

Worried Daughter Requests Help for Father

Dear WC,

I was wondering if you could help my elderly father. He lives in your area and I am very worried about his wellbeing.

I have been living in Illinois with my husband for many years. When we got married I moved here with him to be close to his job.

A few years ago I had returned to Wisconsin for my mother's funeral. My father and I used to be close but when my brother was killed in a car accident, my father became very despondent. The only one who could reach him was my mother. Since my mother has passed away, my father has not had a telephone. It has been disconnected for about a year. When it was connected our conversations were very short and I did most of the talking. I have heard that he lost his house and that he is living in a rental unit. I care for my father very much and I am very worried about him. I have written him a letter, hoping it would have been forwarded to the place where he is staying, but instead the letter just comes back to me. I was wondering if there was any way you could please check in on him. I do have the local newspaper sent to me and I read your column all the time. I was hoping that this might be something you could help me with. We're very concerned about him.

God Bless,

A Worried Daughter

Dear Readers,

It took me a while to locate the father, since he had changed apartments. When I first met him he was very quiet and did not have much to say, but it was apparent he desperately needed help. Together we helped him get on his feet, even though in the beginning his pride made him reluctant to accept any help. I convinced him through our mutual belief in our Lord. I could see he was opening up more and more. I finally had the opportunity to talk to him about his wife. This man loved his wife so much he could not understand why he was still alive without her. His life had revolved completely around her. Then we began to talk about his son and once again it was obvious that he had a very strong love for his son. He told me the only thing that kept him alive at that time was the love for his wife. He said his heart was so broken and still is. When I asked him about his daughter, he looked down and appeared as though he did not want to talk. In a whisper he said, "She left us when we needed her." I asked what

kind of man his daughter had married. Once again, there was no answer. As he still looked down, I began telling him about some of the poor choices many women have unknowingly made in choosing a spouse. Men have abandoned their wives, become alcoholics, or have become abusive and beat their wives. At that moment he looked up at me and said, “No, this man would never hit my daughter!”

I had talked to the daughter in between meetings with her father, and she asked if he was ready to meet. I assured her that he was ready but asked that she allow us to get to the bottom of what was troubling her father first. I had asked her about her husband and she reassured me that he was a wonderful, caring man that took care of her and their two children, a boy and a girl. She told me about some of her hobbies, including how her mom taught her to bake bread and how she would bake bread for the family. Also the family would often plan a day to have special time together. This is good advice for all of us. She told me how the family time included prayers and thanking the Lord for their blessings.

With that information, I asked the father, “Are you sure you know this man? What if he has changed? What if he is abusing your daughter? What if he’s abusing your grandchildren?” He looked at me and asked if I knew something he didn’t know. I asked him, “When was the last time you talked to your daughter?” He replied, “It has been many years.” I asked “Why?” He said, “Answer me first, do you know something that I don’t know?” I responded, “Yes, I do. I know quite a bit about what is going on. That is why I am asking you if you know for certain he is not hurting and abusing your daughter.” I had his attention as he sat straight up and looked very stern. I could tell I struck a cord. I said now that I had answered his question, I wanted him to answer a few of mine or else I would not talk to him any more about his daughter. I said, “Do you promise to answer my questions?” He agreed.

He asked me “What do you want to know?” In reply, I asked “How come you stopped talking to your daughter?” He started to look down but then looked up at me and asked, “Is my daughter okay?” I told him he needed to answer my questions first. I reminded him that he had promised and asked again why he didn’t talk to his daughter. He said, “Well, my daughter got married and moved away.” I asked him if her husband had a good job and he replied that he had a decent job. I asked, “Is he providing for your daughter?” and he said, “Oh yes!” I asked him what his wife had thought of her son in law and he responded that she was very proud her daughter had picked a good man. He asked, “Is he still a good man?” I said, “Wait a minute, you only partially answered my question.”

I asked him again how his wife felt about his daughter's husband and he said that she thought he was a wonderful man. She would thank God that he was a good provider and she could tell how much he loved their daughter. I asked if his wife had a good sense about people and he said, "Oh yes she did!" with a smile on his face. I asked if she was distraught when their daughter moved away and he said that she was, but that he was even more upset, especially after losing their son. His wife had told him that it was better their daughter move with her husband, close to his job, and know she was being taken care of.

