

## Guiding the Way

The world is hungry for good leaders. That is true in politics, government, religion, business, sports and, yes, even in families.

What constitutes a leader, in the best sense of the word? Author and minister John C. Maxwell – one of my favorite writers and a developer of leaders – has this to say in his book, *Leadership Promises for Every Day*:

“God does not expect leaders to be perfect, but to be whole. To have integrity means to be whole, as in a whole number (an *integer*). Despite their human frailties, leaders can effectively guide those who follow.” He quoted Psalm 32:8: *I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with my eye.*

This scripture, Maxwell added, “reminds us that leaders must closely observe the flock for its needs and problems. God expects spiritual leaders to serve as guides. A guide takes a person or group safely to a planned destination.” The Hebrew words for *guide* give several clues as to what God expects from those He uses as leaders, Maxwell said, including:

- A guide is a spiritual head who unites and directs people in their walk with God.
- A guide takes people on the straight path that leads to fellowship with God.
- A guide gives accurate and godly counsel to those who need it.
- A guide leads with gentleness and trustworthiness, making others feel safe.
- A guide bases his or her direction on the Spirit and the Word of God.

As leaders in Life Care, Century Park and Life Care at Home – in addition to roles we play in other realms of responsibilities – we should strive to be the guide who makes those around us feel secure, purposeful, confident and growing in the development of their God-given talents.

– Beecher Hunter