

The ChapLine

A Seasonal Newsletter of
Lewis County Chaplaincy Services

*Serving Citizens and Emergency Responders
 Throughout Lewis County*



New volunteer chaplains! We are pleased to introduce five new chaplains who have recently joined our ranks. They are pictured here during their intensive training at the Police and Fire Chaplains Training Academy (PFCTA) conducted in Burien, Washington. This training program is implemented on the same grounds where law enforcement officers from across Washington State, and beyond, receive their rigorous training. The training academy convenes in Spring and Autumn sessions of each year. It is an intense one-week course of training administered by select experts in their fields of chaplaincy, emergency services, and law enforcement. Our Lewis County inductees were five of the thirty-five trainees who graduated on Thursday evening, May 6, 2010. Shown below, they are:



Brian Carter, Ryan Wilson, Ron Black, Cathy Compton, and Grant Kistler.

Their individual life experiences are rich and varied. I have observed that they hold in common a strong conviction about the importance of serving others in time of need. I am confident they will represent God and country to the betterment of our Lewis County communities. Along with our faithful chaplains of long standing, we welcome these fine newcomers!

With this issue of *"The ChapLine"* we resume publication of our Lewis County Chaplaincy Services (LCCS) newsletter. It is a get-acquainted issue featuring input from some of our new and long-term chaplains. We gladly share it with law enforcement, EMS, and fire department personnel with whom we work closely, as well as personnel of other interrelated community services and friends of the LCCS.

We express thanks to chaplain Mel Lyon, who has consented to serve as our newsletter editor and producer. Succeeding issues are to appear with each of the four annual seasons. This issue constitutes the 2010 Summer Edition, and Mel suggests that "future formats may evolve from this introductory version,"

Kevin Curfman, President
 Lewis County Chaplaincy Services

A CHAPLAIN’S PRIVILEGE

She was driving home after a long day at the hospital, a day of taking care of other people. She was dedicated to serving others, and helping them to get well was her joy. In addition to the trials of hospital work, she had her own challenges. There was a lot of traffic that night. People

were in a hurry to get home. Suddenly, out of nowhere a little red car came speeding up behind her and swerved as he tried to pass her. Responding by



Bill Bowlby

reflex, she found herself a second later upside down in a ditch caught between semiconsciousness and complete blackout.

In recollection, I am vividly reminded of how we chaplains are all called to scenes such as this one, and when needed, we carry the extremely difficult news to a next of kin that there has been an accident, a fatality, and that their loved one is gone.

Often times there is no one else to comfort the people or to stay with them till someone from their clergy or family is able to respond. As chaplains, we serve with the distinction of knowing that in such a time of crisis we serve as part of a caring team that brings comfort when the news is so uncomfortable; a team that helps mitigate grief and sorrow. What a privilege it is to serve people in their time of deepest need.

– Chaplain Bill Bowlby

Note: We are fortunate to have the services of Pastor Bill Bowlby on our chaplaincy team. For those who may not know him well yet, it was a bit over 20 years ago that Bill, while pastoring a church, was approached by another chaplain about serving with the Tacoma Police Department as a chaplain. Thus, in 1987, his chaplaincy began. Three

years later, Bill was invited to work as a full time police chaplain for the City of Tacoma. Sensing the breadth of responsibility that chaplaincy represents, he enrolled in the International Conference of Police Chaplains (ICPC) for training. Seventeen years later, having come to retirement age, Bill retired from that post of service – with his memory bank filled with the hands on experiences of approximately 750 death notifications, 100 or more suicide preventions, involvements with 3 traumatic Line Of Duty Deaths (LODDs), 20 homicides, and more than 30 domestic violence scenarios.

His people skills were in heavy demand, and he also looks back upon many ride-alongs with officers, many wedding ceremonies performed, personal counseling sessions with fellow police officers, conducting memorial services, and offering prayer at numerous formal gatherings.

Bill was also a key instructor in mentoring volunteer chaplains. He firmly believes the matter of training to be a life long event, one of necessity both on the giving and receiving ends of it.

