

# THE LACK OF CARING

Frank Reed, head of the Lebanese International School, was among a group of Americans believed to be captured by Shiite Hezbollah militants in an attempt to drive U.S. military forces from Lebanon during the Lebanese Civil War.



***Freed American hostage Frank Reed waves to supporters at Andrews Air Force Base on May 4, 1990.***

From 1986 to 1990, Reed was held hostage in a Lebanon cell. For months at a time, he was blindfolded, living in complete darkness, or chained to a wall and kept in absolute silence.

On one occasion, he was moved to another room and, although blindfolded, he could sense others in the room. Yet it was three weeks before he dared peek out to discover he was chained next to Terry Anderson, Associated Press correspondent, and Tom Sutherland, an administrator at the American University of Beirut.

Although he was beaten, made ill, and tormented, Reed felt most the lack of anyone caring. He said in an interview with *Time*, “Nothing I did mattered to anyone. I began to realize how withering it is to exist with not a single expression of caring around me. I learned one overriding fact: Caring is a powerful force. If no one cares, you are truly alone.”

It is a truth that we all can believe.

Reed’s statements also underscore the importance of the mission to which we are called in Life Care, Century Park and Life Care at Home. For many of those we serve, they wonder if anyone truly cares about their circumstances. It is critical, then, for us to not only render the professional services needed by our customers, but to do so with an attitude of compassion and caring.

– Beecher Hunter

May 4, 1990: Freed American hostage Frank Reed waves on arriving at Andrews Air Force Base