Our Forest Family

Every associate has a critical role to play to assure the success of any organization. But it is particularly true in Life Care, Century Park and Life Care at Home, because we are engaged in a mission to promote the health and well-being of these entrusted to us.

Diana Veach Barcena, dietary assistant at Life Care Center of Hilo, Hawaii, shared with me an article from the newsletter *Stewardship*, distributed by her church, Hilo United Methodist. The author is unknown, but the message is right on point. It is entitled *Use Your Talent to God's Glory*.

Have you heard about the school for animals that was set up in the forest? All the animals decided it was time to set some criteria for who should be allowed to live in the forest, so a number of them came up with a curriculum that included tree climbing, swimming, flying and running. They decided all animals must pass each of these classes in order to graduate.

Well, the first class was in tree climbing, which, of course, the squirrels passed with flying colors. The fleet-footed deer, however, flunked the course.

When it came to running, the deer got straight A's, but the geese kept falling over frontwards. Now, in flying, the bald eagle flew circles around the squirrels, who kept falling off the branches onto the ground below.

The point, of course, is clear. God has given each part of His creation a talent according to their ability, and that includes humans, as well. We are the ones who have decided that to be talented means that we excel in one of three or four areas, and we are willing to pay enormous salaries to those who meet our criteria.

God's idea of talents, however, is based on people's usefulness to others, not on the number of talents, nor how artistic they are.

Not only will we be held accountable for using that talent we have been given, but as importantly, whether we have used it to advance God's kingdom.

So look around you at the people with whom you work, and thank our Lord for your "forest family."

– Beecher Hunter