

COUNTY-WIDE CHAPLAINCY

"There to Help
When it Hurts"

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July 2009

Dear Friends of Chaplaincy,

Saturday night my sons and I, along with 6 grandchildren, put 10 tons of hay in the barn. The week was lovely, but the forecast (and they were right this time!) was for rain on Sunday. My neighbor, Gene Maul, who cuts, rakes and



bales the hay for me had to rake twice to get the hay to dry in time so it could be baled before the rain came and ruined it. Right now my cows have lots of grass to eat, but I know from past experience that it is good to prepare for the time when grass is not growing, and they still will need to be fed through the winter months.

I often read Ecclesiastes 3 at funerals about a "time for everything." Among the "times" is a time to plant and a time to harvest what is planted. In the case of hay, the timing has to do with weather, food value, before it gets too ripe, etc. The very first "time" that the author notes is the "time to be born, and a time to die!" I'm sure you agree with me that the first is exciting, and the last is often a time of tears.

This past month I had to do a number of death notifications of those who, in my way of thinking, died too young. One was a young man who, after a long battle with addictions, left the treatment facility and darted out of some bushes in front of a car that hit and killed him. When I arrived at the home and informed his dad, the response was, "I've been expecting you for a few years already!" How sad is that. A few days later I got a call from the dad wanting to get in touch with the driver of the car to let her know of his son's problems and to relieve any idea that it might have been the driver's fault! (How neat is that!!)

Last week Chaplain Sam LaPore and I were called to a

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When you
were born,
you cried and
the world re-
joiced!

Live so that
when you die,
you rejoice,
and the world
cries!

drowning at a swimming hole where I have been a number of times in years past when others have drowned there. This place is beautiful and is called Paradise Point and is a popular swimming hole on the Lewis River. When I arrived, the dive team, Fire and Rescue, Sheriff's deputies, Park Rangers, along with members of the press were all there. Chaplain Sam and I were where the friends and family were gathered. I was able to speak with the wife, and got the phone number of his parents to inform them. How I hate to do this over the phone, as they were driving back home from eastern Washington. Their son was 38 years old, and seemed like his death came too early.

I was asked to conduct a funeral this past month for a one year old little girl who had a rare disease. Her family came from another country to see if a hospital in the U.S. could help her. She died, and the family didn't have the money to take her body home, so I was asked to do the service. One year old seems *waaaay too young*.

Many of you have asked about Luke Jensen and are praying for him. He has been in the hospital for about 48 days, has had a bone marrow transplant and is hoping to get home soon, but must wait for some better test results. The counts are not where they should be yet, and that has been rather discouraging to the family. Continue to keep them in prayer.

In this past month some of my friends have been diagnosed with cancer and need your prayers - pray for Don and Kirsten. A few days ago at a funeral I conducted for a 68 year old lady who had cancer, I asked how many of those present had someone in their immediate family who had cancer, and I would say 95% of those present raised their hands. WOW!

Thanks again for being of support to this ministry which seeks to be "There to Help, When it Hurts!"

Joyfully serving together with you,
Chaplain Landis Epp

*Dad - Thanks for your faithful
service over the years. God Bless you all!
Love you - Landis*