

County-Wide Chaplaincy

Thanks you!

September 2025

Lighthouse

"What does a lighthouse do? I ask myself. It never moves. It cannot hike up its rocky skirt and dash into the ocean to rescue the foundering ship. It cannot calm the waters or clear the shoals. It can only cast light into the darkness. It can only point the way. Yet, through one lighthouse, you guide many ships. Show this old lighthouse the way."

Quote by Lisa Wingate from her book, "The Prayer Box"

This quote from the above mentioned book really struck me. It seems there is so much going on in the world, so much confusion, so much pain. I am sure there are many of you, who like me don't know what we can do. It is a sense of helplessness for sure. Then this astute observation of a lighthouse, from someone in that same position, observing suffering and grief and perhaps feeling the lack of resources to provide a solution.

Isn't this a picture of what we are called to do? In Matthew 5, believers are called to be salt and light to the world. We are called to let our light shine, kind of like a lighthouse! It sounds so purposeful and important and does not involve us going out and trying to "fix" the world. A lighthouse stands strong and steadfast. It casts light into the darkness of the world. It points the way, it guides.

And once again, this brings me to the mission of our chaplains with County-Wide Chaplaincy. When they go on a call they don't have all the answers, they can't "fix" the problem. But—they can be a lighthouse. They can be a steadfast strength, they can listen, and they can help carry the burden of the pain. These are all things that help bring hope to our hurting world. We can all do this in our daily lives, and for me the ability to offer hope to others eases the burden of the nagging question of "What can I do?" For all of us, no matter what our age or abilities or resources, we can bring hope. We can pray faithfully and we can shine brightly with the love of Jesus! So as the last line of the quote says, and I offer this as a prayer, "Show this old lighthouse the way."

Thank you, as always, for your prayerful support of this ministry.
Jan Richards

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