

Story for All Ages

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Last Sunday, I guest preached at a congregation in our area. I talked about a topic I had preached here at UUFP for Veteran's Day last fall. The subject was PTSD in returning veterans. For the children's message, I handed out pictures to the kids. Each one showed a military person crying or looking sad. I talked briefly about how serving in a war can be really hard and things happen that make soldiers feel sad and we talked about some of the reasons. I then asked if they thought there might be some ways that we could help the soldiers who were in the hospital feel better. One very young girl suggested giving them specially-trained dogs. Another young girl said there should be "love princesses."

I then said that I had an idea, too, which was to send get well cards to soldiers who were in the hospital and showed them one I had made. I asked if any of them might like to send a card to a soldier, and most of them said yes, so I handed out cards with pre-addressed envelopes and some written guidelines.

After the service, the church administrator came up to me and said, "Here. I made a copy for you. This was written by an 11-year-old girl. I knew you'd want to see it." I learned later that her parents are going through a difficult divorce. Here's what she wrote:

"Dear Wounded Warrior, (the recommended greeting) Please know that I am thinking of you. I hope your wounds inside and outside will be treated soon. I was not forced to write this. This letter is pure love and gratitude for you. Cry into me. I am here for you. Your wounds only make you wiser and more peaceful. The question I know you want an answer for: 'Why? Why do we fight? Don't we all share this earth?' We do. But some greediness seems to be stronger. I can feel your wounds. I have a wound that pounds on my heart every second I am in court. So I know how you feel. And I want you to know I am thinking of you. Always."

The administrator assured me that he checked with her mom to see if mom had had some input. She said, no, it was all her doing.

The service person who receives this letter is one very blessed person.