

# COUNTY-WIDE CHAPLAINCY

"There to Help  
When it Hurts"

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## March 2009

Dear Friends of Chaplaincy,

That March "Lion and Lamb" stuff sure has been showing itself lately. Yesterday was an absolutely beautiful day, sunny and in the 60's. Today is miserable, rainy, windy and cold. Well, that is the way it is this time of the year; and we experience rapid changes in our lives that are often even more traumatic and long lasting in the pain they leave.

As Paul Harvey used to say, "On a personal note....." I had a bit of personal trauma two weeks ago as I cut my hand with my wife's ax. I was just going to quickly make a fire in my shop for the grandkids so they wouldn't have to go to the house to warm up. There was this piece of wood that didn't fit in my wood stove, so I was going to trim a bit off with the ax, which slipped, glanced off a branch and cut my hand between the index finger and my thumb, cutting the tendon that pulls the thumb back. I wrapped my hand in a shop towel, ran to the house, and got Evelyn to drive me to the hospital. The ER nurse wrote on the white board in my room, "**Fix Hand!**" When I told the doctor that I couldn't raise my thumb, he got the orthopedic surgeon to look at it. They did the surgery, and I was in a cast for a week, and now in a splint, (which I can take off to type a newsletter). The process of "fix hand," I'm finding out, is going to take some time.

One thing I love about my job as a trauma chaplain is that I see people with so many bigger problems than I have, and it almost makes me embarrassed to tell about my "owie" **except that it is mine**, and I feel the hurt rather directly. I have received so many cards in the mail and many well wishes as people say they are praying for a full recovery. **I have so many good friends**. I also have heard many stories of hand injuries, even total strangers stopping me in the stores to show their scars and tell me of their recovery - all of which is helpful to bring hope that one day my thumb will work again.

I just returned from a home where a loving family said goodbye to a 24 year old lady who battled cystic fibrosis for 18 years and finally died. She left a loving family of mom, sisters and husband had been was in Iraq with the Marines. Yesterday I made a death notification to a half-brother of a man that was found dead in a motel. There was no emotion shown as there was no loving relationship with this half-brother who had chosen a life of drugs and bad company, and had ostracized himself from the rest of the family.

Yesterday I met with two families who had had deaths that were unexpected. The one was a 91 year old man who was living with a lot of pain, and in his despair decided that he didn't want to go on living any longer and shot himself. The other family had a dad who was 61 and basically drank himself to death. He wouldn't get help, and his health deteriorated till he couldn't work or take care of himself, and he was found dead. He was divorced from his wife, who was battling cancer and having a tough time breathing. As soon as we were done planning the funeral, she was going to the doctor to try to get help so she would be able to breath easier. What a privilege to pray with these families as they faced the pain of parting.

So you can see that my job certainly helps me to see others who have much more severe problems than a cut hand with a thumb that will take time and some therapy to get it to work again. Thanks for being a part of the team in praying for, encouraging, and supporting financially this ministry as we together are "**There to help, When it Hurts!**"

Joyfully serving together with you,  
Chaplain *Landis Epp*

# COUNTY-WIDE CHAPLAINCY INTRODUCING THE TEAM!

"There to Help  
When it Hurts"



As I write this note another very special member of the team is downstairs at the dining table **making red marks all over my March Newsletter**. She doesn't let me print my masterpiece until she has corrected punctuation, grammar, and fixed sentences to make them more understandable to you the reader. Yes, my wife of almost 42 years is an important part of this ministry team.

Although Evelyn is by nature a very organized person and likes to plan things ahead, she has had to learn to be somewhat flexible with my kind of work. She readily admits that she and trauma do not get along well; in fact, she says that she would double the trauma! Having said that, she has had to fix meals at crazy times, sometimes hold them for hours, or eat by herself as I can't get home from a call.

Another of her jobs is to help with our monthly mailings. She addresses all the envelopes (this month 457 of them), stuffs the letter in them, then figures out the bulk mailing forms for the Post Office. (They love her because she is accurate and meticulous in filling out those forms!) She also helps me to keep the mailing addresses up to date as people move, and bulk mailing doesn't automatically follow them.

Besides all this, she is a homemaker and a grandma to 10 grandchildren and has been teaching 2-3 year old kids in Sunday School for over 30 years. Her "spare time" activities include yard work, gardening and feeding my cattle when I don't get home in time.

Needless to say, Evelyn is a vital part of this team, and I want to keep her around for many years to come. **I just couldn't do this work without her support!!**

By the way, although we haven't moved, we have a new address as we have just been annexed into the city of Battle Ground. Our new address is :

Landis & Evelyn Epp  
800 SE 28th Circle,  
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