

County-Wide Chaplaincy

Thanks you!

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March 2020

Eternal or Temporal

March of 2020! Can you believe it? Time keeps on ticking, relentlessly. For many of us, more time in our short lives lies in the past than in the future. We may not often think about that fact or even want to. We race through this life each day at what seems like 100 miles per hour. Let me respectfully ask these questions: What do you value? What do you want from this life? What is truly important? Who do you value? Who do you want to spend your time with?

My Dad's older brother, Uncle Guy (Guytano), said to me on his 75th birthday that he wished he had spent more time with his wife and children when he had them all living under one roof. His amazing sweet and special wife relocated from this earth into



a new neighborhood that we call Heaven, on one Christmas Eve after a long fight with cancer. She was 50 years old, kind, thoughtful, caring and full of love in her heart and eyes; with a precious smile, beautiful inside and out. I remember her well; I grew up in her presence. What a gift she will always be in the hearts and minds of those who knew her. She lived a good life and set a wonderful example for the rest of us.

The Bible, God's holy and powerful Word, says that all good gifts come down from above. I remember Christmas morning that year, asking my Dad and Mom, "Where is Uncle Guy this morning?" After hearing about my Aunt Vita's passing, I knew where she was (Heaven) but I wanted to know where Uncle Guy was. They told me he had gone to church that morning. That left a big impression in my mind and heart. There are tears in my eyes this morning, thinking and writing about that time in my life, many days gone by.

What's really important? We don't take anything in our hands from this life to the next life. The Bible tells us we will receive a new body and will live in God's home with a place especially prepared for us. Gifts from above await all who are willing to receive, trust, and believe in the Prince of Peace, the Father above, the very fountainhead of unconditional love.

There is a peace that comes from God for those who humbly request it with a sincere heart, trusting in something greater than anything we can wrap our minds around or see with our earthly eyes.

I have seen life and I have seen death as a 911 Chaplain for over 18 years now; weekly I have helped to place someone's beloved family member in a body bag. Each one is loved by God above and by others here on earth, while living this short life. As a 911 Chaplain, I have witnessed firsthand how life can change drastically in a day, an hour, a moment, in the wink of an eye.

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I believe in the God of the Bible not because I was told about Him, but because of what I have witnessed in my 61 years on this planet.

911 Chaplaincy is the real deal, raw and revealing. My eyes, mind, and heart have been polluted and violated by the sight of death. It leaves lasting impressions that sink deep down into my soul. We, the CWC team, often close the eyes of someone who has just passed into eternity. We have washed and dressed the deceased. We put wigs on heads and dentures in mouths, trying to make a better last view for someone who is hurting real bad and saying goodbye to their loved one. We remove wedding rings and hand them back to the husband or wife; some have been married for more years than I have lived. We may help to place a parent, a child, a brother, or a sister in a white plastic bag, and then a corduroy and vinyl bag which is zipped shut. This always shocks me into reality and focuses my mind on eternal values. The raw but real world compels me to think, pray, and want to love my family members.

Please think about what really is worth your time and labor in this brief life. How do you want to spend the time you have left here and now? What do you truly value?

Thank you for your prayers over the years. We, the CWC chaplaincy team, are grateful and appreciative, more than you will ever know.

My 88-year-old Dad says each day is a gift, one of the many gifts from above. He starts his prayers with thank You as gratitude and appreciation flows out of his heart, a heart full of love, generosity, and peace. He ends his prayers believing and trusting, with peace of mind, spirit and soul.

Sincerely,
Sam LaPore

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Your donations can be given by mail using the enclosed envelope, our address at the top of this newsletter, or online. To give online and/or set up recurring billing there is a link to give on the donations page of our website: www.911chaplain.org. Or you can go straight to it with the following web address: <https://911chaplain.churchcenteronline.com/>.

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