

My Time with Sarah

I am a Certified Nursing Assistant (C.N.A) for Hospice Care of South Carolina. While caring for Sarah, a hospice patient, I discovered some valuable life lessons. Seeing life through Sarah's eyes showed me a world that I had never taken the time to see before.

Although Sarah could no longer walk, she dreamed of taking just a few steps. With determination and prayer, Sarah diligently reached her goal. One day when I came for my visit, Sarah exclaimed that she was "ready". I knew exactly what she meant. Sarah walked 7 steps. She kept her head up, her eyes on her husband and gave him a kiss. For the next few weeks Sarah was as happy as I had ever seen her. As Sarah's strength improved, so did her goals.

I was not surprised when her husband called to ask me if I could follow them on a drive to Blacksburg to see her son's new house. A hundred things ran through my head: Would she get car sick? Would she pass out? Would the seat lay back far enough if she needed to rest? I will never forget the image I saw when I arrived at their house. Sarah was wearing a new pink dress and her hair was carefully combed into a twisted braid. She looked absolutely gorgeous and was smiling ear to ear. All of this for a trip to Blacksburg! We moved her from her wheelchair to the car and I followed behind them in my car. As I followed I tried to remember all of the changes along the route since Sarah had been sick. I wondered what it felt like to see things again after all this time.

Sarah and her husband drove through neighborhoods, passing by their church, the local school and by the flower shop she once owned. I know she must have been directing him because at one point they were driving in circles. I couldn't help but laugh. Once Sarah puts her mind to something, she doesn't take no for an answer! She was glowing with joy and excitement!

Sarah will never know how much her courage and strength inspire me. Nor will she ever understand how her perspective has enabled me to take a different look at my everyday journeys.

I didn't hurry home today. I took the same route to Blacksburg that we had driven earlier. Today, I saw things through Sarah's eyes and there were truly some beautiful things along the way. To be honest, my trip home will never be the same. It is not always the destination but the journey that makes all the difference!

Submitted by: Lisa Jolly, Cherokee County



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