

COUNTY-WIDE CHAPLAINCY

"There to Help
When it Hurts"

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Web Page -
911chaplain.org

Dear Friends of Chaplaincy,



November is a month that contains a holiday that is not completely surrounded by commercialism. Although some cooks might not agree with this as there is considerable shopping and preparation necessary to make

that special family dinner just right with all the traditional family favorite dishes. Erma Bombeck put it rather nicely when she said, "What we're really talking about is a wonderful day set aside on the fourth Thursday of November when no one diets. **I mean, why else would they call it Thanksgiving?"**

In 1863 President Lincoln made the following declaration - "The year that is drawing towards its close, has been filled with the blessings of fruitful fields and healthful skies. To these bounties, which are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to forget the source from which they come, others have been added, which are of so extraordinary a nature, that they cannot fail to penetrate and soften even the heart which is habitually insensible to the ever watchful providence of Almighty God. I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next, as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens."

Recently a number of my "friends" on Face Book have challenged each other to share a thing they are thankful for each day till Thanksgiving Day. It probably shouldn't stop there but continue throughout the year, for we do have so much for which to be thankful. I was personally challenged a few weeks ago to share some of our fam-

ily's journey through the health and physical trials we have faced, and then to share how we have been so blessed through it all. I have often said that this ministry of chaplaincy is so special because when I come back from calls to situations that are so difficult, it makes me so thankful for my family and all the many blessings we have. The hymn writer had it right when he said, "Count your many blessings, name them one by one. And it will surprise you what the Lord has done!"

This past month for me has included families who have lost babies and others whose mother was 100 years old just days before she died. The emotions of these services for lost loved ones varies so much, as the little one never got to really live, and for the 100 year old lady, life was becoming a real struggle. I was at 2 homes where men who were about my age had suddenly died and were found by family after the fact. What a shock. Chaplain Zoller was called to a home where a man who had just been released from jail stabbed himself to death. He was to have no contact with a family member who he had assaulted, and when they called the police, he decided that death by his own hand was better than going back to jail. This afternoon I helped a family to plan a "celebration of life" for a 36 year old lady who died of breast cancer. In all these situations, family thanksgiving dinners will be very different this year. Holiday times can be so very difficult when someone we loved and cared for is no longer with us. May the God of all comfort bring healing to you in the midst of your pain.

Thankfully serving together with you and our CWC chaplains, as we are "there to help, when it hurts!"#

Chaplain Landis Epp



All gifts to the ministry of County-Wide Chaplaincy are tax deductible



"Between a Rock and a Hard Place!"

By - Sandi Phillips, County-Wide Chaplaincy

Treasure: *"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."*
Isaiah 41:10

I can remember a time in my teen years when I had "so what" thinking. This especially showed up in conflicts with my oldest brother. "So...I don't care!" Or, "So what" were my pouting responses to him. This common malady can keep us stuck in so-so thinking and living or it can become a springboard for healthy God-filled living. We just have to follow the "so" and see where it takes us!

Let's look behind for just a moment. The first word in this verse is "so". What's behind it? *You are my servant. I have chosen you and not rejected you.* (vs. 9) Powerful words! We have a purpose (His servants) and we are cherished and not thrown out.

Maybe today you are feeling that you are without purpose or that God or others have forsaken you. A loss of any kind often makes us feel this way. It's normal but left unchecked the "so what" part of our thinking begins to direct our lives.

The Message, a modern day language translation, puts it this way: *"Don't panic. I'm with you. There is no need to fear for I'm your God. I'll give you strength. I'll help you. I'll hold you steady, keeping a firm grip on you."*

God promises to sustain, support and build you up [strengthen] and befriend, assist and bring you relief [help]. He will make you strong to do your part and He will do the supernatural. The promise here is that He will work in you **and** in your circumstances. He will keep a firm grip on you. **When you find yourself between a rock and a hard place, whose grip are you in?**

Prayer: Lord, put my feet upon the Rock, upon your foundation. I take comfort in knowing that you will not let go of me. Please free me from so-so thinking. Thank you for holding me firmly in your hands. I pray these things in the loving Name of Jesus.

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Barbara Waite: 360 907-3888

Brief Family Update

Evelyn continues to be on the mend. She has started her Physical Therapy and continues to gain strength. We are so pleased with our doctors and the wonderful care she has received as well as the good prognoses as far as the breast cancer surgery and further treatments is concerned.

Brian is pretty much in a wheel chair now and getting up the stairs in their house is getting progressively more impossible. A good friend of ours has taken on the challenge of heading up a "remodel" of their home adding a bedroom suit as well as handicap bathroom and a living room on main floor. Many have volunteered to help and it will be exciting to see how God puts this all together!! Jennie is a real trooper and helpmeet. Thanks so much for your prayers and encouragement to our family. *God is Good - All the time!*

