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Rossi's "Sharing Christ with the Dying: Bringing Hope to Those Near the End of Life" (Book Review)

Becky Fisher
Adventist University of Health Science

P. Gage Gwyn
Adventist University of Health Sciences

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In her book *Sharing Christ with the Dying*, Melody Rossi accompanies the reader on a trip through the end of life. It is written as a journey, with chapters titled “A Road Map” and “GPS.” This trip is surprisingly uplifting and insightful and Rossi acts as a friend who joins the reader through this trip grounded in the Christian faith. Readers will gain knowledge about the events leading up to, surrounding, and immediately following the death of a loved one as she gently guides them through the difficult events in the sequence they occur. Tips on managing the ensuing grief that follows is the final information she shares with readers.

Throughout the book she highlights ways to go about sharing Christ with a loved one. Rossi states, “One of the most powerful ways to gain entrance into someone’s heart is to serve them” (p. 44). While an undercurrent of the book is to learn how to serve others and share Christ, the book is full of practical tips, including checklists and ideas for people to increase their personal support. Tips include information on purchasing funeral packages and a chapter that helps a caregiver gauge spiritual receptiveness.

For individuals with a Christian faith eager to share Christ’s love with others, the material becomes immensely useful in gaining insight on how to accomplish this without damaging relationships. It also helps in understanding how to recognize the best times and the most appropriate ways to talk about faith.

Rossi’s narration is straightforward, engaging, specific, and accurate. She employs short, interesting chapters that are rich with wisdom and guidance about the necessities of life and death. She draws the reader in and adroitly shares humorous or poignant personal stories that illustrate her points. She shares challenges from personal experiences involving her dying family members. These examples will assure those who are walking the final journey with a loved one.

While this book should be kept for reference, it is much, much more than a reference book. The book contains many pearls of wisdom, helps combat burnout, and has an uplifting message of hope. The way Rossi delivers information about the end of life is a source of peace and comfort to readers.