We say we are fortunate to have Bill with us for he now brings his wealth of experience to us and serves as lead instructor in our own Lewis County Chaplaincy Services training sessions. In his own words, Bill’s convictions for service come through in saying: “It’s true that a chaplain willingly afflicts himself/herself with other people’s trauma and heartache. But the willingness to bring comfort; the willingness to help bind up the wounds of hurting people at their most difficult times – this is what chaplaincy is all about.”

– Editor

FROM INFANCY TO “TODDLERHOOD”

By Cathy Compton

When I first learned I was going to study at the Police and Fire Chaplains Training Academy (PFCTA) during the week of May 3-7, I was excited.

You see, I have come into this chaplaincy program without a pastoral or theological background. In fact the only chaplaincy experience I had was that of meeting chaplains Kevin Curfman and Wayne Lobaugh – and that was almost 11 years ago. That was when they came to inform me of my son’s death.

So my background is that of a mom who felt such profound gratitude for the kind services of those two chaplains that I wanted to reach out others. Perhaps even to another mom found in the same painful situation I was in.

What I discovered during the training session was correct and



Cathy Compton

careful procedures for delivering a death notification. But I learned far more. I learned that chaplains wear many different hats. We are not only a ministry of presence to grieving families,

but also to families who may have been put out of their homes due to fire or flood. Chaplains can provide important contact information to them for whatever their needs may be, whether funeral arrangements, a place to stay, food, clothing or simply someone to just be there as a good listener.

I also learned how chaplains can be of support to officers in the police and fire departments and can help with debriefing their personnel. We can provide a meaningful support that, in some instances, may extend in a positive way to their own family members. I deeply respect these, our public guardians, and will be happy to assist their needs whenever the occasion warrants it.

It was also good to learn such precautionary things as: “Don’t try to be a *Lone Ranger*” in this work, and

to make sure we have one or two other chaplains we can always contact in case we might find ourselves needing assistance with a call. I feel so privileged in knowing there are backup chaplains.

I was also pleased to learn about continuing education and different organizations that are out there which are great resources of information and networking.

The CTA training on forensics was excellent. It gave me an understanding of what we may encounter and how to relate to circumstances in ways meaningful to families of victims in crisis.

What I came away with is an even stronger desire to grow as a Chaplain. I want to learn proficiency in cooperating with our public servants and in assisting victims of crisis. I keenly felt a calling to this service before I went to the Training Academy, and the expertise I found during that intense week of study has been most reaffirming.

Cathy Compton, Chaplain

A MULTI-SERVICE MINISTRY

By Kevin Curfman

“On-call Charles-unit call dispatch! On-call Charles-unit call dispatch!” After getting information from Central Dispatch, I got into my vehicle and drove toward the scene. A man had committed suicide by gunshot and was found by his wife. She, with her teenage children, were gathered at a nearby location where I was to meet them at the request of law enforcement.

This family’s lives had been shattered. Over the next five hours, I did what I could to help to put some



Kevin Curfman and wife, Julie

order back into their lives. I answered questions they had and helped to gather a strong support system of friends and family members. Arrangements were made for a cleaning service so their home would be ready for their return. Before I left, I gave them several resources for other help they might need in the future.

As I returned home, I realized that it had been 20 years since the Lewis County Chaplaincy Services (LCCS) had been formed. During that period of time, LCCS chaplains have responded to hundreds of calls across the county providing emotional, physical and spiritual help as they could. While many of these calls were to death scenes, others were to assist with other kinds of emergencies.

It is not unusual to hear an emergency responder say something to the effect: “Nobody died, so we don’t need a chaplain.” The services that chaplains provide go well beyond the death scene. At a structure fire, the chaplain can explain the actions of the fire department to the family and act as a liaison between the family and support agencies such as the Red Cross. At medical scenes, the chaplain may sit with an elderly spouse until family members arrive – or, perhaps, take a person to the hospital to be with his or her spouse.

When a search and rescue is being conducted by the sheriff’s office, the chaplain can set up a location for the family to occupy during the search. The chaplain could keep the anxious family updated on the degree of progress of the search itself. A chaplain being on hand can provide emotional support during the search and afterwards, too, if the outcome is not favorable.

