

County-Wide Chaplaincy

Thanks you!

October 2025

In the Storm

“We are NOT all in the same ‘BOAT’, we are in the same ‘STORM.’
Some have yachts, some have canoes, and some are ‘DROWNING.’
Just be kind and help when you can!” Damien Barr

I ran across this quote in my saved photos, and it really resonated with me. Sometimes I think it is just easier to assume that we all experience things in a similar way. We can't understand why others react in a certain way and we have little patience for it. This quote is a great reminder that yes, an event affects us all, but we are coming from different backgrounds, different trauma, and different circumstances. Particularly in light of our current politically charged events, it is difficult to grasp some of the reactions we see. We may get angry, defensive, or even disgusted with the people around us. What a great reminder to stop, look and listen, so to speak. Yes, we are all experiencing the same events, but we most certainly are not all experiencing them in the same way. What a great opportunity we have to reflect Jesus in these tumultuous times. Some folks are clearly drowning in despair and we have not only an opportunity, but clearly a commission from our Lord, to reach out with a life ring.

As always, I see a connection to our chaplains. I am sure they are well aware that people going through a crisis do not all respond in the same manner. Some are angry, some overwhelmed with grief, some in shock to the point of silence and much more. Our chaplains never know what kind of situation they are stepping into. They get the call; they head to the scene to provide whatever services seem most fitting and needed. They realize these folks are in a storm, for some the biggest storm of their life. Chaplains are there to listen, to comfort, and to provide many types of assistance to those who are hurting. What an amazing opportunity to reach out with a life ring to those who may actually feel they are drowning in despair.

Our chaplains have this opportunity often, but I think we all have this opportunity. We all see and feel the hurts of this world in our own way. Sometimes it can be so overwhelming we just want to hide away from it all. At those times, I challenge us all to remember our call to love others as Christ loves us. I challenge us to let our light shine brightly and to offer that life ring of care and concern and kindness, no matter whether those around us appear to be in a yacht, a canoe, or are clearly drowning.

Thank you as always for your prayers and financial support of this ministry.
Jan Richards

After reading Jan's letter, I could not help but think of how God uses the storms of life for His good purposes. The assassination of Charlie Kirk was an unspeakable blow not only to his family, but to Americans and countless people around the world. Yet the Lord is using this horrendous event to cause thousands, perhaps millions, to think about their own brevity of life, the depth of sinfulness, and their need to draw near to our eternal God.

Al Walter
Chaplain

County-Wide Chaplaincy is a non-profit 501(c)(3) ministry

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