

County-Wide Chaplaincy

Thanks you!

January 2025

The Light Mixes In

I was recently remembering when our oldest grandson was only 2 years old. In the wee hours of the morning snuggling in bed with us, holding his flashlight, he exclaimed, "Look Gramma, the light mixes in with the darkness!" Wow, what a wise observation on so many levels.

I have very recently had further occasion to witness and experience the reality of this statement. My brother ended up in the hospital in very serious condition. From the moment I got the phone call from the ER physician, I started experiencing that light mixing in with my darkness. I headed to the hospital and everyone I encountered on this journey was kind and thoughtful and added a ray of light in each moment.

I know that our chaplains do this on a daily basis. They add light to very dark circumstances and make the experience not quite so dark. I have experienced this first hand in the past, but now I experienced it once again and gained even more firsthand knowledge of how our chaplains serve others. You see, my brother went to be with the Lord just two days ago. When Chaplain Sam learned that my brother was really slipping, he went to the hospital in the middle of the night and sat with him while we were at home trying to get a little sleep. My brother left his earthly body the next morning very suddenly, but very peacefully. As my Mom still wanted to come see him, Sam went to work, quietly making sure this would be as good an experience for her as possible. These are things our chaplains do that maybe none of us would know. He made sure my brother's chin was lifted, so his mouth would be closed, eyes were closed, hair was combed, and he was covered with a beautiful handmade quilt that was given to my Mom. He really looked like he was just peacefully sleeping under a cozy quilt. My Mom kept saying how good he looked. Friends, this is an amazing ministry of mixing in light with darkness! What a difference it made for my family and particularly for my Mom.

As we begin a new year we want to thank you for your part in supporting our chaplains. Your prayers and financial support allow them to continue mixing in light with darkness. We all have opportunity in our daily lives to be a light, and in fact to be a representation of the Light of our Lord Jesus. As we begin a new year, let us seek to "brighten the corner where we are" and mix that brightness in with the darkness in this world. May 2025 be a year of growth and joy and blessing!

Jan Richards