In order to be able to provide any service to the community, the chaplains are dependant upon knowing there is a need for their services. Some fire departments are now entering

chaplains as part of their response plans for their departments, and thus the chaplain is *toned out* automatically for certain calls such as structure fires. By being requested early, they are better able to help both the department and the citizens involved with the call.

With training, from crime scene preservation to structure fire strategy and tactics, chaplains are able to extend their services to the requesting agency. They are able to stay on the scene while the emergency personnel return to service. This is a way for the department to continue to serve its citizens well, and also to utilize a meaningful public relations tool.

With thanks we look forward to continuing our services alongside and in support of our County’s regular emergency responders.

Kevin Curfman, Chaplain
President LCCS

BRIAN CARTER
Service is His Calling

Brian Carter is one of our new chaplains who attended the Police and Fire Chaplains Training Academy (PFCTA) in the first week of May 2010. Brian indicates that he was the youngest in a family of 5 consisting of his father, mother and two sisters.



Brian Carter

Brian says that he really respects his parents. Further, he honors the work of his father, who is a practicing minister with over 50 years of experience.

Brian has been in ministry for the past 10 years himself. He was influenced to take up chaplaincy work when he conversed recently with one of the current chaplains on staff.

Believing firmly that God is the author of life and that life is to be cherished and protected, he finds

satisfaction is lending assistance to others. He says, "God is vital to my own life and happiness."

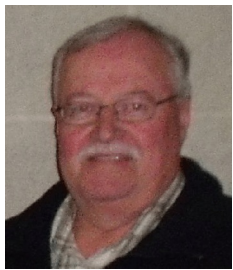
In his own ministry, Brian has found special satisfaction whenever he could be of assistance to someone in a state of crisis. His pastor father has encouraged him by pointing out that this trait of character could indicate a calling, perhaps a destiny, to serve in such situations. In fact, Brian has already found that a "ministry of presence" coupled with a listening ear and informed understanding is especially helpful to people who are stressed out due to the loss of a loved one or other personal tragedy.

He is grateful for the sound training received at the PFCTA, and he is ready to respond so as to cooperate in meaningful ways with law enforcement and firefighting personnel when and where chaplaincy services are indicated. — Ed.

GREETINGS FELLOW CHAPLAINS

By Grant Kistler

I am pleased to be joining you as one of the five new volunteers recently joining Lewis County Chaplaincy Services. A couple of months ago, I met with Chief Linn at the Napavine Fire Department, and we had an enjoyable and productive time together. From him I learned of the chaplaincy program.



I was calling on Chief Linn in connection with my work as a Gideon — a representative of the Gideon Bible Society. As a Gideon, one of my favorite responsibilities involves visiting local public service agencies to distribute blue Service Testaments. Perhaps you are familiar with our work.

After that meaningful chat with the fire chief, I went home thinking seriously about the chaplaincy work. My wife, Terri, and I discussed the matter together and we both sensed a leading in this direction. Upon further prayerful contemplation and discussion, I reflected on the meaningful admonition found in scripture: "Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight." (Proverbs 3: 5, 6 NIV) Not only admonition, that's a great promise!

A short time later, after a panel interview, I was notified that I had been accepted, and that I was a candidate for a week of intensive training. I have now taken that training, and have begun responding to calls. It is also an honor to cooperate with our law enforcement staff and lighten their burden by assisting those who may be hurting at times when they must resume official business.

I'll relate some things about my own background. When I turned 18 I enlisted in the United States Air Force, and I served 4 years as an aircraft mechanic/crew chief on KC-135 air refueling tankers. I was stationed at Castle AFB in Merced, CA, and I had several TDYs overseas in Guam, Okinawa and Thailand where we supported B-52's and fighter aircraft missions in Viet Nam.

After an Honorable Discharge, I moved to Seattle and worked at Boeing while taking night classes for a degree in Forestry. I graduated from the University of Washington in Forestry Management. I was hired by Weyerhaeuser in the manufacturing end in Longview. For the next 35 years, I held various management positions in Oregon and Washington. I finished my career as Operations Manager of a TimberStrand plant in

Deerwood, Minnesota, a 24/7 operation that employed 200 people.

