

COUNTY-WIDE CHAPLAINCY

"There to Help
When it Hurts"

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Dear Friends of Chaplaincy,

Family - a very important word, isn't it. It can refer to our own flesh and blood, or even close friends or club or church group which we call "family".

Evelyn and I had the joy of having our whole family together for 2 weeks earlier this month. Our daughter Kim, her husband Edgar and four of our grandchildren were here from LA area of California where they live. We had lots of fun with our 10 grandchildren watching them interact and enjoy each other - riding go carts (kept uncle Brian and Kevin busy fixing them), feeding cows, roasting hot-dogs, jumping on the trampoline and playing with a lighted frisbee in the dark!



Yes, family time is important, and we value that so much. This month I have had the privilege of working with a number of families whose lives and enjoyment has been interrupted by death. Yesterday I conducted two funerals, one for a man who was found lying on the road next to his quad. His daughter who is a paramedic was the one who found him and tried to resuscitate him, but couldn't. He was 2 years younger than I am. The other funeral was for a 56 year old man who went to bed one night, and didn't wake up the next morning. What a shock to the entire family. At that service I mentioned that

in a few hours I would be at a memorial for 4 young people who died in a car accident while on their way to the coast for a weekend last hurrah before going away to colleges in different parts of the country. The widow of the 56 year old man asked if I would take some of the funeral flowers to the high school memorial to help make it a bit more beautiful. How sweet, for even in the midst of her pain she was thinking of how difficult it was for the families of these young people and their school friends to have such a terrible loss. On my way to the memorial, I got a call from a battalion chief of one of our fire departments that his 36 year old wife and mother to 2 young boys had died suddenly. I will be working with the family in the next few days to help them cope with their loss.

Someone asked me how the recession was affecting my job, and I'm sure they were thinking of the support side. But I said, "Have you forgotten about death and taxes?" Seems that crises takes no break in times of recession.

Our family is not immune from times of crises. My youngest son Kevin has a landscape maintenance business and today one of his employees quit, so one of his trucks is sitting idle today. When Edgar got back to his job in S. CA. he was informed at the end of the day that he would no longer be employed at YAMAHA where he has worked for a number of years as a legal assistant. Then our oldest son Brian, who was planning a career in law enforcement was let go due to the fact that he was not able to do all the paper work fast enough in that busy police department. His wife Jennie will be soon starting chemo treatments for her blood cancer and then will need to have stem cell treatment in Seattle later.

Yes, we value our families, and wish we never faced any hardship or trials. At both funerals yesterday I spoke of Heaven and the fact that it is a place with "no tears, no sorrow and no crying!" That sounds quite different from the world I live in! Thanks for your support which makes it possible for our chaplains to be "there to help, when it hurts!"

Joyfully serving together with you,

Chaplain Landis Epp

Many of you have asked about our oldest son Brian as to how he is doing in his police work. Well, the paper work proved to be a bit overwhelming, and so he was let go by the Longview PD. He and Jennie put the following together to help explain where they are at present.



Thank you first of all for your prayers and concerns for our family. A lot has happened since our last update.

First, Brian is no longer working for Longview Police Department. In May, Brian was let go because he was not able to keep up with paperwork that is required for all police officers. Regardless of the outcome, we know that God did indeed lead Brian into that line of work, and for whatever reason has also shut the door for now. We are continuing to lean on God for His direction to his next line of work.

Presently, Brian is working for his brother, Kevin, helping in his yard maintenance business.

Second, Jennie's Multiple Myeloma has begun to progress to a point of needing treatment. She will begin chemo treatment at home starting August 31, for three to four months to prepare her for a stem cell transplant. After that she will be an outpatient at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center in Seattle for one to two months while receiving the transplant. Unfortunately, this transplant is not a cure, but only a treatment at this time. Despite this, Jennie is trusting daily in God and knows that He has a plan through all of this. "True joy is not the absence of pain, but the presence of the Lord Jesus in the midst of the pain", is one of John Piper's phrases that Jennie has stuck to her mirror to remind her where true joy is found and that is only in Jesus Christ!