

# County-Wide Chaplaincy

## Thanks you!

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I'm reminded of the story of David and Goliath, but perhaps not for the reasons that you may suspect. As most of us recall, David slays the giant Goliath, pretty much against all odds. The thought I want to focus on is the conversation that David has with Saul prior to the battle. When Saul expresses doubt to David regarding his ability to slay the Philistine, basically saying he was nothing but a ruddy kid, David replies in 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 17 starting in verse 34...

*David said to Saul, "Your servant has been keeping his father's sheep. When a lion or a bear came and carried off a sheep from the flock, <sup>35</sup> I went after it, struck it and rescued the sheep from its mouth. When it turned on me, I seized it by its hair, struck it and killed it. <sup>36</sup> Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, because he has defied the armies of the living God. <sup>37</sup> The LORD who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine."*

In essence David is informing Saul, and reminding himself, of his past victories in the Lord.

I find this applicable for us as Chaplains. We often face circumstances on scene that we have never faced before, and as a result we can experience fear, doubt or the gnawing awareness that we are in WAY over our heads. How does one notify a mom that her teenage daughter was killed, or how to comfort a husband whose wife took her own life for no apparent reason? Sure, we all have training and experience but regardless each call is unique, fluid, and filled with uncertainty.

I really struggled with this when I first began as a Chaplain, as I really didn't want to mess something up, or make a big mistake that would cause more harm than good. But, as I've gained experience over the years in the ministry it has helped me, especially while enroute to a call, to pause and reflect on the positive outcomes in the past that God has led me through.

Of course, I would be remiss if I didn't remind you of the champion of remembering past victories, Jesus Christ. During the last supper, He passed the bread and the wine

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instructing us to “Do this in remembrance of Me,” and the Apostle Paul said as often as we do this, we proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.

When challenged by overwhelming circumstances it can be easy, at least for me, to focus on doubts, fears and feelings of inadequacies. The truth, however, is that God has been faithful to lead me through trials and tribulations in the past, and promises to be with me always in the future.

So, David faced his lions, bears and at least one giant, and Jesus gained victory over death for us all through the cross. Knowing we would have would have trouble in this world, Jesus promises to bring us peace, even through the most difficult of times. I believe He would want us to be in peace, knowing that He will guide us in all things.

God bless you all and thank you for your support.

Rob Pool

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