

County-Wide Chaplaincy

Thanks you!

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WE LOOK, BUT DO WE SEE?

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KEN TURNEY

In 1887 Sir Arthur Conan Doyle introduced to his readers what became the most famous detective in the world: Sherlock Holmes. Holmes is (as we all are) an amazing amalgam of human traits, both positive and negative. His arrogant, self centered condescension is balanced by his preternatural ability to observe detail, and make deductive conclusions based on those bits of minutia most of us never make note of.

In attempting to explain his abilities to his friend and partner, Dr. John Watson, Holmes uses an ordinary example. For a period of time the two are roommates. Holmes says to Watson, "You have frequently seen the steps that lead up from the hallway to this room." Watson agrees, "Frequently," but can only guess it must have been hundreds of times. When Holmes inquires as to the specific number of steps, Watson is again at a loss for an exact answer. Holmes informs him there are 17. "So you see, you see, but you do not observe..."

This can describe how many of us navigate our days, and by extension our lives. We go along, self absorbed, often missing the most significant of events, which may seem small at the moment. This is the nature of human nature, and one we need to guard against. It is an important aspect of a chaplain, being present in lives of strangers.

By and large, when we respond to a call for assistance, as Holmes would say, "The game is afoot." Much of the event is already in progress, and we step into the situation with little or no foreknowledge except that there are people hurting, there will be things that need to be done, and we are willing to take on the challenge, whatever that may be. Phone calls, answering questions, comforting words, preparing food, coffee, custodial duties, prayers, even simple silence—standing by and available. Any and all are the call of the chaplain.

Observation, not just looking, we seek the Leading we rely on so heavily to direct our actions. The time a First Responder Chaplain spends with family, friends,

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acquaintances, and yes, the Responders themselves are by any assessment, dark times; often the most significant moments anyone can experience. It will always leave a wound, some greater, some less, but a wound nonetheless to all who are involved.

Remember your chaplains, the First Responders, Police, Medical, Fire, Dispatchers, Medical Examiners and an host of others who come and go unnoticed, in moments of trauma that occur daily in our world. To the general population they are, blessedly, rare events; to those who are willing to step into the breach, daily occurrences.

Thank you for your support. It is appreciated more than can be expressed...

Thank you for praying with us. We always want to remember our first responders. We are all so grateful for them!

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