

County-Wide Chaplaincy

Thanks you!

2500 NE 78th St. Vancouver, WA 98665 ~ (360) 573-7127

September 2020

I am at peace. I am thankful. I am blessed...because I have hope.

I wish I could say this comes easy for me but, like some of you, I am challenged by anxiety and the cares of my circumstances, both external and within my own self.

I was recently having a conversation with a friend about some of this. As friends we were sharing about some of our own personal issues in life, and some of the challenges that we face in this world as we live daily. Health issues, finances, battling temptations, problems with family members, wondering why some people choose to not accept the Lord, among other things.

Then our conversation turned to things going on around us, from COVID 19 to politics and the proper role of the government and the church during these times. We discussed the economic environment and the devastation of businesses in our area and beyond and the resulting impact on people and their families.

Then, after we had thoroughly depressed one another, my friend turned and said, "But, we have hope!"

Then we began to discuss some of the blessings in our lives. The rich relationships we have with our families and friends, the awe and beauty of our creation, the truth of God, the intimacy of worship, and the enduring promises of God, one of which is His commitment to love us unconditionally, forever.



Jesus says to us in the Bible that no matter what happens to us, no matter what is around us He promises to never leave us, nor forsake us. With Him, we can not only endure, but have an impact on those He places in our path. This was, and continues to be an important reminder for me, and helpful on a few Chaplaincy calls I recently responded to.

Two of the three families had someone who was battling with addiction, alcohol in these cases. Each had been working and had families who loved them and, when COVID 19 hit they found themselves with more time on their hands and more stress. In the end, it was too much.

County-Wide Chaplaincy is a non-profit ministry. / WWW.911CHAPLAIN.ORG

The other call was a man who was struggling with a medical condition. Once again, when the virus hit he found himself at home and, in his case, alone. He was struggling with a rare medical condition that required in-person treatment. He was unable to receive his treatment because of the restrictions as a result of COVID 19. He battled until he could no more.

I provided guidance, and consoled the family members the best way I could, but it never seems adequate. As usual, I left those calls feeling like I could have and should have done more, but at the same time grateful for the opportunity to provide some help and comfort to those in need.

I remember now my friend's words that we have hope, and I am greatly encouraged by that. I daily reflect on the goodness of God and His promise of love, grace, mercy, truth and peace to us who believe. I also have a renewed reminder that even though there is obviously pain and suffering for those who have contracted the virus, there are many more who are suffering as a result of the unintended consequences of their altered lifestyle.

I have a more proactive attitude to reach out to those I've not seen in a while, and check in on them to remind them of the message of hope we have been blessed with. My prayer is that you will too.

God bless you!
Rob

You can give online or by mail.

Your donations can be given by mail using the enclosed envelope, 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/>.

If you shop on Amazon.com, they will donate a portion of your purchase to County-Wide Chaplaincy if you designate us as your preferred non-profit. It doesn't cost you anything extra and you send some support our way. We have a posted a link to the smile.amazon.com portal on the donations page of our website and as long as you order through that initial page it will send us some proceeds. Or you can type that link in and designate us as your preferred charity. Thank you, and thank you Amazon.com!!