When I retired in 2008, we returned to our families and our beloved Northwest. I was reared in a Christian home, and that has been meaningful to me. We left behind many great friends in our local congregation in Minnesota, and we are currently reestablishing such good relationships here. Terri and I have been married 24 years, and God has blessed us in so many ways. We have a daughter and son-in-law who live in Longview. She is a dental technician and he works for Weyerhaeuser. They have given us three grandchildren. Another daughter is a nurse and lives in Spokane. She has a son who also lives and works in Spokane.

I enjoy tying flies, fly fishing, sporting clays and upland bird hunting and elk hunting. I play a little golf, and I took up the acoustic guitar after retiring. Presently I belong to the Winlock Acoustic Music Association, and we hold a slow jam the second Saturday of every month in the winter at the Hope Grange. I used to team rope, and we still have one Quarterhorse mare left. My wife, Terri, raises Pygora goats that she shears twice a year for their fiber which she spins and sells. With 7 babies born this spring, we now have a herd of 17. We also have 3 dogs: Gunner, Buddy and Tuffy.

I recently finished my training at the Police and Fire Chaplains Training Academy in Bothell, WA. The training was intense and very good. I understand that this is just the beginning of my education as a chaplain. I am looking forward to getting to know each of you.

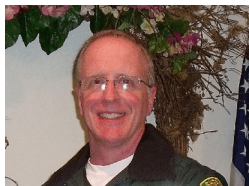
Grant Kistler, New Chaplain

Courage is rightly esteemed the first of human qualities . . . because it is the quality which guarantees all others.

— Joseph Chamberlain

WILBY CASEY OF TACOMA ADDRESSES CHAPLAINS

On February 22, 2010 Lewis County Chaplains gathered at a local restaurant for a fellowship supper and an induction ceremony. Sheriff Steve Mansfield and other officers joined the convivial occasion. The Sheriff addressed the chaplains briefly



Sheriff Steve Mansfield

regarding his personal appreciation for the meritorious services provided by volunteer chaplains

throughout the county.

Chehalis Fire Chief Kelvin Johnson swore in four new candidates for chaplaincy service at that time.



Ron Black, Cathy Compton, Brian Carter, and Ryan Wilson take oath of office.

The guest speaker of the evening was recently retired Chaplain Wilby Casey who, for the past 24 years has served as Fire Chaplain with the Tacoma Fire Department.



Chaplain Wilby Casey

Chaplain Casey spoke from his vast experience when he readily admitted that the variegated nature of chaplaincy service means that there will

never be a time when one cannot run into a new experience where he feels “over his head” in dealing with the human crises that occur. A chaplain, says, Wilby, must ever be prepared for the unexpected. And when the unexpected appears, he must quickly

seek guidance from above and proceed to act.

Having spent the first half of his ministry in pastoring several churches in the Midwest and in Washington State, Rev. Casey indicated that he felt the total of his church experiences were but preparing him for the challenges of chaplaincy. One of the profound experiences he related was on this wise:

The Tacoma Narrows Bridge:

“It was 10:00 o’clock on one of those dark and stormy nights in January when the home fires beckon. I received an urgent call: ‘Wilby, hurry on over to the Tacoma Narrows bridge. There is a ‘jumper’ on the bridge.

I got myself together, jumped into my car and rushed to the scene. Traffic is backed up for miles and they have closed the bridge. The man threatening to jump has already been approached by negotiators and a counselor, but to no avail. Finally, he had said that he might talk with a chaplain, but ‘I don’t want to see any more uniformed police!’ he had warned.

The negotiators had backed off so as not to disturb him further. On arrival, the scene coordinator said ‘Well chaplain, it looks like it’s all up to you, now.’ Here I was again – in over my head! With all these people waiting on either end of the bridge, I tried to muster my courage. You see, I am afraid of heights! It is a serious phobia endemic to me. I have always had it. Heights scare me to death! I looked at the expanse of that bridge extending over a mile into the night with its suspension lights glistening in the mists. I thought of the swift tidal currents of Puget Sound that race back and forth 150 feet below in that now-darkened waterway that divides Tacoma and the Kitsap Peninsula.

‘Wilby,’ the scene coordinator said, ‘He’s out there in the middle. See what you can do!’ I breathed a prayer for help and forged out onto the bridge.

