

Lifelines

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Topic: Medic!

Medic! Medic! © 2024 by Ed Jordan

This last week my wife and some friends watched the movie “Flags of Our Fathers.” It was a well-depicted film about our 70,000 Marines fighting to take possession of the Japanese-held island of Iwo Jima. The film shows the impact of PTSD, although it doesn’t reference PTSD; but it clearly showed how traumatic real war is, as many gave their lives for that victory.

The troops landed on the beaches, but then had to fight their way up the mountains, through hidden sniper’s and machine gun nests, with and mortars and artillery battering them. Throughout the battles, men were gravely wounded and called out “Medic! Medic!” Medics would fight through the shrapnel and bullets to try to administer lifesaving assistance, and call for someone to bring a stretcher to take the wounded back down the hill. All through the battles, there would be cries for a Medic, and a couple of guys would try to reach and treat the person. At one point during the movie, some Marines planted an American Flag on the ridge, silhouetted against the sky. And of course, this is the famous photograph of the raising of the flag on Iwo Jima. The movie informs us about the history of that photograph, and some of the people included in it.

Our world today is boiling over with hatred, and it is an international trend. I get a news program out of Great Britain and see the same type of things happening in Europe, very similar to what is happening here. People are killing people for no reason. Countries that limit guns still have lots of people being killed by knives, machetes, Molotov cocktails, bombs in backpacks, or run over by cars.

The younger generations are impatient with the aged, the aged are worried about the next generation and future of civilization. Thinkers are frustrated by people who make really illogical self-destructive decisions on the recommendation of a popstar or movie star. Feeling people are frustrated with thinkers who pour cold water on their emotions and their attempts to reshape the world in their own image.

The European Union is becoming a fragile union as unelected Members of the European Union’s Parliament try to force countries to surrender their own country’s sovereignty, and capitulate to group-think and to homogenized policies of the Union. Many of the unique cultures and traditions of various countries in Europe are disappearing, as all the countries must abide by the same laws and policies, whether they fit their country and culture or not. Conformity rules. Crime is decimating cultures, and lawlessness abounds there, as it does here.

In the midst of the violence and fighting, and chanting and rioting, there are still a few voices crying out through the noise and the thunder: “Medic! Medic!” A wounded person needs help and wants to live. Wounded countries want to live, too. And in the midst of the chaos, there are still a few people who hear the cry for help, and with hearts moved by the love of God, they move through the noise and chaos towards that wounded person’s cry, in an effort to help them survive. I’m speaking metaphorically, of course. But it’s a good metaphor.

Jesus is known as the Great Physician. He hears our cry for help. He moves through the destructiveness of the world to reach a person wanting a new life, wanting to live beyond life’s battles.

Jesus said in John 10:14-15 (CSB): “I am the good shepherd. I know my own, and my own know me, just as the Father knows me, and I know the Father. I lay down my life for the sheep.”

As Christians, we need to call upon God to intercede in our world, and team up with God to become medics who move toward the wounded and attempt to bring God’s healing into their lives. In a world of hate, Christians are called to embody love. In a world of confusion, Christians are to hold out God’s truth. In a world of division, we need to be instruments of God’s wholeness and healthy interpersonal relationships.

God calls us to be His children, members of His family, which has priority over human-created delineations. The Medic hears the cry for help. He does not go through a list of secondary issues to decide whether the person is worthy of being saved. He or she moves towards the voice, towards the person calling for a Medic to come save their life. The medic is there to help all who call for help. We should be too!

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