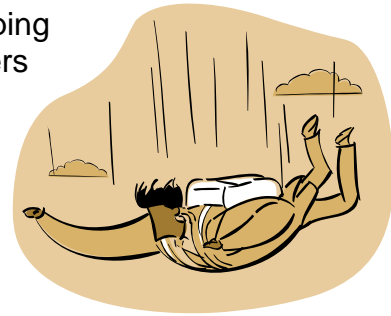


The Chutes Failed

Bud Sellick tells a riveting story in *The Wild, Wonderful World of Parachutes and Parachutists* (Prentice-Hall, 1981).

Soviet sport parachutist Yuri Belenko realized he was in trouble when he was 3,000 feet above the ground. His main chute had malfunctioned, and his rescue chute was “barber poling” around the main, rendering them both useless.

Kicking his feet to slow the spiral caused by the whipping canopies above, Belenko yelled down to fellow jumpers on the ground. His jump buddies immediately sprang into action, grabbed a packing mat, and sprinted toward the impact point.



All the way down, Belenko yelled and tugged at the static lines in an attempt to clear the tangled chutes. Below, his friends stretched the mat taut and waited.

Belenko plummeted into the canvas at bone-crushing speed, ripping the tarp from his rescuers’ hands and knocking them to the ground. When the dust cleared, Belenko lay gasping for breath, complaining only of a sprained ankle and a few bruises.

His jump buddies were there for Belenko at the moment he needed them most. It’s what God wants His people to do for others in need.

The story is also a powerful example of the beauty and the success of teamwork – the value of cooperation to accomplish a common goal.

And that principle is never demonstrated any better than in the work of Life Care, Century Park and Life Care at Home.

– Beecher Hunter