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9-2-78

Henry,

Just played the guitar a little bit. Just isn't the same when you're not here. You're always so encouraging to me when I play.

I'm glad that Jesus knows what it's like to go through ~~the~~ the things my patients go through each day. He suffered so very much and he understands what each one of us suffers at different times. Ed Lillis - a 59 year old stroke pt. has been at AOH about 4 months. He cannot express himself - but I'm sure he can hear us talk and he understands. He's locked up inside himself with no way to express anger or frustration. It's been so good to see him progress. We've been getting him up and working on trunk control. Now he can pull himself up if he starts to fall backward and the thing that really made me happy today was that he smiled - just one side of his mouth and he sort of laughed. It was an expression of happiness that almost made me cry. He always had the same expression on his face but today when I was talking to him he smiled. It's so hard to talk to someone when they don't answer or change expressions, but it's worth it when you see them respond after 4 months. It was like the God was saying to me "Don't give up on him or become frustrated. He wants to talk and is more frustrated than you could be with him."

Henry, maybe you could tell me what I can do about this John, a pt who has been at the hospital for about 3 wks. He fractured his leg in 1976 in a motorcycle accident and it still hasn't healed and is now infected. We're putting him on the wheel twice

in a day. The problem is that in the beginning, I would always go into his room and talk with him about all kinds of things because I could see he was very lonely and needed someone to talk with. Then he'd always wheel himself over to the dept to talk. He's from Wilkes-Barre and has no visitors so I would always talk with him just as a friend. Anyway I guess the problem lies mostly in the fact that he's only 25 and I don't think I'd have this if he was an older man. Today he was in the dept. most of the day and then he asked me to go out with him after he got out of the hospital and he asked me for my phone number. I didn't really even answer - first of all because I was sorta shocked (I just wanted to be a friend to him) and also because I know he's been hurt a lot (his wife divorced him and all kinds of weird stuff). Please tell me what you think. I'm not going to go out with him but I don't know ~~to~~ how to tell him. I don't want to lead him on either way, not saying yes or no today, he might think the answer is yes. I just need your advice, babe. I feel so bad for lonely people and I like to reach out and be their friend. I didn't see this coming at all though. This happens to me a lot though - it must be the way I handle it. I guess I would just like to avoid an answer either way, but I know it's wrong.

I enjoy talking with the older patients. Some of them have been through a lot in their lifetime and have such beautiful personalities because of it. This week in room 300 (a 4 bed room) there were these 4 ladies - 75 y.o.

80 yo., 82 yo. and 92 yo. They were so neat and easy to talk with. Mamie - the 82 yo. looked so nice, such a smooth face, hardly any wrinkles and I told her that she looked pretty and she was so nice to me - I almost cried when she went home. She was just so sweet & I could have hugged her. I used to go up to that room and sit down and we'd all talk. The neat thing about them was that they never gossiped about anyone - they were just so pleasant. It was sad to see them go. When I talked to Mamie about how she had such a young looking face I said 'What's your secret?' Then I asked if she used to sit in the sun and she said no and I said I'd probably look like a prune cause I'm always in the sun and she said 'Ok, I don't think so - you're so nice and you help people - you won't get wrinkles.' It was so cute of her to say that. She makes me laugh.

I'm really anxious for Oct 6th Her. It can't come soon enough for me. Could you write and let me know an idea of what you want up to give Tom + Karen as a wedding present. I'll pick it out and buy it & won't wrap it but I'll show it to you first. Babe I have to call you again soon cause I just need to talk with you. Just to hear your voice saying that you still love me & miss you're beautiful & smell too!

9/3/78 Sunday.
Guess what? I ran 10 miles today. Well, you better believe me, babe. I know you do. It took me 1 hour and 20 minutes. I just had to tell you cause when I came home everyone was sitting in the kitchen and I told them and no one said anything and I know my mom disapproves. I know you'll be happy for me and if you were here, you'd hug me. For the first 2 1/2 miles I had a side sticker - not real bad but it was annoying and it slowed me down (you slow me down) but then it went away and I was free to go my ^{HA} own speed and I felt real good. I pure was wishing that you could be with me. Well, I'm going to try to improve on that time. I have off tomorrow + Tuesday and I plan to do 10 miles both days - see if I can increase my time.

Henry, I thank you for praying for me. I really appreciate it. I need the Lord so much for my strength to get through this time. I am really missing you a lot and sometimes I feel very anxious that things will change between us. I guess that's

Satan trying to make me fear. But I know that if anything comes between us ~~it~~ it will be of the Lord because I have prayed this way - that His will would be done - in both our lives and I must accept whatever that is, but to tell you the truth - I believe that the Lord wants us together forever. I just feel that. You can update me on how you feel because you asked me to pray that the Lord would show you without any doubt and I was just wondering if He's showed you anything yet. I might really feel like I want to call you, but I know I can't. My dad would not approve (even if I paid for it) I guess he thinks letters are good enough.

I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the spirit of wisdom and revelation so that you may know him better. Ephesians 1:17

Monday 9/4/78

Happy Labor Day! Did you have a picnic for the holiday. Your mom called me today and said maybe you were going to Chris + Ed's for the weekend. That sounds really neat. I wish I could be there too - with all of you. It would be so much fun. I can't wait to see Chris + Ed. It's been so long. I'm wondering when I'll ever get to see them - or if I ever will. Sincerely,

Today was such a beautiful day. It was like fall. I mowed the grass, trimmed, raked and pulled weeds in the garden. It was a ~~nic~~ day today. Would have been great if you were here. I just long to be with you Henry. I just will not be completely happy till we are together. There is an emptiness in me since you left. It's not real easy this way, but I know it's what's right - for now.

My knees hurt so much today. I can't explain how bad they feel. While I was working around today they felt a little better than today, but they hurt with every step but I feel I must push myself - at least till Sept 16. After the marathon - I still like to do about 5 miles each day or maybe more. At any rate - for sure I'll see you every day

I'm not going to give it up just cause the marathons over.

Hen, if there's any way I can be with you soon, please let me know. I'm missing you more than I ever thought I would. I can hardly take it, babe - I'm trying to be strong, but it's so hard - I have no strength in myself though. Please let me know if there's any way. I mean it.

I was looking through a box of old cards today and I saw old letters & cards from you. I also read that notebook from you. You loved me & I loved you for a long time, babe - and we always will. Right? Of course!

"When Thou didst say 'Seek My Face,' my heart ~~paid~~ paid to Thee; My face, O Lord, I shall seek."

"Teach me Thy way, O Lord,
and lead me in a level path" Psalm 27: 8; 11.

I am praying for you - for the needs I know of - and for those that I don't know of - the Lord knows them all. Thank you for praying for me, babe. I love you.

Valerie

"His favor is for a
lifetime"
Psalm 30: 5

My mom
says
hello.