

It's about time

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By Betty Foster

LONGVIEW, Texas—There are many things a person can do with time. Since we live in a world with clocks and watches, people count time. When criminals do something wrong, they do time or serve time.

All of us waste time unintentionally. And then, when we deliberately waste time, we call it killing time.

We know that God wants us to use our time wisely. God wants us to make time.

On the Sabbath, I like to visit shut-ins before and after the church service. On June 27 I had a fantastic Sabbath.

Came at a good time

On that day, I picked up an extra copy of our church calendar, bulletin and sermon handouts, as I usually do, and I stopped by to see one of my friends in a rest home.

She was not in her room, so I was standing beside her bed writing a note to leave for her when she came through the door. My friend was extremely happy to see me, and I came at a good time, because she started crying about the lack of visitors she had been receiving.

My friend mentioned the names of a few people who had been there to see her, but she expressed how she couldn't understand why more people were not able to stop by.

I tried to comfort by giving her all the excuses I could think of.

"Everyone is busy."

"Most of the people work."

"It's so hot outside."

"The price of gas is going up."

As I was telling her about the valid reasons people were not coming to see her, it reminded me of the fact that we have to "make" time to do some of the important things.

If we are to be an ambassador for Christ, we have to act like Christ. We have to do the things He would do.

I know when I miss one Sabbath I call a friend to see who spoke, who was on the prayer list, and what was going on. I want a bulletin to look at. I want to feel a part of that Sabbath.

My friend in the nursing home was thrilled to get all of the information I brought her, and she thanked me many times for all I had done in previous weeks.

I told my friend that I had to go because it was getting late and I had another stop to make on my way home to Longview.

Seeing old friends

On this particular Sabbath, I visited a couple my deceased husband and I knew for many years. The husband is 88 years old and previously operated a machine shop before turning it over to one of his sons. He has both legs amputated above the knee due to diabetes.

The wife is an 85-year-old homemaker who is crippled with arthritis. The husband said he didn't know how much longer his wife could take care of him and he believed that he would have to go to a rest home before too much longer.

They told me about their 19-month-old great-granddaughter who had received a liver transplant the day before. They were concerned about her. They were so happy that I had taken time to stop and spend time with them.

Benefit to me

I felt so uplifted when I got home. It didn't cost me anything to help those three people—except maybe a half gallon of gas at the most and a little time.

We are all allowed the same amount of time each day, each week. It's the time we spend doing God's work that will count in the end.

We hear phrases like "let your light shine" and "let's be about our Father's business." Those phrases are absolutely true. But we don't have to be doing spectacular projects to fulfill those phrases.

How many people do you know who are hurting physically and would appreciate a visit? How many healthy people do you know who are lonely? We can give them encouragement.

It's doesn't take long to give people a telephone call to check and see how they are doing. It doesn't take long to stop by and see people for a short visit.

When we consider how much time we have, let's "make" time to do the important things for God.