

An Unusual Crime

During the Boer War (1899-1902), a man was convicted of a very unusual crime. He was found guilty of being a “discourager.”

The South African town of Ladysmith was under attack, and this traitor would move up and down the lines of soldiers who were defending the city and do everything he could to discourage them.

He would point out the enemy’s strength, the difficulty of defending against them, and the inevitable capture of the city. He didn’t use a gun in his attack. It wasn’t necessary. His weapon was the power of discouragement.

Encouragement, on the other hand, can be a powerful friend. It strengthens the weak, imparts courage to the fainthearted, and gives hope to the faltering. One of the greatest ministries we can have – in Life Care, Century Park and Life Care at Home – is to lift the spirits of one another.

As associates, we can develop the capabilities and the performance of the team if we use this tool. But it is also important to understand that our residents need our encouragement, too.

--Beecher Hunter