

A pair of hands is shown in a gesture of offering or support, with the fingers slightly spread. The hands are positioned in the lower half of the frame, with the right hand in the foreground and the left hand slightly behind it. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light color, possibly a wall or a bright outdoor setting. A white rectangular box with a thin black border is centered in the upper half of the image, containing the text.

Real-Life  
Encouragement  
for  
Caregivers



Real-Life  
Encouragement  
for  
Caregivers

Tim Wesemann

The vision of CTA is  
to see Christians highly effective  
in their ministry so that Christ's Kingdom  
is strengthened and expanded.



Tim Wesemann

Copyright © 2019 CTA, Inc.  
1625 Larkin Williams Rd.  
Fenton, MO 63026  
www.CTAinc.com

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without the prior written permission of CTA, Inc.

Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

ISBN 978-1-947699-33-5

PRINTED IN THAILAND



## The Call to Care

*A new commandment I give to you,  
that you love one another: just as I  
have loved you, you also are to love  
one another.*

*John 13:34*

*Caregivers* are all around. Your neighbors, your co-workers, and your friends. You! Caregivers may be parents of a child with a disability or special needs, adults with mentally ill or disabled friends, or adults with aging, sick, or dying parents. Still others provide care as part of their job. Caregiving will affect most of our lives in some way, whether we find ourselves on the giving or the receiving end.

As Christians living like Jesus, who loves so graciously and generously, we have a clear call to love and care for others. That kind of life glorifies our heavenly Father and reflects the love of the ultimate Caregiver, Jesus Christ. He promises to guide us, supplying us with the strength, wisdom, compassion, stamina, and joy we need for our journey as a caregiver.

*[Jesus said,] If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you.*

*John 13:14-15*

The circumstances and demands of caregivers are too varied to list. While each situation is unique,

as a caregiver, you could likely describe your life as

- very blessed, but craving time to rest;
- some days thriving but, at times, just surviving;
- emotionally spent, though often content;
- sometimes struggling with guilt to the hilt;
- learning on the go, wanting to be in the know;
- desperate for respite when embattled and rattled;
- always trying, often sighing, and sometimes crying;
- defeating the blues with your Savior's Good News; and
- embracing God's forgiveness and grace every day, every place.

Unless you work as a paid, trained caregiver, your call was likely unplanned and a major interruption that changed most aspects of your life. Some respond to this call like Moses, Jeremiah, or Jonah, all of whom resisted God's will. Others echo the psalmists, who cried out to God with defeated, overwhelmed, or fearful hearts. Some respond like Isaiah, reluctant at first but then declaring, "Here I am! Send me" (Isaiah 6:8). And others may realize, like Esther, that they are exactly where they need to be (Esther 4:14). In all those examples, God supplied untrained, unsuspecting men and women with the strength, grace, and ability to serve. He'll do the same for you.

Thank you for living God's call to care, serve, and love just as Christ loves, serves, and cares for you. Throughout your journey, trust the Holy Spirit to provide real-life encouragement from God's Word, his people, and I pray, even the words on these pages.



## *Lord God,*

I'm honored that you have placed  
this call to care on me,  
for such a time as this.  
It's a joy and a struggle.  
I need your grace and forgiveness,  
your wisdom and guidance.  
I need your promises,  
your life-giving Word.  
Unprepared for so many things,  
unaware of so many aspects of this calling,  
I'm clinging to truth that tells me,  
"My God will supply every need of yours  
according to his riches in glory  
in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19).  
In the name of Jesus,  
I pray, love, and live. Amen.