

County-Wide Chaplaincy

Thanks you!

July 2023

Why am I doing this?

I asked myself that question on my way to my second Chaplain call of the day, a few days ago. I had arrived home from my day job and had eaten dinner and was winding down for the night...then the call came in. The first call of my day occurred around noon, so I had wrapped it up not long before this one.

I certainly can say that I don't do it for the fun of it. It's really not what I would consider a "fun" experience. Often times we are paged in the event of a mostly unexpected death. Our role is to assist family members and first responders as best we can. I find myself introducing myself to grieving family when I arrive on scene with something like "Hi, my name is Rob, and I'm here to be helpful, however I can." What "helpful" looks like will remain to be seen. No matter what it is, I don't think I could call it "fun".

I can't say that I'm motivated by the money, after all we are volunteers, so the pay isn't that great (ha-ha). I can't say that I go on these calls because I have nothing better to do. I think most of us would find things to occupy our time if we weren't on call. In fact, it's a bit difficult to get most anything done when you're on call, even when not responding. You have to be ready. So, no meetings or projects get scheduled on the days I serve, at least that I can't break away from if called upon.

So...why do I serve as a Chaplain at County-Wide?

It's a question I've asked a lot over the last decade or so. I could say I'm doing my best to "love my neighbor" as Jesus commanded. Or maybe helping "widows and orphans" like James describes in his book as pure religion. There are other passages I could use, but I won't now.

The movie Hacksaw Ridge is based on the true World War II story of Desmond Doss. He was a Medic, and a conscientious objector as he refused to pick up a firearm. When asked by an Army judge during his court martial proceeding why he was so passionate about how he wanted to serve...as an unarmed Medic in the heat of battle he replied by saying...

"With the world set on tearing itself apart, it don't seem like such a bad thing to me to put a little bit of it back together."

I suppose that quote answers the question, for me at least, as to why I serve at County-Wide Chaplaincy. The world, as we can certainly observe, can be a very dark and chaotic place even when times are relatively calm, just turn on the news and see for yourself the tumult and misinformation. When you add to that a family in trauma after losing a loved one unexpectedly from suicide, overdose or even natural causes it can be devastating.

Jesus is the Light of the World. He is the only real source of hope, comfort, peace and salvation based in love. He instructs us to be a light on a hill, and to let our light shine before men. So, to me, as humbly as I can possibly express, my hope is that by serving first responders and traumatized families with County-Wide I can shed the light of Jesus to give hope and comfort in a very dark place at a very dark time.

That...is why I serve at County-Wide, and I thank all of you for continued support.

Rob Pool, Chaplain

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