

# The Healing in Aurora



In one of His most popular parables, Jesus tells of a man journeying from Jerusalem to Jericho who fell among thieves. They stripped him of his clothing, wounded him and departed, leaving him half dead.

After a priest and a Levite came and saw the injured man, they passed by on the other side of the road, going on their way. But a Samaritan happened along, saw what had happened, and had compassion on the victim. He bandaged his wounds, put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn and took care of him. The next day, when it was time for the Samaritan to depart, he left money for the innkeeper to continue the care.

In the wake of the horrible shooting July 20 in a theater in Colorado – where 12 people were killed and 58 wounded – God has implanted the heart of that Samaritan in the people of Aurora, in particular, and Colorado in general. Citizens have rushed to the side of families whose loved ones perished and to offer support and assistance to the survivors.

Medical personnel in the hospitals have bound up the wounds of those hit by gunfire. People all over the city, the state and the nation are seeking to bind the emotional wounds of the suffering by their comforting words, their cards and their prayers. Governmental leaders, including Governor John Hickenlooper, pledged to the families affected to do “whatever it takes” to help them put their lives back together.

Life Care has 23 centers scattered across the state of Colorado, meaning that many of our residents, family members and associates have been touched directly or indirectly in some fashion by the massacre perpetrated by that lone gunman. In addition to the ones whose lives have been dramatically altered by those bullets, we pray for all those touched by this tragedy. And we pray, too, for the wisdom and insight of our associates in Colorado as they seek to bring comfort and healing to those troubled by this incident and its aftermath.

What are the reminders of this event in Aurora? Several, including:

- Life is short, no matter how long our years upon this earth.
- Dramatic change can happen in the wink of an eye.
- People all around us are hurting, whether from very public events, as this one, or through personal, secret struggles.

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- Words of encouragement are desperately needed, and priceless.
- Love – for God and for one another – is the foundation of all of our relationships.

Lord, give me, too, that Samaritan's heart.

– Beecher Hunter