

# COUNTY-WIDE CHAPLAINCY

"There to Help  
When it Hurts"

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### Dear Friends of Chaplaincy,

This week Monday was the 5th anniversary of the attack on New York, known across our land as the 911 attack. In our community, I was a part of a standing room only crowd at our local fire station as we honored those who died in the attack and those who died in a valiant effort to help those caught in the crumbling towers. Chief Wrightson read some brief details of the lives of some of those who died that day. As I listened it really hit me that these were not just statistics of a terrible tragedy that took place thousands of miles from where I live, but they were real people, just like those I know and love in my community and family. It really brought it close to home. Then, too, there were so many others who were affected by the emotional trauma that affects them to this day, as well as those suffering breathing problems brought on by working in the rubble of the buildings. Yes, we are so well aware that we live in a very complicated, and often, very scary world with so much conflict and danger.

What a contrast as I conducted the funeral for a 54 year old man who had a very tough life. He was a full term baby weighing only 3 pounds at birth. His birth mother died when he was only 3 months old, and his father had to look to his parents for help and support in taking care of his little family. He was born with physical and mental limits, yet was able to graduate from high school in special education. He was very active in Special Olympics and loved to play sports as he could. What was very special was that the funeral home was packed with people who were touched by Andy's life. One person summed it up nicely when she said that Andy was not a complicated person and just loved other people and didn't comprehend all the complicated issues and problems that are a part of our world. I'm sure that that is something that we all could appreciate.

A little over a week ago I was in Seattle at a "Critical Incident Management" Seminar where I took the Pastoral Crises Intervention course. It was geared for Chaplains, and it was very refreshing to sit in a room full of Chaplains from various counties and jurisdictions from across the Northwest. We diced and sliced trauma and crisis; and, frankly, at times it seemed so complicated as we looked in

depth how to deal with people in crisis. One thing that really stuck out to me is what causes a crisis. The notebook put it like this:

*"A traumatic stress response arises when an essential assumption about the world is violated. We believe that there are but a finite set of operative assumptive world-views and they appear to pertain to:*

1. *The belief in a fair and just world;*
2. *The need to trust others;*
3. *A positive self-identity; (I am in control of my life)*
4. *The need for safety;*
5. *Some form of faith or religion that serves to bring meaning to even the most complex or ambiguous events."*

That is a fancy way of saying that trauma is when your world falls apart because it doesn't play fair, and people let you down, and you can't control the circumstances of life, and it is really scary out there. #5 basically says that in the midst of it all - **Chaplains are important!**

Our instructor told us of an interesting survey which stated that 3% of people in America claimed to be non-religious; 8% are specifically religious (have their own pastor/religious leader) and 89% are religious, but not specifically, and that is where Chaplains can best serve them in their time of need.

**All that to say, thanks for being a part of the team as we together serve Clark County with a growing population and growing needs presented each day.**

A prayer need for **County Wide Chaplaincy** is for more volunteer help. We are currently down to 2 full time and 2 part-time Chaplains. We could use 4 more part-time chaplains who would be on call one day a week to meet the needs of those whose world is out of control and need someone to be "there to help, when it hurts".

Joyfully serving together with you,  
Chaplain Landis Epp