

County-Wide Chaplaincy

Thanks you!

December 2025

The Gift of Presence

As this season of Christmas is upon us, many of us are thinking a lot about presents. Have I found the perfect gift for someone? Does this gift represent my love? Can I afford the gift I really want to give? These are just a few of the multitude of thoughts we may be having this time of year.

For me personally, the presents that I remember the most are often gifts of presence. A gift of time spent together, doing something really fun or even just being together for a nice long talk. The message that is “gifted” is one of “You are valuable, your thoughts are important to me, I like being with you!” When you think about it, the gift of presence may outlast any material gift we could give. The impact of time well spent, carved out in this busy life, set aside to dwell, can actually impact a lifetime! And really, everyone can actually afford it.

In this hurry up, do more, make more world, this gift of presence becomes even more precious; a willingness to look into someone’s eyes and really listen. To sit back and take it all in, hear the pain, see the joy, and let someone know they matter. It is a powerful gift we all have at our fingertips.

Our chaplains are good at offering this gift of presence year round. I have been told, that sometimes their main job on a call is to sit and listen and be present. The message to those hurting is clear; “You are important, I hear your pain, you are not alone.” What a wonderful gift to be able to offer to those who are in so much anguish.

As always, we appreciate your prayers for our chaplains. Loss during the holiday season can hit even harder than normal, and that affects not only those left, but also our chaplains as they seek to comfort. Please pray for strength, wisdom, and comfort for all those involved. The Christmas season often comes with so many expectations, and when loss of life interrupts those things, it is painful beyond measure. Pray that our chaplains are able to bring some measure of hope to those who are hurting.

We want to thank you for your support, wish you a Merry Christmas, and also encourage you to consider the impact of giving gifts of presence this year. We can truly step in and be life changers in a world of hurting people who really need to experience the love of Jesus. As we focus on the gift God gave us when He sent His son to earth, we can seek to share that love with our hurting world.

Jan Richards

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