

County-Wide Chaplaincy

Thanks you!

July 2026

STORY: Part 3

“Go and Tell”

“The man who had been freed from the demons begged to go with Him. But Jesus sent him home saying, “No, go back to your family, and tell them everything God has done for you.”

Luke 8:38

Jesus told this man to go back home and share his “story.” Apparently that was the most important thing he could do at that time, even more important than going with the Lord Himself!

As we continue this series of letters on “story,” I do not have a chaplain story this month. Please look forward to hearing some of Chaplain Sam’s story next month. In the meantime, I want to share some things I have been learning about endurance. Endurance is by definition, “the power to withstand hardship or stress, especially the inward fortitude necessary.”

As I have been listening to messages on enduring, I have been particularly taken in by the thought of our gifting, and how the Lord has made us with our own individual strengths and talents. As we seek to discover how we are each uniquely made, we can also see more clearly where we might best serve the Lord and also endure through hard times. Our “story” comes alive when we find our lane, so to speak, and also try to stay in it. We were not created to do everything well! In fact, in one of these messages I heard, we were cautioned to be leery of someone who claims to be able to do everything well. We have God-given abilities and when we find them we can flourish, and the burdens we carry truly become “good burdens”! This does not mean everything is easy, by no means. It also does not mean we shouldn’t try to do new things or difficult things or things just out of our comfort zone. I do believe it does mean that when we are in our lane of gifting there is a sweet fulfillment even in the hard.

As for our chaplains, I do believe they have found their lane, their gifting, their calling. For many of us, we may look at them and say, “I could just never do that.” And you know what; I think that is just perfectly fine. That is a step in us learning where we are gifted. We do not need to feel guilty because we are not wired to do the things someone else does. There are so many other things to be done. Even just in this ministry there are financial supporters, there are fervent prayers, there are paperwork people, and there are quilters, just to name a few.

So in closing this month, I urge each of us to prayerfully consider what the Lord has for us to do for Him. Are we returning home to tell others our story? There is so much power in living the fulfillment of our story and not striving to live someone else's. I heard a quote the other day that said, "Perhaps the difficulty we have in our walk of faith is that we are trying to be a better version of ourselves instead of a more accurate reflection of who He is." Let us all strive to be reflectors of Him and sharers of the story He is working out in our lives! Let us thankfully and prayerfully endure together!

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

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

Tax-deductible contributions can be given online at

<https://911chaplain.churchcenteronline.com/>

or mailed to:

County-Wide Chaplaincy
2500 NE 78th St.
Vancouver, WA 98665
