

Have You Ever Been Lonely?

In today's society, we have changed in the way we treat our elderly. In the olden days, grandma or grandpa would have his or her room somewhere in the house. The family watched out for them. They saw to it that they took their medication on time, were fed and kept clean. The best part about caring for our old folks was they were not lonely. Someone was there for them to talk to and just be part of a family group. The holidays are upon us and the experts say this time of the year is the most difficult. It can be a very depressing time when you have no family and are alone.

We go to the nursing home to see Ann's mother, who is 98 years old. She does not have any of her friends left. She has outlived them all as well as her brothers and sister. During the holidays and other special occasions she goes to Ann's brother's house for dinner. Jimmy and Jean go to the nursing home every Sunday afternoon. When we're there we talk with the staff and they usually will tell us they are glad we visit. Some of the patients do not have anyone. They have no family, no friends, no one comes to visit. They just exist.

Our church family has many brothers and sisters who are shut-ins or sick and some live by themselves. Telephone calls, cards, and visits are very much appreciated. It means a lot to them just knowing that someone is thinking about them. Just hearing a voice over the phone makes one feel wanted and gives a very special feeling. That special feeling works both ways. You also receive a special blessing just by doing such a simple thing. Our Lord tells us we are to take care of one another. In James chapter 1, verse 27 we are told to visit the orphans and widows.

As we go through this holiday season, let's keep our church family in mind, especially if they are sick or by themselves. We are not all lucky enough to have big families but we do have a caring and loving church family with the most loving Father of all. As tiny Tim said, "May God bless us one and all."

For the elders,
Don Wagner