

life matters

The Messages LIFT Sends

Vol. 10, No. 1 **What is LIFT?**

a publication of

Life Matters
WORLDWIDE

P.O. Box 3158

Grand Rapids, MI 49501

(616) 257-6800

1-800-968-6086

www.lifemattersww.org

staff@lifemattersww.org

The pressures of a chronic or terminal illness can be physically, emotionally, and spiritually draining. Social life may evaporate as it becomes harder to leave the house or entertain guests. Finances may be strained as family members quit or curtail work. Despair and grief may set in over the loss of physical abilities and other functions. Discouragement grows.

The pro-life ethic calls Christians to care for each other so we don't fall prey to threats such as euthanasia and assisted suicide. Ministry through a program like LIFT is one way we can respond compassionately to the mounting pressures that families face.

LIFT stands for "Living in Faith Together." To learn more, go to lifemattersww.org/LIFT. Volunteers are trained to serve the person, his or her spouse, and other family members with practical, emotional, and spiritual support. LIFT sends the message they're not alone.

LIFT also sends important messages to the world at-large:

1 Human life is sacred. The Bible teaches we're made in God's image (*Genesis 1:26-27*). This is where Christianity diverges from other worldviews. Human beings are not animals, to be "put down" when they're too ill or no longer useful participants in society. We don't gain dignity by learning skills (walking, talking) or lose it when

our abilities falter or cease.

LIFT volunteers honor the dignity of care recipients by respecting their wishes and their privacy. They advocate for appropriate care on a patient's behalf, offer companionship and a listening ear, and show concern for spiritual needs by upholding eternal values.

2 God is sovereign over life.

He is "the living God," and the One Who determines the beginning and end of a person's life (*1 Samuel 2:6*). Those who insist on a "right to die" deny God and attempt to wrest authority from His hands.

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Together *not alone*

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