

A Broken Left Hand

A carpenter's apprentice was beside himself when he broke his left hand. The thought of missing out on so many weeks of work began to worry him. He approached the carpenter and begged to be put to work.

"But what can you do?" the carpenter asked. "Your hand is broken."

"Not my right hand," the apprentice said. "I do everything with my right hand, and I can still hold a hammer."

"But what about the nail? Who will hold that?"



They went on for some time like this about things that needed to be cut, sawed, or drilled. The apprentice was constantly looking for tasks he could perform with one hand, and the carpenter tried to patiently point out that in their line of work, two hands, sometimes four, were almost always necessary.

"But there must be something I can do," the apprentice appealed.

"There is," said the carpenter. "Recognize that there aren't too many things that one hand can do without the other. We all need a little bit of help in just about everything we do."

While this story acknowledges – despite the apprentice's handicap – that there are some things he could do to contribute while his hand healed – the value of the principle of teamwork is highlighted.

The role of every associate in our centers and in our corporate offices and the maximum level of each individual performance are vital for the overall success of the mission to which we are called. The effective functioning of the team is achieved by collaboration and by love and appreciation for one another.

Our residents deserve no less.

– Beecher Hunter