**Crisis Response Training**

**Orientation and Briefing**

Ecclesiastes 10:11 – If the serpent bites before being charmed, there is no profit for the charmer. This is about the Cross but it has other practical application.

PURPOSE: We are about playing the flute quickly and correctly. Quick means now!

On 10 November 1918 Major General John A. Lejeune’s Fifth Marines poured across the completed bridge over the frigid Meuse River and into the heart of the German lines, overwhelming the enemy. The next day the war was over. November 11th is still a day set aside by Americans to remember our veterans and thank them for our freedoms.

What few of us know is that earlier in the day on 10 November 1918 Roy T. Graham, a trooper in Company B of the Engineer Battalion in the army’s Second Division, raised his hand volunteering to dive into the frigid water to establish an anchor point at the river’s far side for what was to become a pontoon bridge. With a rope in his teeth, Roy and another volunteer swam through the current and heavy artillery and machine gun fire and established the anchor point. On the way back Roy’s partner was killed by small arms fire and Roy pulled his body back to the unit.

Lejeune’s General Order on 12 November 1918 reads, “On the night of November 10, heroic deeds were done by heroic men…. In the last battle of the day, as in all others in which this division has participated, it enforced its will on the enemy.” (p. 33 of The Warrior Soul by Jerry Boykin and Stu Weber)

The Holy Spirit desires to mold spiritual warriors. An element of being a warrior in our Jesus Kingdom is learning to lead. You need to be fully committed to learning to lead.

*Discipleship = We are* ***learning*** *ordinary men to accomplish extraordinary feats for the advance of our Lord Jesus’ kingdom.* (Discipleship is not complete with teaching. The one discipling must make sure that learning takes place.)

Why do we need to be strong to overcome? Because we CONQUER BY ENDURANCE! American soldiers die to keep our flag flying! Jesus endured the cross!

May our sons may be as plants grown up in their youth! (Ps. 144:11-12a)

They shall not be ashamed when they speak with their enemies in the gate. (Ps. 127:5b)

Dads: The strategic leader does not micromanage but knows where and when to insert himself.

INITIATIVE = recognizing and doing what needs to be done before I am asked to do it.

(antonym = idleness)

Follow the promptings of the Holy Spirit.

King David wanted to build a temple for God and God checked him. Trust the HS to check you.

Take initiatives in your expressions of love for Jesus.

Taking initiative does not necessarily mean hurry. The feeling of pressure in many instances means: Value greatly the moments that lie ahead that you may make the most of them.

Speak up if you don’t get it. The safety of you and others depends on it

“The most dangerous words in the English language are, ‘It’s always been done that way.’” Grace Hopper

Make the most of the training by wearing a “game face.” Try to simulate in your mind all that would be going on if you were facing a real crisis.

You are encouraged to record daily experiences & what HS is showing you.

Get in the habit of noting what time things happen.

You are training for a specific skill set. You may face situations in life for which this skill set is not applicable. However, beyond this skill set you are learning to think critically. This skill is applicable anywhere anytime for anything. It gives you the ability to take initiative, instead of being a helpless bystander.

Grace makes you ready, willing, and able to “step up.” When you are doing a scenario every person is engaged: if you are not the leader, then you may be asking questions of the victim, taking notes, providing comfort, preparing an extraction device, clearing a path for extraction, making and keeping the scene safe, communicating with the 911 dispatcher, providing guidance for professionals when they arrive, praying, collecting the stuff being left behind by your team, or making known your availability to help and in the mean-time observing the technique of others.

Be a thermostat and not a thermometer! What does this mean?

Using critical thinking in the training:

***collect facts***– Study the Bible & observe nature, as did explorers and inventors.

Consider all that God has revealed in His Word & in His Creation.

Do not “pick and choose” the God you want to believe in.

You need to have all the facts that are relevant.

Take time to listen to testimonies with understanding. (Ps. 19:7b)

The **SEARCH**: for truth, for the missing item, for the injured person.

Be purposeful: determine if \_\_\_\_\_\_ is in the search area.

Note the importance of knowing your purpose: finding and keeping the person alive.

“Thorough” can be illusive – when do I stop researching or preparing?

The team fails if the one inattentive person misses the object!

In football, the offensive linemen are the unsung heroes: they cannot miss their block.

We see in our day how common it is to form opinions and make statements that have little factual foundation. You are instructed by God to be good students of the Word.

**Need for a strategy:**

Three miles in any direction is as much as 28 square miles. That requires twelve days for 264 searchers to complete a thorough search! One to three days is the life expectancy of a lost person. Therefore, you need a strategy based on probabilities by predicting the behavior of the lost person. (However, do not ignore your intuition.)

**Capabilities of lost persons as determined by:**

Background experiences

Recent mood

Personality – aggressive, reserved, or pessimist

Factors bearing on a person’s “will to live”:

Biological cycles –synchrony (high motivation) or change (low motivation)

General state of health

Past experience in this environment

Heat, cold, and altitude

(Take into consideration who is providing the information.)