Me, of all people. It’s moments like this that make a man ask ‘What am I doing here?’ But I knew I must hasten on. So I did. On and on and on with no sight of the jumper. I wondered if perhaps I was too late. Perhaps he had already done the deed. Then a half mile out as I approached the center, there he was hanging on to the outside of the railing 150 feet above the water. I

I looked at him and approached carefully. He bristled and yelled, ‘don’t you dare come any closer! You just want to grab me, and I’m not going to let you do that!’ To tell the truth, if I



Tacoma Narrows Bridge (pre 2007)

had ever thought of doing that, the plan perished right then and there as I observed his size. He outweighed me nearly two-to-one and was a foot taller. I called back to him, ‘Hey, there’s no way I’m going to grab you. Besides, if I grab you and you jump, we both go down. So, tell me, my friend, why are you so eager to die? Is this what you really want?’

Thus began our conversation that was to last for about an hour. I tried to be reassuring, and I promised him our help. I tried appealing to his logic, his emotions, his morality, and to simple practicalities. I assured him, ‘I’ll come to the hospital with you, and I’ll follow up with you for as long as it takes. You won’t go to jail, and together we’ll work it out.’ On and on I talked. At times he seemed ready to come in, but then after all this time in the rain and cold, still nothing worked.

I knew he was fragile, and I didn’t want to give up on him. I was in over

my head, but I didn't want him to be able to say, 'Hey, chaplain, you've given up on me, so I may as well give up, too' – and disappear into the deep. But finally, even as I was nearing my own limit, he suddenly said, 'OK, I'm coming.' He climbed down and approached me.

We were two lonely figures walking off of that long bridge together. On the way off, I asked him why he decided not to jump. I suppose I would like to have heard 'Because I've decided to trust you' or even 'because I think you are a nice guy' or some such thing. But alas, of all things he might say, this poor, disturbed fellow turned to me and said, 'I decided not to jump because I need to use the bathroom!'

"As we approached the bevy of emergency personnel at the end of the bridge, they and some of the onlookers cheered and clapped. Soon I was asked, 'Hey Wilby, just how did you do that?' I confess that I did NOT tell them the reason he gave me for not jumping. I merely replied with a smile, 'Well, when you call a chaplain, you get results!'"

In my heart, I knew my help had come from above, for *He whose eye is on the sparrow* knew full well that I was in over my head – and He knew that poor fellow, who was the purpose of my mission and the object of His care, was about to be! God is good!

As for me, I treasure every chaplaincy experience that has come my way during the past 24 years."

– Ed.

CHAPLAIN WAYNE LOBAUGH

An interview by Mel Lyon

I became acquainted with Wayne Lobaugh, our lead chaplain, when I joined the chaplaincy some 5 years ago. I have learned to appreciate his exemplary chaplainship and an opportunity to know the Lobaugh family. The Lobaughs live a very active life. Wayne's wife, Juli is a receptionist at a local doctors office,

and Wayne is groundskeeper for the City of Tumwater. The Lobaughs also raise Dahlias, a major undertaking, but one they find satisfying.

At the Southwest Washington Fair it is a treat to see the "Lobaughs' Dahlias" display. There one sees how mankind can indeed capture and



Wayne Lobaugh,
Lead Chaplain

enhance the innate beauty of God's gift of flowers.

Wayne, being our lead chaplain, works closely with Kevin Curfman and assists him with numerous duties including publishing the monthly *chaplains' on-call*

schedules. Wayne has had long experience in chaplaincy, so I asked him a few questions:

Mel: Wayne. Can you share with our readers a word about your background?

Wayne: I was born in Modesto CA. I have one brother and one sister. My parents were a pastoral team for some small churches. (My Dad was a plumber by trade.)

Mel: What did it mean to you, being a preacher's kid?

Wayne: It meant that we moved around a lot, and that meant I attended many different schools.

Mel: Did you take a special interest in church as a youngster?

Wayne: Yes. I had a fascination for why people behaved as they did. I would watch and listen and sometimes puzzle over them.

Mel: In what way did you puzzle over them?

