The Messages LIFT Sends

What is LIFT?
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.

We are not our own, but bought with a price (1 Corinthians 6:19-20). Christians rest in His wisdom, pray for His grace, and trust in His timing; LIFT encourages endurance and perseverance in times of trial. Volunteers bear with the difficulties of a care recipient’s age and infirmity, and console loved ones when they grieve.

3 Jesus Christ conquered sin and death. Christianity offers the only explanation for suffering and death – and the only remedy. There is no life beyond the grave without the sacrificial and substitutionary death of Jesus Christ for our sin. There is no hope without His resurrection from the dead (1 Peter 3:18).

LIFT volunteers carry this unique message to often-overlooked segments of the population. While they primarily minister to members of their own congregations, the program is also adaptable as a Gospel outreach in the community. Missionaries also find it a useful tool on the foreign field.

4 God’s people serve others through compassion ministries. Neglecting or ignoring physical needs is not an option for Christians. As Christ demonstrated compassion for the sick and disabled while He walked the earth, so His disciples are called to similar good works (Psalm 103:13-14; Ephesians 2:10).

From the start, Christians ministered to one another in practical ways.* As we serve each other’s physical needs we advance the biblical pro-life ethic!

LIFT volunteers lighten a person’s load by ministering in simple, creative, and hands-on ways:

- Visiting on a regular basis
- Running errands
- Walking the dog
- Cleaning the house
- Preparing a meal
- Bringing fresh flowers
- Reading the Bible aloud
- Shoveling snow
- Helping with correspondence
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