

My Unexpected Friend.

God put a man in my life.
I don't recall the particular day.
His life was not as it was.
What part in his world would I play?

Asked to do some respite care.
A family caught in stormy seas.
A wife needing time for herself.
A husband battling a crippling disease.

When he looked at me and stared.
I could see his illness was taking its toll.
The sad moving picture I saw in his eyes.
Traveled so deeply into my soul.

Struggling to hold his cards.
We played cribbage at different times.
How difficult for him it must have been.
What kind of thoughts lived in his mind?

Knowingly I would make a poor play.
Because I wanted him to win.
The line between not giving and giving.
I soon realized, could be very thin.

I saw man who was trying his best.
To maintain some dignity.
Wanting to slay the monster in his body.
But all I could do was to give him company.

Reading from the Bible and my poems to him.
He would doze off as I spoke the words.
Trying so hard to tell me something.
But I couldn't make out, what I heard.

His breathing would become shallow and noisy.
He would say. "I'm sorry, I'm interrupting
you".
I thought, "How could a man be that humble.
How could a man hurting, be so cool".

One day he said, "I Love You".
At first, I did not understand.
He was thanking me for being there.
Gratitude coming from a suffering man.

The hours I sat with him.
Gave him companionship and peace.
I knew someday in heaven.
His life would be given a new lease.

God once again has shown me.
What true giving can be.
I found out what I had given to Dalton.
Was far less then what he had given me.

God brought me into his life to be a friend.
It was unexpected at the time.
But as I had become part of his life.
He too had become part of mine.

Dedicated to my
"My Unexpected Friend"
"Dalton Watson"

EUGENE BAASEN