Wayne: Well, and you might smile about this, but my Dad had a lot to say about the love of God and preached

about loving our neighbors, too. So, as an impressionable kid, I was puzzled over why people who'd say they loved somebody "in Christ." I felt that when they added that "In Christ" it must mean they were embarrassed to admit it if they really loved that person, Adding that seemed to sort of depersonalize their love in some way. But of course, it is an endearing term that I came to understand later.

I do thank my parents for teaching the importance of love. But loving others did not always come easy for me. I had to learn that it is really God who enables us to love others. As a chaplain today, I am thereby able to extend genuine love for others, and that it is by the gift of God's grace that I can do so.

Mel: Is your faith in God central to your life as an adult?

Wayne: Yes it is. It gives stability to our home life, our marriage and to our children.

Mel: How does that work?

Wayne: Scripture refers to God as a rock. A rock symbolizes foundational strength. God and His word being eternal, His truth abides forever. Today there are supposed "new truths" on every hand, but they are often but the inventions of man. God's truth never changes. That's why it stabilizes homes, marriages and even personalities. I am glad for my Christian parentage for when we have stability and love. Our life is good, even during hard times, times of grief, or times of abrupt change.

Mel: How long have you been with the Lewis County Chaplaincy Services?

Wayne: Fifteen years.

Mel: I'm sure you have many chaplaincy experiences. Would you care to relate one of them that was mutually meaningful?

Wayne: There have been so many experiences where I was able to be of some help. But in reality, I think that I am often helped the greater by the simple act of reaching out to others in their time of need. Off hand, I think about a family where the husband/father was killed in a pedestrian vs. vehicle accident. I was with the Sheriff when he broke the tragic news to newly widowed wife. I continued to visit with the grief stricken family, and introduced them to my wife, Juli.

A bitter courtroom trial developed and we sat with them through the trauma that ensued. It was a simple kindness, but it meant much to them.

I believe in the work of this chaplaincy. I feel that it is needed because as chaplains, we can lend a personal touch to those in need. We can portray to hurting people the reality that emergency responders and service personal genuinely care about them. It also enables the officers to get back to their official duties sooner, knowing that someone is looking after the grieving people and connecting them with appropriate resources.

Mel: Wayne, I'm sure you pray for the Lewis County Chaplaincy Services team. What specifically do you pray for?

Wayne: Yes, I do pray for our county chaplaincy unit. I pray that each chaplain will be able to emulate the love of God and express it clearly through the kindly deeds that characterized the earthly mission of Christ. I pray for the citizens of our county, and I pray for our emergency responders—police, fire and medical. They, too, have their own crises to deal with. They need our prayers, too.

Mel: Thanks Wayne. You are an exemplary Chaplain, and it is a privilege to serve on this team with you.

PFCTA Thinking Back on a Fabulous Week of Training

By Ryan Wilson

Still fresh in mind are those memories of playing cops and robbers with my little brother. Now that was fun! Instead of doing the regular thing



Ryan Wilson

of making him the robber (a typical older-brother thing to do), I made him the speeding driver. I loved to “pull him over” and “write him a ticket.” I’d do this just as often as he would play the game. I even owned the whole toy police utility belt thing. I was equipped! At other times, I would play “Fire Chief,” and we would race out to extinguish pretended fires.

From that very early age, I have been interested in emergency services – so much so that just a few years ago I was seriously considering a career in law enforcement. Of course, I have outgrown the childish notion that it is all fun and games, but even when I answered the call to my present vocation as a minister, I somehow felt that emergency chaplaincy services would be in my future.

I have had some prior exposure to what chaplaincy is, and soon after my coming to Chehalis, I started checking into the possibility of being a part of the chaplain community. After a couple of dead-end inquiries, I found Captain Kevin Curfman of the Chehalis Fire Department who is president of the Lewis County Chaplaincy Services . When Kevin came to visit me at my church office, we talked for about an hour about chaplaincy. And that is when I knew I had found exactly what I was looking for.

This leads me to the purpose of this article ie “my response to having attended the Police and Fire Chaplains Training Academy (PFCTA) in Burien, WA.”

Soon after classes were nicely underway, my reaction became, “Wow!” There was so much good information flowing that class periods were just whizzing past. I liked it!

