

PASSAGES OF SCRIPTURE
THAT PROVIDE STRENGTH

We don't yet see things clearly. We're squinting in a fog, peering through a mist. But it won't be long before the weather clears and the sun shines bright! We'll see it all then, see it all as clearly as God sees us, knowing him directly just as he knows us!

But for right now, until that completeness, we have three things to do to lead us toward that consummation: Trust steadily in God, hope unswervingly, love extravagantly. And the best of the three is love.

(1 Corinthians 13:13 *Message*)

As we build this ministry we want to hear from you! Your stories and experiences could provide hope for someone else.



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*Blind, Deaf, Orphans/Vulnerable Children
and the Physically and Mentally Challenged, Caregivers*

General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists



Ministry for:

The Blind
The Deaf
The Physically Challenged
The Mentally Challenged
The Orphans/Vulnerable Children
The Caregivers for Special Needs



Then will the eyes of the blind be opened
and the ears of the deaf unstopped.
Then will the lame leap like a deer,
and the mute tongue shout for joy.-Isa. 35:5,6

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SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST® CHURCH



Encouragement for the Caregiver

A Ministry

of the General Conference
of Seventh-day Adventists

Church Resources
Community Resources
Network of Friends
Retreats
Spiritual Encouragement
Website with Resources for Caregivers



SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST® CHURCH



Those who are caregivers and those whose care they manage are likely to face four areas of suffering: **Fearfulness, Helplessness, Meaninglessness, Hopelessness.** (*Where IS God When It Hurts*, Philip Yancey)

Why Have a Caregiver Ministry?

PEOPLE

- A. According to a 2015 Report of the *World Health Organization* around 15% of the world's population, over a billion people depend on the attention provided by a caregiver.

SERVICE

- B. Those with special needs represent the world's largest minority group and highlight the need for caregiving.

COMMUNITY

- C. The caregiver knows that persons with disabilities are more likely to be victims of violence or rape, according to a British

study, and less likely to obtain police intervention, legal protection, or preventative care.

Four Frontiers of Suffering

FEARFULNESS

1. An overwhelming sense of aloneness and feeling abandoned by God and by others may be experienced.
2. Loneliness increases the fear, which in turn increases the pain and downward the spiral goes.
3. Fear prevents us from seeing things accurately.

HELPLESSNESS

4. I prayed, I thought, to a silent darkness and the most painful part of it was the seeming silence of God (p. 201).
5. The key is hidden in the questions we ask when we suffer.
 - Why must I endure this uncertainty?
 - Will I ever be happy again?
 - How is this fitting together for my good?

MEANINGLESSNESS

6. "It is not so much the suffering as the senselessness of it that is unendurable" Friedrich Nietzsche.

7. "Suffering can be what economists call a "frozen asset". It may not look remotely like an asset at the time, but gradually we can find meaning in it, an enduring meaning that will help to transform the pain" (p. 205).
8. "Sometimes the only meaning we can offer a suffering person is the assurance that their suffering, which has no apparent meaning for them, has meaning for us" (p.207).

HOPELESSNESS

9. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us" (Romans 5:5).
10. Hope is more than optimism. Hope means simply the belief that something good lies ahead. It is not the same as optimism or wishful thinking, for these imply a denial of reality (p. 204).

This brochure was prepared with you, the caregiver, in mind. We see your love and dedication shining through in everything you do, whether big or small! The Caregiver Ministry of the General Conference wants you to know that you are not alone! It is our desire to activate and motivate this awesome community of mothers, fathers, sons, daughters, siblings, extended family and friends through information, resources and the Holy Spirit of the Living God.