

# The Searcher and the Risk

Years ago, news media reported a coal mining accident in the Allegheny Mountains. Many miners escaped with their lives, but three men were still trapped somewhere deep within the earth's crust.

Whether they were dead or alive, no one knew. What made the accident even more threatening to life was the presence of intense heat and noxious gases within the mine itself. If the men were not crushed by the rocks, they well could have been asphyxiated by the flames or killed by the heat.

Two days went by before a search expedition was allowed to even enter the mine because of the heat and fumes. Even then, there was great danger in store for anyone who would dare descend into what could be a deep, black grave.

News media interviewed one of the members of the search party as he was preparing to enter the mine. One reporter asked him if he knew of the noxious gases and the extreme danger of the mine. He answered yes.

“And you are still going down?”

The man replied, “These men may still be alive.”

Without another word of explanation, he put on his gas mask, climbed into the elevator, and descended into the black hole.

He put his life on the line so that others might live.

We marvel at the heroism of people like this search party member. We see similar bravery, too, in others, such as first responders – a notable example being rescues in the aftermath of the World Trade Center attacks.

While they may not risk their safety, the associates of Life Care, Century Park and Life Care at Home, give *of* their lives for the well-being of the people we serve. In pursuit of chosen careers, they offer sacrifices of time, energy and sometimes financial resources to positively impact the frail and infirm men and women who trust and depend on them.

And we marvel at *their* commitment.

– Beecher Hunter