**Circumstances (how and why) which bear on evaluating the scene:**

Left a known location (picnic)

Left the route being traveled (to take a short-cut)

Wilderness destination (as a hunter)

**Helpful information about lost persons:**

What clothes were they last wearing?

Are they familiar with their environment?

Are they experienced with the terrain?

What is their physical health?

What is their most recent condition?

When did they last rest?

When did they last eat and what was eaten?

What was their most recent mental state?

What is their age?

Are they overweight?

Is there the likelihood of dehydration (maybe from vomiting or diarrhea)?

What was their activity prior to being lost?

What events led up to the separation and what was the reason for the separation?

What were their intentions?

Are they mentally challenged? (so not as likely to respond to their name being called)

(Note: Family may tend to underate or over-rate certain abilities, or may be unwilling to be frank, about the lost person.)

**Terrain:**

Flat

Mountainous – declining or inclining

Barriers – taking the path of least resistance

Escape routes

Trail obliteration

Confusing ridges or drainages (Pilgrim took a “short cut.”)

(A hasty search will both reveal terrain and possible discover your victim.)

(Direction or right-handedness is not a factor.)

(Look at maps and talk to “old timers.”)

THE **INTERVIEW**…in LOVE = PATIENCE

Take time to get all the facts needed

We do not want to lose valuable time and opportunity by not hearing it all.

(The interviewer may need to stay behind while search party is getting organized.)

Make sure you attach the right meaning to what you see.

In providing First Aid, getting all the facts is critical to providing the correct help.

Alert? Verbal? Showing Pain? Responsive?

Draw analogies to one’s spiritual life.

Beware of the possibility of a deceptive provider of facts, a trap, or a victim who does not want to be found or treated. Be alert for weapons. Be observant while rendering aid.

At an accident scene: don’t pursue someone fleeing; establish perimeter and protect it (secure the scene); observe vehicles for identity, evidence, and seriousness of injuries (airbag deployment, deformity of interior, etc.); observe drivers and occupants for identity and evidence; take pictures; leave contact information with police

***discern outcomes*** – process choices – mentally play out scenarios

See cause and effect. What do the facts mean. (Discuss the preceding lists.)

Understand order. You must know that no area was missed as you do not want to cover

the same area twice. Neither do you want to treat minor injuries while life-threatening injuries go undiagnosed.

ALERTNESS = visualizing the consequence of subtle danger (e.g., sawyer safety)

DECISIVENESS = evaluating courses of action quickly & accurately – don’t overthink

CAUTIOUSNESS = recognizing that the majority is often wrong

Providing **FIRST AID** – motivated by LOVE -- Protecting the person is top priority.

Do it with eternity in mind.

Hebrews 2:15 -- Deliver those in slavery due to fear of death all their lives.

AVAILABILITY = making my own schedule and priorities secondary to the wishes of

those I serve

LOYALTY = adjusting my schedule to meet the needs of those I am serving

HOSPITALITY = making sure the environment is suitable/safe for those we serve and

not becoming another lost person!

HOSPITALITY = cheerfully sharing food, shelter, or conversation to benefit others

CREATIVITY = approaching a need from a new perspective (don’t just talk louder!)

ENDURANCE = maintaining commitment to a goal during times of pressure

Ernest Shackleton was the captain until his men were home.

JOYFULNESS = providing brightness in the lives of others regardless of outward

conditions (giving hope)

Bless God with a response that rejects the attitude of Cain, who rejected being his “brother’s keeper.” Reject callousness.

The Good Samaritan – Luke 10:33-34

***evaluate risk*** – Can you afford to be wrong?

Do you leave an injured person to get help or take him with you.

Focus on the objective and have FAITH for the mission.

KNOT TYING & LASHING – You do not want to have to do it again: make it hold.

RIGHTEOUSNESS is once & forever in Jesus

COURAGE = responding to danger without thought of retreat – e.g., Col. Chamberlain

***make decisions*** – to follow Christ

DECISIVENESS = devoting all my energy to a course of action which I perceive is right

ALERTNESS = acting quickly upon signals of danger

Keep making decisions: Don’t get stuck evaluation past decisions until you are free to debrief.

***develop plans*** – how to serve in the Kingdom

ORIENTEERING – Set a course with precision and find a point on which to focus.

Don’t go in without knowing how to get out! Have an exit plan.

Make sure you have enough to finish. Pace yourself. Count the cost. Do you have enough daylight, resources, and energy. Having only one flashlight may create another crisis!

ORDERLINESS = organizing and utilizing my resources to their greatest efficiency

Packing your daypack: If you expect to need it, pack it, but if you can do without it, leave it out.

***brief and lead a team*** – leadership in the home, church, business, and community

1 Cor. 12:12-26 – various gifts in the church

Leadership skills are at least as important as vocational skills.

*Watership Down* by Richard Adams – The alternative to strong leadership is chaos.

MEEKNESS is required to be part of a team.

Psalm 60:12: "With God we shall do valiantly.”