I asked him how much he loved his son and he replied, "With all my heart." I said, "Did you have some of your heart left for your wife and your daughter?" and he said, "Oh yes, yes!" I said, "So let me get this straight. You loved your wife completely." He vehemently nodded his head in agreement. I continued, "You loved your son, your gift from God." He said yes he did. I could see then that he was calming down as he was remembering his son. Before he started to cry, I asked, "How about your other gift from God? Do you love your daughter? Do you love your wife's daughter?" He said, "Yes, I love my daughter, my wife's daughter." I asked him if he thought he was doing the right thing by not talking to her. Did he think that his wife and son would want him to be talking with her? He looked up at me with tears in his eyes. I said that he had just given the answer. He broke down into tears and asked me, "Now please answer me. What is my son-in-law doing to my daughter?"

I said that his son-in-law loved his daughter, was taking care of her and consoling her sorrow and tears because her father wasn't talking to her. With that he began to cry and said, "Oh, what have I done!" I told him that he had withdrawn and that he'd lost his son and his wife but he had not lost his daughter, she was still there. I assured him that he had the opportunity to get together with her, talk about her life, and reminisce about his loving wife and son.

He asked how he could do that and said that he was so ashamed. I told him that his daughter and son-in-law said, no matter when I talked to him, if he wanted to see them, they would drop everything and come right up. He looked at me and asked, "They still love me that much after all the time I have ignored them?" I assured him they did.

With that I called the daughter and in a little over an hour they were both standing before her father with tears in their eyes as the daughter and son-in-law simultaneously reached out and hugged him. The father cried and leaned in their arms like a child. Since then they have been seeing each other every weekend.

Together we helped this elderly man to pull himself together financially and helped him to reunite with his family.

I received letters from all three of them thanking us for bringing their family back together again and for what we did to help the father get back on his feet.

I want to thank each and every one of you for supporting and networking the Time Is Now.

Health and Happiness, God Bless Everyone, WC

Upcoming Events: “Give Back to Your Community Day” located downtown Delavan, Saturday, June 16, from 10:00a.m. – 2:00 pm hosted by the Delavan Business Association. There will be raffles, food, and other prizes, with proceeds going to *The Time Is Now to Help*. Sign up to win free golf, a flag staff, hotel stay, prints, framing, and more.

A Special Thank You To: Martin & Kathleen O’Brien and family, Robert & Donna Parker, Dona Palmer, Thomas Spellman, Randy Christenson, Roger Miller, Lee & Walter Myalls, Ken & Joyce Pagel, Mary & Kathleen Kuglitsch, ALL of you who support *The Time Is Now to Help* donation boxes, and the businesses that allow our donation boxes. Anyone who would like a *Time Is Now to Help* donation box in your business, please call 262-249-7000.

A Special Memorial to: Mrs. Margo Rhyan, loving wife of 41 years, married to Jeff Rhyan “college sweethearts,” loving mother to Scott (Dawn), Jennifer D’Augustino (Joe), and Amy Auge (Gary), and grandmother to 6 wonderful grandchildren. Thank you Jeff Rhyan for your most generous donation to “The Time Is Now” to help our local poverty stricken. Margo is in our prayers. God Bless. WC

Please Help by Caring and Sharing. Send your donation to: *The Time Is Now to Help*, PO Box 70, Pell Lake, WI 53157. Every penny of your donation will go to the needy for daily necessities of life including: food, clothing, utilities, toiletries, shelter assistance, and household necessities.

Please make checks payable to: *The Time Is Now to Help*. *The Time Is Now to Help* is a federally recognized 501(c)3 charitable organization licensed in the states of Wisconsin and Illinois. You will receive a tax deductible, itemized thank you receipt showing exactly what

every penny of your donation provided for the poverty stricken.

Endowments/Helping Others through Your Will: For those of you who wish to leave an endowment for the poverty stricken, we would greatly accept any gifts. Please think of those in desperate need, good people, living in fear of poverty and consider helping them through your will.

Desperately Needed Cars: We presently have a waiting list of people in need of cars. You will be helping someone get back on their feet by providing them much needed transportation to work, etc., please call 262-249-7000. We have many in desperate need of reliable transportation, so they can regain their independence, retain their jobs, provide food and necessities for their families, and ease their pain and suffering. Thank You and God Bless You.

Please visit: HYPERLINK "[http://www.Time](http://www.TimeIsNowToHelp.org)" **[www.Time](http://www.TimeIsNowToHelp.org) Is Now To Help.org**

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