

County-Wide Chaplaincy

Thanks you!

August 2024

A Village

We celebrated another wedding anniversary last month and it got me thinking about all the people who have been a part of our marriage journey. I have heard it said that people come into our lives for a reason, a season, or a lifetime. I like to call these people our village and I am so grateful for them. It is true some have been there for a specific reason when needed most, others for a season or several seasons, and still others for our lifetime, like a family. What a beautiful provision God made when He designed us to be in community with others. We are called to bear each other's burdens in Galatians 6. This is a beautiful picture of how our village should function, not living in judgment and criticism, but truly lifting each other up in support and acceptance. I have experienced this!

This village concept is not a new one, but there are so many examples when you look for them. I like to think that our chaplains serve in many different villages. When they go on a call, they often enter the village for a very specific reason and it is most often not a long term stay. They become a temporary member of the village to offer support and love and encouragement. Sometimes unexpected connections are made and this turns into a season of being part of this village, a season of continued offering of presence and strength as is needed. However you look at it, it is a beautiful picture of how even though we most likely do not live physically in a village with these people, we are in an emotional village so to speak. We can be there for each other in many different ways; physically, emotionally and spiritually.

In these days of unrest in our nation, we certainly need our village! I trust you have a healthy and supportive village as well. Please continue to pray for our chaplains as they enter many village opportunities. Pray for their health, their safety, and a keen sense of the Holy Spirit's direction. County-Wide so appreciates your support, both in prayer and financially. Thank you again!

Jan Richards

Scriptures for the Village:

"...through love serve one another. For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the *statement*, "YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF." ^{NAU} Galatians 5:13b-14

"Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ." ^{NAU} Galatians 6:2

“So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.” ^{NAU} Colossians 3:12-13

“Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited. Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge...” ^{NIV} Romans 12:16-19

“Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing.”
^{NAU} 1 Thessalonians 5:11

“I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone...” ^{NIV} 1 Timothy 2:1

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