

# County-Wide Chaplaincy

## Thanks you!

June 2024

### Quiet

Quiet is one of those words that can bring many different reactions. For some, particularly moms of toddlers, it is that often sought after “peace and quiet” in the midst of a day’s chaos. Or another thought from moms is, “What is going on, it is too quiet in there.” For some, quiet is a treasured gift and for some quiet is a reminder that they are alone or lonely. When we are caught up in the busyness of this life, it is fairly easy to mask our loneliness or uncertainties and fears. When we are truly alone in the quiet, sometimes our thoughts are overwhelming. In a devotion I was reading the other day, it said that God is in the quiet and that being alone can be His invitation away from distraction. We can all relate to the many distractions of this world, and that seems to me a beautiful picture of our Lord, pulling us away from things and drawing us close to Him. In Isaiah 30:15, we are reminded, “This is what the Sovereign Lord, the Holy One of Israel says: ‘In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength.’” In the words of Lysa TerKeurst in her book of devotions, “Isn’t it the loveliest thought that God might be waiting for there to be some silence in our lives to share His best secrets with us?” I love that!

I have always thought that the work of our chaplains is often quiet work. Certainly they are willing to talk and encourage, but often the greatest need they fill is a ministry of presence. When someone is in their darkest hour, they often simply need someone to be present and to listen with compassion. Even through silence, God’s love can flow through them and those who are hurting can feel that care and concern. It takes patience to be quiet and just be there. Please remember our chaplains in your prayers as they face many types of situations, but patience is probably a big one.

As we ponder the word quiet and what it really means to each of us, let us invite the still small and quiet voice of God to lead us and guide us into wisdom and understanding. Our Shepherd wants to direct our path, but that means we all need to listen and maybe we do that best when we are truly quiet. - Jan Richards

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