God places a higher value on team than we do. When the going gets tough, we are apt to leave or destroy the team.

See every member as important. Make room for others to excel. If you know you are not the fastest runner, then your victory is in having the best second-place time so that you push the first-place runner to give a little extra and beat the record.

General Grant – Lincoln built the army around the leader that engaged the enemy.

Do you relate or role-play? Connect with your subject.

A great marriage is not built around the concept. It is built around the person.

PUNCTUALITY = showing esteem for others by my actions

LOYALTY = being a reliable messenger to those I am serving – good communication

RESPONSIBILITY = using all my energies to fulfill the expectations of those

counting on me

DETERMINATION = breaking down a seemingly impossible task by concentrating

on achievable goals – e.g., the line search

COURAGE = following difficult instructions in the face of danger

A leader shows his real stuff when under pressure.

Play to win. Competition (against time and adversity) creates motivation and adrenalin.

Football coach Vince Lombardi: playing to win is not a one-day event, it is every day.

Know yourself and others: tired, hungry, issues, stronger brain hemisphere, strengths, weaknesses, skills, endurance, etc.

Do not decide in desperation and disorientation. Relax and take nourishment.

Always build up: physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually.

Even Elijah needed help in recovering from Jezebel. 1 Kings 19:5-8

Do not single a person out for a weakness.

Have you ever cringed hearing a coach or teammate or parent criticize publicly?

Be an instrument of praise, encouragement, and caring. Gain respect in spite of failures.

If the team believes in their leader, they put up with things in the leader and in each other.

DECISIVENESS = making present commitments to avoid future failures

Drill, whether marching or searching or using a compass or radio.

Always drill the basics: faith – meditation

Be the best sawyer, searcher, etc. PASSION FOLLOWS PURPOSE.

Eccl. 10:10 – A blunt edge means more work.

You can always learn more about something you think you know.

Especially if you are teaching it!

Know your position, purpose, or design and do not try to be somebody else, or you will

frustrate everyone, including yourself. Somebody has to be you, and you are best qualified.

***reevaluate decisions*** – Am I using my strengths effectively? Am I motivated?

Are the others?

Are “all the bases covered”?

Half-time in sports is the time for debriefing and course correcting.

***make course corrections*** – trading the better for the best -- The process of

GODLINESS

FLEXIBILITY = remaining free to accept the best course of action

Habits/routines are good things, but they need to be revisited from time to time.

***clean up your mistakes*** – embracing mistakes as part of learning

“My power is made perfect in weakness.” 2 Cor. 12:9

Stop worrying about shortcomings! This is ugly pride.

The team covers your shortcomings. You need the team!

A team of two with Jesus: I deplete and He replenishes.

Always get up and go again. Discover where we went wrong.

Learn to roll with the punches. Finish the fight.

Practice, practice, and practice more. Muscle memory (habit) frees you to be intuitive.

***process criticism*** – This is when leadership is the loneliest!

Glean from how you affect others.

The stronger you lead, the more critics you have – e.g., U.S. Presidents.

***debrief***

Is there fruit? Can the fruit be better? Even good branches get pruned and grafted!

Honest and timely feedback is critical. Speak-up respectfully.

The obstacle is not the focus. The space between the barriers is where you want to go.

Learn from failure as well as success.

*The Terrible Hours* by Peter Maas (Harper Collins Publishers) -- Charles “Swede” Momsen was responsible for the first rescue of submarine sailors. He is the inventor of the rescue bell, the proper mixture of breathing gases for sea divers, the portable lung (pre-cursor to scuba tanks), safe ascents for sea divers, the proper storage of gunpowder,

and a much-improved explosion rate for torpedoes. All these accomplishments came through trial and error!

Thomas Edison successfully found 2,000 ways not to make a lightbulb.

Have someone help you to think and live outside the box. Don’t settle for the way it has always been done unless you are convinced it is the best way.

**Parting comments:**

Do not sell your birthright (as Esau did)! Know and do your purpose.

Anything that leads you to be occupied with fulfilling your selfish desires is of no value

to yourself or our Jesus’ Kingdom.

Solomon called it vanity. It seems for the moment fulfilling, but it actually prevents your

occupation with what is truly fulfilling.

When asked by a newspaperman what Momsen feared most if another submarine went

down, he said, “That I wouldn’t be there.” – This is the essence of availability!

Operate in your strength. Capitalize on your passion.

Relate learning on critical thinking with finding your purpose for your life.

What do you know more about than anyone else? What do you want to know more about

than anyone else? What do you want to do better than anyone else?

Don’t be distracted. Have a specific purpose for going into a store or on the computer.

No “surfing”! You are to define the culture (not letting the culture define you).

Take initiative. Define your environment: Make it a better place. (Ps. 84:6-7)

Do not wait for someone else to do it. BE the game-changer!

Proverbs 22:29 -- You will stand before kings because of diligence!

How do you get there? Grasp the love that Jesus has for you.

**Blessing:** ***May God make you strong, gentlemen.***