

COUNTY-WIDE CHAPLAINCY

"There to Help
When it Hurts"

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Dear Friend of Chaplaincy,

Just a month ago, I was wondering if I would be able to type enough on my computer to get a letter out to my friends and supporters, due to the injury I sustained when my wife's ax decided to teach me a lesson. Someone has wisely said that "experience is a tough teacher, for it gives the test first, and the lesson later!" Well, needless to say, there were some lessons to be learned. Have you ever thought of the fact that your problem or trial gives someone else the opportunity to be of



service, and to be an encouragement to you? I can't tell you of all the well wishers, and the cards and phone calls assuring me of their concern and love. WHAT AN ENCOUR-

AGEMENT! I can tell you that I had empathy for my dear friend Kitty Ryan who got her hand caught in a drill press and lost a thumbnail and some skin on her fingers. Here is a picture of us shaking our injured hands on Sunday morning. We are both on the mend; and except for the fact that I can't raise my thumb back all the way, I am able to use it, and I am thankful for



the way it has healed. I have used it as an illustration of the fact that when a loss has occurred through death of a loved one, you may never be "normal" again,

but you will build a "new normal"; and mine will be with a thumb that has suffered some wear and tear, and may never be able to bend back as far as it used to! That is OK!

I would like you to join me in prayer for a grandson of my dear friend and auxiliary chaplain,

Mike White. His grandson Luke has been through one round with Leukemia and was a healthy boy again for some time, and then about a month



ago it was discovered that it was back again. You see, even Chaplains are not immune from the traumas of life. This picture was a few years ago as Mike and I were helping a lady squirt water from a fire hose at an "Open House" at Fire District #3 where Steve Wrightson (who serves on our board) is chief. Mike was involved in organizing CWC and was an active chaplain as well as a busy pastor. He serves now as a fill-in chaplain when needed.

If you want to really be encouraged, read the journal of Luke's parents (go to <caringbridge.com>. Type in "**Luke Jensen**", and you will be able to keep up with his progress and treatment at OHSU Children's Hospital. Shortly before his second round of treatments began, he did a school assignment I want to share with you on the back of this letter. He's a real trooper!!

Tuesday, April 21, Evelyn and I will begin a trip back to Wyoming, Nebraska, and Manitoba, Canada (where my 88 year old mother lives), and then back through Montana. We plan to visit many friends and supporters and will be speaking in a few churches along the way. We hope to see some of you on this journey.

Joyfully serving together with you,

Chaplain *Landis Epp*