After that week of intense class work, it took me the next week to mentally sort through all I had heard and learned. In all, I can say that this academy training was a fantastic experience. Breaking it down into some specifics, here are some observations:

Compassion: The first thing that I truly loved about the Academy was the emphasis placed on compassion for the people being served – whether they be civilians or emergency services personnel. As a pastor, it is a major burden of mine to meet people where they are and accept them just as they are.

Many today are emotionally and spiritually hurting – bruised, broken and bleeding just as surely as if they had been physically injured. Then, of course, real physical injuries do occur within the general rough and tumble of life – and far too often this kind of trauma also comes from hurts actually inflicted by others. Such victims are people to whom Christ was drawn. He felt their pain. He extended help. He authored and exemplified the Golden Rule of life for generations to come.

Compassion for hurting people is what compels me to be a pastor, and that same compassion drives me to volunteer as a chaplain; perhaps it is most especially so as a chaplain for it provides the situational venue for being present for people at what can be the very worst times in their lives.

The Academy put an enormous emphasis on seeking and developing true compassion for people; a compassion that comes from somewhere

deep within. Someone even made the statement that if you don't have compassion for hurting people, you have no business being a chaplain.

I am reminded of my first chaplain call after returning from PFCTA. When I arrived at the home, I found a young woman crying. A deceased member of her extended family, lay inside the house where he had drowned in his own vomit. This was the third death in her family within the past 6 months, and she was devastated. She said through tears, "I just don't understand. Why are so many young people dying?" I confess it is for people in these desperate situations that my compassion is deeply aroused. The Christ of the Bible led the way in showing compassion and mercy. He was the greatest chaplain of all.

Professionalism: All of the instructors were professionally qualified in their respective fields, and most were either currently serving or recently retired. This added to the value of their presentations. When one is learning how to do something, it is far better to learn from someone who has years of practical experience rather than learning from theoretical knowledge only. I felt this concept was extremely well understood by the leadership of the Academy.

Paramilitary structure: In the same vein, the Academy did an excellent job of preparing us to be working in harmony with trained professionals. What I mean by this is that emergency services are conducted in a paramilitary manner giving them top-down structures of command that must be respected by all involved, including chaplains. Discipline is key! Though I have had some previous knowledge about this, it was helpful to be informed on what would be expected of me as I actually step into this world of chaplaincy.

Respect: Something that also impressed me about the academy was

the respect shown toward those of all religious affiliations. No negative comments were made about various denominations, but rather, the emphasis was placed upon simply reflecting the love of Christ to all people without bias and regardless of their personal faith systems.

Practicality of Lifestyle: The academy advocates that those who serve in an exemplary role, such as a chaplain, should adhere to a balanced, commonsense lifestyle. We should eat right, get enough sleep, exercise adequately, allow time for contemplation, allocate time to be spent with our families, and of course be ready to minister to others. We were instructed in such a balanced manner as to facilitate a fast learning curve. It was an exceptional blend of head knowledge, heart knowledge and hands on training. I am grateful for it!

Ryan Wilson, Pastor
and Volunteer Chaplain

CALENDAR

THE SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON FAIR DATES ARE AUGUST 17-22,

Chaplains are requested to assist with operating the Chaplaincy booth. A sign-up form for time-periods will be e-mailed a month prior.

Thanks.– k.c.

**LEWIS COUNTY
CHAPLAINCY SERVICES**
www.lewiscountychaplaincy.org
Facebook at: lewiscountychaplaincy

A CHAPLAIN'S PRAYER?

[Some may recall Tennessee Ernie Ford's powerful rendering of these lyrics found in the song "Others."]

**Lord, help me live from day to day
In such a self-forgetful way
That even when I kneel to pray
My prayer shall be for others.**

Refrain:

**Others, Lord, yes others,
Let this my motto be,
Help me to live for others,
That I may live like Thee.**

"The ChapLine"

is a seasonal newsletter of Lewis County Chaplaincy Services, a volunteer based organization dedicated to serving emergency responders and citizens of Lewis County, Washington.

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PRAYER REMEMBRANCE

Our friend and fellow chaplain, Walt Selby, has undergone a lung transplant. His prognosis is said to be good. Pray for a strong recovery in convalescence.