

County-Wide Chaplaincy

Thanks you!

February 2023

Teamwork

“If you want to go fast, go alone.
If you want to go far, go together.”
African Proverb

We recently watched a movie about orphans of the civil war in Sudan. They were known as The Lost Boys. It chronicles their nearly 1000 mile trek by foot, enduring unspeakable circumstances, in search of refuge. It is an incredible movie and one of the things that really stuck with me is the African Proverb above that displayed at the close of the movie. It got me thinking a lot about teamwork, the power of teamwork, the struggles of teamwork, and also about how sometimes the agony of working together causes some to venture out alone. As the proverb alludes, you may get there faster alone, but to run the long race we need each other, we need a team.

This also made me think about our chaplains and the wonderful team that they are. Whether it is supporting each other in a crisis they are called to, debriefing after an event or simply covering each other's shift, they are a team that cares for each other in tangible ways. They don't set out alone; they support each other, and there are many others that support this ministry as well by donating time, funds and most importantly, praying.

And then we can think of the team that responds to an incident. As Mister Rogers would say, “Look for the helpers.” You have the person that calls in for help, the dispatcher, the police, the ambulance techs, the fire fighters, the cleanup crew, and sometimes a tow truck operator, just to name a few. Rescue is often a mighty display of teamwork and it is marvelous to witness, each person performing within their own area of expertise, yet they are all needed for success. Sometimes the event turns out to be minor and all are relieved, but sometimes it is a major trauma where many are involved and the support of the “helpers” involved will not be soon forgotten.

In this month of February where many are drawn to think about the romantic form of love, I am reminded that teamwork is truly love in action. Yes, we can venture through this life alone and we may get wherever we are going faster without having to entertain other people's ideas or opinions, but I think we miss out on a lot. And by ourselves, we may not get there at all. Teamwork takes “work”, that is for sure, but when it all comes together the richness and quality and expression of love that is given is immeasurable. It was suggested that TEAM is an acronym for Together Everyone Achieves More.

Thank you to our chaplains, all those who support the chaplaincy in various ways and all the many helpers out there who show up in times of great need and provide care and support and love in action when it is needed most!

Jan Richards

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