

County-Wide Chaplaincy

Thanks you!

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April 2018

Good Morning! It is 5:21am on Friday April 6th. Today is my "Monday morning," the beginning of the week for me. You see, our chaplaincy program serves 24/7 with our team of volunteers along with Chad and myself, all working together to see that every shift has a primary and secondary chaplain ready and willing to serve our County upon request.

What a week this has been. Three dearly loved friends had surgeries, two of them planned and one of them required after an unexpected fall. All three went well, with lots of prayers. Sadly, a long-time faithful friend's father left us unexpectedly. And at memorial services this morning and Sunday afternoon, we will be honoring the lives of two chaplains' mothers.

What love and support, tears and hugs, hurts and help—I have witnessed! And that was only in my personal circle. There are also the calls with those we meet, most always for the first time, as we try our best to help when they are hurting badly after someone they dearly loved has died.

I am so thankful for God's love and His faithfulness to each and every one of us. And I am so thankful for Jesus' example of what true unconditional love really looks like. I just finished reading chapter 21 of the book of John. I would encourage you to read it.

One week back, a number of officers, chaplains, and administrative staff took part in a two day class entitled, *Assisting Individuals in Crisis*, a course in Critical Incident Stress Management. The class was held at the Clark County Sheriff's Office. This Saturday I plan to attend classes from 8am to 2pm and teach one of the courses, as long as I do not get paged out for a death notification or death on site. Another CWC Chaplain, Ken Turney, will be teaching a course as well. Ken also serves as a chaplain for Washington State Patrol in this area.

My Dad often reminded his family, "learn until the day you die;" he also told us, "you will accomplish more working together than alone." I have found my earthly father's words accurately reflect the words of my Heavenly Father. What a privilege it has been to serve with our chaplaincy team and other teams of first and second responders. I do believe in continuous education, team work, and God's directives as found in the Bible.

It is now 5:21am on Monday morning, April 9th. Since I started this report our chaplaincy team has assisted on two gunshot suicide calls. In one young pastor's words when he attended our monthly debriefing meeting, "Wow, this is real," in reference to the services we provide as chaplains.

The words of an old song, frequently sung at Billy Graham Crusades year after year, came to mind this morning following the annual celebration of Jesus' resurrection—*How Great Thou Art*.

God's peace and love is a gift to all. I encourage you to unwrap and open the gift. He is always there to help; He loves us all so very much.

I pen this month's appreciation report with a thankful heart. Thank you for your prayers and the ways you give to County-Wide Chaplaincy and in your own personal circles.

Chaplain Sam LaPore

Remember to pray for our first responders. They go to the need, even when it means they will experience first hand the pain and losses in our county. They do this willingly so that we don't have to. It can be dangerous, and it can be hard to walk away emotionally unscarred. Please pray for their safety, both physically and emotionally. We need them and we are all so grateful for them!

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