

County-Wide Chaplaincy

Thanks you!

July 2025

Others First

Just yesterday I visited my credit union at their brand new location. Of course all of the tellers there seemed very excited by their new space. It was Monday morning and I knew they had made the big transition over the weekend. I asked my teller if she had to work all weekend on the move. She quickly answered with a big smile, "No, all the upper management people worked all weekend and the tellers had the whole weekend off!" Wow, I bet that makes you glad you work here I said, to which she answered a resounding "YES!"

I have thought a lot about that since. It makes me glad I use that credit union and glad to support that kind of management, who seemingly put others first. That encounter really touched me and made me think that we are called to live our lives just like that. Jesus emphasizes the importance of thinking of others before ourselves, of loving others with His love, and also reminds us that in His Kingdom the last shall be first; kind of the opposite of how the world generally thinks.

Then of course, it made me think of our chaplains. They are the ones to step in and do the hard work. In times of trouble, they are the ones to put others first and leave whatever they may be doing in their own lives, to be there to help when it hurts so very bad.

The other thing this makes me think about, since it is July, is the day we celebrate our Independence. We were no longer subordinate to England. But with independence comes responsibility and we have many, many who have sacrificed and put others first in order for us to maintain our freedom. God also gave us independence when He created us. He gave us free will and with free will comes responsibility. We can choose how we live our lives and whether we are more concerned about ourselves or others. As we are encouraged in Hebrews 12, to run the race of faith, to persevere, to focus on Jesus example and allow Him to be our source of strength. None of this is simple and easy, but putting others first is truly the Jesus way!

Enjoy a safe and blessed summer in whatever way you choose to celebrate these freedoms and responsibilities! Thank you for your support of this ministry and please continue to pray for our chaplains.

Jan Richards