



The Receiver



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But be doers of the word, and not hearers only.... James 1:22

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SERVICE

In the movie, Evan Almighty, television news anchor, Evan Baxter is elected to the U.S. Congress with the slogan, "To change the world!" He is chosen by God to build an ark. Through a series of obstacles and events, he accomplishes his God commissioned task and saves the people in his neighborhood from a dam bursting flood. He discovers from God that, in order to change the world, you need to do one Act of Random Kindness.

As I mentioned in my last article, I was a Boy Scout. Their slogan is "Do a good turn daily." One of the twelve points in the Scout Law is that a Boy Scout is Helpful. When going for Eagle Scout, I had to learn the definition of each point of the Scout Law. Back then Helpful was "He helps those in need and is helpful to worthy objects. He may work for pay but must not take tips for courtesies or good turns." He is always prepared to render aid to those who require it without cost or charge. Yes, that can include helping a senior citizen to cross the street.

In Civil Air Patrol, one of our Core Values is Volunteer Service. This mind set of service began in the early days of CAP with the volunteer service provided for the defense of the United States during World War II. It was CAP which provided coastal patrols looking for enemy submarines. It was CAP which transported needed supplies around the country. Men and women volunteered their time, money, and equipment in support of the war effort. The planes flown were privately owned. Any motor vehicles were probably privately owned as well.

Recently, Civil Air Patrol undertook its largest national effort in connection with the COVID Pandemic. Hundreds of thousands of hours and tens of thousands of our personnel were involved in this effort. These efforts ranged from flying needed medical equipment around the country, packing and

distributing food boxes, answering phones, providing local, state, and national government officials and emergency agencies with vital aerial photographs of requested areas in order to evaluate changes in people's activities. It was a massive effort which provided most members with the opportunity to service their neighbors. This was the biggest mission in CAP's History.

Even with all of these demands upon CAP's personnel, equipment, and other resources, we still provided the quality services which we accomplish during normal times. These services are our Three-fold Mission of Aerospace Education, Emergency Services, and Cadet Programs. With COVID restrictions and guidelines, there were some very interesting challenges which were met and overcome.

Serving others doesn't have to be big or well thought out. We just have to be available and prepared. We need to keep our eyes and ears open for opportunities. They are all around us. They can be as insignificant as holding a door open for a person who is handicapped or a mother with her hands full with her children and groceries. Picking up something someone dropped or litter off the ground. Taking time to shovel out a fire hydrant or removing debris from a storm drain.

In the Bible, in John 3:16, we read that "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son..." What is love? In this case, in the Greek, the word is agape. The concept is that one sees a need and initiates to sacrificially meet that need.

Are you ready and prepared to serve?

RMR Chaplain David Knight

