

HOWLING AT THE MOON



Once there was a politician who did the best job he could. But being human, he made mistakes and was criticized.

Reporters wrote about his errors in the newspaper. He became so upset that he drove out into the country to visit his dear friend, a farmer.

“What am I going to do?” the politician asked. “I’ve tried so hard. Nobody has tried harder than I have to do more good for more people, and look how they criticize me!”

But the old farmer could hardly hear the complaint of his persecuted friend because his hound dog was barking up a storm at the full moon. The farmer rebuked his dog, but the dog kept barking.

Finally, the farmer said to the politician, “Do you want to know how you should handle your unfair critics? Here’s how. Listen to that dog. Now, look up at the moon. And remember that people will keep yelling at you. They’ll nip at your heels, and they will criticize you. But here’s the lesson: The dog keeps howling, but the moon keeps shining!”

And that is wise advice for us who work in Life Care, Century Park and Life Care at Home. The nature of our business – like that of the politician – means that we have an array of folks who nip at our heels, who complain and criticize, and who even file unwarranted lawsuits against us.

But as a preacher friend of mine once pointed out, “The main thing is to keep the main thing the main thing.”

And the main thing for us is the mission. It is ever before us. It will always be there. And we are called to engage in it.

Despite all the howling that goes on all around us.

– Beecher Hunter