

# COUNTY-WIDE CHAPLAINCY

"There to Help  
When it Hurts"

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## February 2007

### Dear Friends of Chaplaincy,

When I have a week that gets way too busy for me, I often say, "My mother forgot to warn me about weeks like this!!" Well it seems that this whole month has been like that as I have made several attempts to get this important communication to you this month. This is the month of Valentine's Day - a day when we purportedly express our love for our wives/husbands, and perhaps catch up for the whole year when we forgot to tell them of our undying love. One of the byproducts of trauma, and even death, is that people feel free to express their feelings for those close to them. I often hear people say, "It is such a shame that we don't get together more often, and I have really missed you", or "You sure have grown since I last saw you 27 years ago!!"

Well, I sure do not want to wait till a funeral of a mutual friend to say that I love and so appreciate all my friends and supporters of this ministry. Fire departments have **Awards Banquets**, and the "atta-boy" awards are handed out for various deeds and accomplishments. Well, I too want you to know that I could not do this ministry without your prayers, encouraging words and, of course, the financial support which keeps me on the road to be *there to help, when it hurts*.

This afternoon I was called to the hospital by their chaplain to see a patient and his mother whom I have known for years. She needed a ride home; and as I was driving back from Vancouver to Battle Ground, a call came of an unexpected death. The man who ended his life was suffering from emphysema and depression. His mother was a sweet 90 year old lady whose other son had died in a tragic auto accident some years back. As I sat on the couch with her trying to help her deal with the whole situation, she said to me, "Chaplain, how would we handle things like this without God!" I certainly had to agree with her.

Another family who Evelyn and I have known for years

faced a terrible situation this past week as the wife/mother/grandmother was found unconscious by her daughter at home. She was taken to the hospital where the doctors did all they could with no success, and she died at the age of 57. She taught school for many years and had been on the Battle Ground City Council. A memorial service will be held for her this Saturday at the High School. They have been friends and supporters of the chaplaincy for many years. In fact, Evelyn told me that 6 of our personal supporters have died this past month.

One of the highlights for me is to speak to groups of people about chaplaincy ministry. I had the joy of speaking to a country church in Oregon for their Valentine Banquet and yesterday I got a call to go speak to a class of students at Mount Hood Community Collage. This class is for training funeral directors, and they want me to speak about dealing with trauma and grief resolution. That should be fun! I also conducted a funeral for a friend and long time supporter of this ministry who was 93 years old. She went to Israel with us when she was in her 80's, and came home, had by-pass surgery and was good to go again. She had just moved into her own home after living with her daughter and son-in-law for quite a while, but wanted to be on her own. Only had 1 week in her new place when she had a stroke and never really recovered. What a lady. I hope I can be as positive and happy as she was even in tough times.

I just had 2 calls from people going through tough times that do not include a death, but non the less are very traumatic. I find myself doing a lot of counseling and seeking to lighten the load of many other struggles that people experience in life. I am so grateful for the privilege of being "there to help, when it hurts!" Thanks for being part of the team.

Joyfully serving together with you,  
Chaplain Landis Epp