

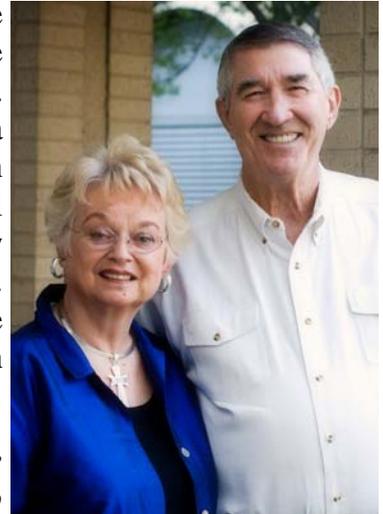
Secular Pulpit 24/7

Emergency Room Grace

James had wanted his encounters to be in the emergency room, so he and I chose one close to the house that we could drop into on the way to a wedding one Saturday afternoon. Because it was around 4:30 pm, it wasn't very busy.

There were three groups of people waiting as we entered the ER. We chose a couple first and James told them we were there to see if they had any concerns that we could pray for. They were believers, she acknowledged that I was wearing a cross, and said they believed in prayer. She was there with an infection waiting to see a doctor. We had a very spiritual conversation, they shared their beliefs and asked if we knew a certain preacher. An interesting thing happened, though. They asked us what church we were from. We told them we weren't from a church, we just came to the ER to pray with people. That's when I pulled out my card with the scripture:

God is good, a hiding place in good times. He recognizes and welcomes anyone looking for help, no matter how desperate the trouble. Nahum 1:7.



Imagine my delight as she finished the scripture as I was reading it! James prayed with them and, as the ER staff called her in, we went to our next ER patient, a young man busy on his cell phone. We asked if we could pray with him and he said that he didn't think it was necessary—he was just there with a friend who had allergy problems, but he thanked us. He went back to his phone and we moved on to the next couple.

It was obvious he was in a great deal of pain. We just shared with them that we were there to pay with them about their situation and asked if we could. The young man was in such pain that he could not get his hand up to me fast enough to hold on to. So, as we all held hands together, we prayed for healing. I read the scripture to him and the ER staff called him in. We had three encounters, we felt like His presence was felt, and as we looked around the ER, it was empty.

As we moved on, we discussed our experience and decided that next time we go we'll pick a busier time.