



Peak Nursing

Winter 2008

Few jobs have the ability to impact the lives of others more than nurses. Yet, from time to time, it's common to overlook that influence. That's why we have chosen to include the below excerpt taken from *Chicken Soup for the Soul: Nurses 2nd Edition* in our winter newsletter. The story, which was written by our friend Tom O'Malley, will remind you of your profound ability to better the lives of your patients. We hope it will make you proud to be part of the nursing field; we know it makes us proud of you.

Nurses Needed for Survival

While returning from our oldest son's college graduation, our vehicle broke a tie rod, lost a wheel and rolled multiple times. My wife of 25 years and our 22 year old son died in the accident. Our oldest son suffered a cracked rib and a dislocated big toe. My right elbow and skull were crushed; dirt, gravel and grass were deposited in my brain. The

severity of these injuries caused traumatic amnesia and erased most of my memory of the accident. The initial medical prognosis in Santa Fe, New Mexico was, "There is probably no way to keep him alive; but we will try." Upon transfer to Swedish Hospital in Englewood, CO the prognosis became, "We can keep him alive, but he will never walk or use his left side again." I spent 10 weeks in a coma and the "Last Rights" were administered eight times. My nurses' positive attitudes were infectious and helped me through the daily struggles. They were there to suction and monitor my respirator as well as feed and hydrate me intravenously. When I needed to be wheeled in and out of the shower, have my whiskers shaved, my teeth brushed or even my bottom wiped, it was the nurses that provided this help. Their constant caretaking ensured that I could graduate to rehabilitation therapy where I

learned to sit up again, stand, walk, bicycle and resume some semblance of a normal life. Without them, I might not have had the desire and motivation to push on. Thus, I assert: Nurses are critical to survival!

By: G. T. O'Malley, patient at Craig Hospital

Trivia Corner...

Spring Training is here. Win a pair of Colorado Rockies baseball tickets!

What is the Tallest Building in Colorado?

Please email, fax or call in your answer:

questions@peaknursing.com

303-512-0125 Fax

303-345-3005 Office

Summer Trivia:

Question: *Where was the cheeseburger invented?* **Answer:** Denver, CO

Congratulations to our

Previous Winner: Cindy Burbock

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