

Building Relationships Within The Bravehearts.

I strongly recommend reading Jonathan Howard’s book “ Living Mirrors”. An easy but inspirational read.

PLEASE GOD.

P **Pray** for guidance, strength and humility.

Ask for prayers. Pray with others. KEEP A PRAYER DIARY. Pray each day as you read God’s Word.

L **Listen.** This is far more difficult than it seems. Use your senses. Listen to what others are saying, register their interests, passions and problems. Often, it’s the unsaid that is the most important. Body language is always something to observe.

**Listen** to advice. Seek advice from a mentor or from other chaplains.

**Listen** to what you understand is God’s will in each situation.

E **Engage**. Don’t be a bystander. The Avon table at The Bravehearts allowed a much bigger forum for engagement than seemed possible. Eg.. the massive purchasing of bubble bath seemed on the face of it to be indulgent. But it was the true reason for the deep baths at the end of the day that had to be understood. So many exhausted, challenged, hurt people, seemingly alone with their struggles.

**Engage** in club activities. Christmas events, tournaments. I openly didn’t engage in the club “Spot The Ball Competition” because I believe gambling is against God’s Law. A great chance to witness. I do, however, buy a hot drink to the same value for some parent/carer to show a more Godly use of a £

**Engage** others with creative ideas..ie monthly colouring competitions, birthday surprises. Keep a Birthday And Anniversary Book.

A **Accept.** Accept that you are there by invitation only. Accept your strengths & weaknesses.

**Accept** that relation and Kingdom building takes time. Be kind to others and yourself.

**Accept** others for who and what they are. Many at The Bravehearts had a very dim view of “church” or “religion.” Several were hostile. They have learned to accept who I am, my faith and I hope, my wonderful Saviour through patient perseverance ,determination, humility and of course, prayer.

S **Serve** with all your heart. Wash up tea cups, unblock the toilets, clean the tables, offer to wash the kit. If Christ could wash feet, we can all wash up! Serve no matter how tough it feels. Not only is God watching you, but others are too. A little hard work does open the doors to peoples’ hearts.

E **Enjoy.** Enjoy serving God. Enjoy being a part of your club. Enjoy watching, listening, learning, developing and expanding your role. Enjoy the teasing, the challenges and the triumphant moments. Treasure those moments of trust and pain with others….we are all blessed to serve.

Thank you……..Thank everyone as you engage with them. I have a good relationship with the girls who serve the drinks and snacks at The Sport’s Club. Most of all…THANK GOD for the privilege of serving Him, the challenges, the ups and the downs. Thank your spouses or partners for their support too.

**Karen Lorimer – Swansea Bravehearts**