

Emperor Penguins

The emperor penguins of Antarctica know the importance of teamwork. They huddle together by the thousands, providing enough warmth to survive the brutal, freezing weather, which can make a hunk of steel as brittle as a potato chip.

The penguins take turns monitoring the outside of their giant huddle, on the lookout for danger or food. After one of the birds has finished “perimeter duty,” it moves to the inside of the group so it can get warm and sleep. The baby penguins stand on their moms’ and dads’ feet to protect themselves from the icy surfaces. If a penguin, big or small, tried to make it on its own, it wouldn’t survive one frozen winter night.

We can all learn from penguins. Teamwork equals survival. And the tougher the conditions, the more important it is for workers to band together.

You may never need to share physical warmth – unless the heater goes out – but you can share encouragement, empathy and ideas. You can share the workload in times of crisis, and you can share the credit when success is achieved.

--Beecher Hunter