, perhaps? That's what love in action does!

Again, *caring for each other is the responsibility of all of God's people*. For the body of Christ to function at its best we must not neglect the intentional care and maintenance each part of the body both requires and provides. Pray for and see about those who may be experiencing sickness and difficulty. Pray for and see about the *angels of mercy* who provide invaluable service to humanity... *caregivers*.

In love and service to God and His people,

Pastor Simmons