

COUNTY-WIDE CHAPLAINCY

*"There to Help
When it Hurts"*

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January 2009

Dear Friends of Chaplaincy,

The news on radio, TV, and papers has been about the plane crash on the Hudson River in New York. I was coming home from a graveside service when the program I was listening to was interrupted by the "Breaking News!" At first they were not sure if there were any survivors, then saw them getting out of the plane, then boats, rescue, helicopters, divers, ambulances and police all came on scene to do what they could to help. What a miracle, no lives lost! Some attributed it to the skill of the pilots; and without question, they and the attendants did their jobs well. One comment I read in this morning's paper said that a passenger told the reporter that they were all told to put their face on their laps, and prepare for a crash. He said they did as instructed, and we all prayed! GOOD IDEA! And all 155 on board that plane survived!

It is always gratifying to see that in times of crises, there are good people ready to come to the rescue. I didn't hear one complaint that - "our boat trip was interrupted by this plane crash, and I may be late for my appointment." You see, times of crises often bring out the best in people. I am so proud to be part of a group of men and women who drill, prepare equipment, and keep alert for any crises that might develop in our county.

Such was the case last week when a lady in her 50's ended her life by running her car in a closed garage. Somehow the car caught the garage on fire, and when her daughter came to check on her mom, she found the garage full of fire and the house full of smoke. She ran to the road and stopped a passing car to ask them to call 911. By the time I arrived, there were police, fire, rescue, and ambulance on scene. The fire was extinguished, and the Fire Marshal began the job of trying to figure out what happened and the cause of the fire.

I went to the home of the daughter, as she and her little family were naturally very distraught, and sat

with them as they called family to inform them of the sad situation. During my time there in the home, one of the rescue workers brought "mom's" cat which they rescued from the fire and gave oxygen to revive it. That little cat was such a comfort, and it was so special that the crew on scene went to such effort to save the little animal. Sadly, the cat had to be put down, but for awhile it was just what they needed. I contacted them the next day, and she told me that her neighbor lady who was watching their 4 year old son asked who the chaplain was who was there. When she was told, she said, "He married my husband and I, and did a funeral service my daughter some 11-12 years ago".

Tomorrow is a funeral service for a pastor friend and former chaplain who worked with one of our fire districts. He had some health issues, but died suddenly after going through surgery. He was a few years younger than I. Life is fragile.

Thanks to all you my friends who support our chaplaincy ministry through encouraging words, prayer and financial gifts. In this time of national financial crises, it is so heartwarming to know that there are still people who care about others who are going through crises of their own. I am honored to have been a part of this team for these years with your support and encouragement.

Tomorrow I will be helping a family of a 40 year old lady who died suddenly, leaving a 4 month old baby. So sad! Thanks for "being there with me!"

Next month we will be sending out your record of giving in this past year. Our treasurer and those who record the giving are all volunteers for which we are very thankful, for it helps us stretch the dollars to do the job of being - "There to Help, When it Hurts!"

*Joyfully serving together with you,
Chaplain Landis Epp*

COUNTY-WIDE CHAPLAINCY

INTRODUCING THE TEAM!

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Phil Harris has been a volunteer chaplain with County-Wide Chaplaincy for the past 3 years. He and Taryn Trendera share a 24 hour shift on Thursdays. Phil was born in Seattle but grew up north of Anchorage, Alaska, where his father worked in the North Slope pipeline.

Phil went to Portland Bible College and married Shanda, whose brother is married

to the sister of another of our volunteer Chaplains, Chad Zoller (*anyway they are sort of family-related*). At a family birthday party Chad talked to Phil about the chaplaincy ministry, and kept after him till he took the training from former director El Loney, and then began to serve.

Phil is on staff at City Harvest Church as "worship/missions/overseer of small groups/follower up of visitors" pastor. Wow! He saw chaplaincy as a way to reach beyond the walls of the church. Phil and Shanda have been married for 15 years, and have six children (ages 2,3,5,8,10,12). I guess the old adage stands " *If you need something done, find someone who is busy to do it!*"

When asked what the hardest part of this job is, he agreed with the other chaplains who say that it is when children are involved, whether it be a child's death, or the death of a parent leaving a small child behind. He says that the thing that keeps him going is being able to make a difference in someone's time of tragedy. As a pastor, he loves to pray for and with people who are hurting, and said he has never had someone refuse to have him offer a prayer in their time of need. He often hears that tough question - "How could a loving God let this happen to us?"

Phil, thanks for having a caring heart and just being
"There to Help, When it Hurts!"