



The ChapLine

Lewis County
Chaplaincy

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A Word From The President

Each year emergency medical personnel gather at Ocean Shores for the annual Western Region Emergency Medical Services conference. As at most conferences, there are classes throughout the 3-day event covering many different aspects of emergency care.

Each year the conference highlights a different nonprofit cause. This year, it was emergency services chaplaincy programs from around the western region. Bill Terhune, the chief of North Olympia Fire Department and chaplain to Olympia and South Bay Fire Departments, contacted me before the conference with the opportunity to promote chaplaincy programs with a booth at the conference. It was manned jointly by members of the different chaplaincy programs represented.

Every year I attend the conference I make the same comment on the suggestion card for the next year - have a talk about chaplaincy programs. At one time I talked with one of the organizers of the conference and made the same suggestion. His comment was "I don't think many people would be interested in that". He did not say it, but

I could tell he was thinking of chaplains as only being there to preach at people. He did not really know what we do as chaplains and how we can help the departments better serve the community. For this reason I was especially eager to be involved in this event.

Joel Peterson, the regional representative for the Federation of Fire Chaplains, spoke during the opening session of the conference. He gave an overview of how a chaplaincy program can help a department serve the community, as well as the emergency responders.

Working the booth gave us a chance to talk to numerous individuals about the work of emergency chaplains. I was even approached by two individuals whom I had worked with as a chaplain during crises in their families in past years. It was great to see them during a time that was not one of the worst days of their lives.

I visited with other chaplains from around the area. Some of them I had met before and some I had not. As we talked we found that we have many of the same

challenges in our communities regarding chaplaincy programs. One of the biggest challenges is the misunderstanding by emergency responders, as well as citizens, as to what a chaplain does. Hopefully, we helped to clarify a chaplain's mission. As a result, maybe there will be more chaplains serving communities in the western region.

Kevin Curfman,
LCCS President



Kevin Curfman



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Mission Statement

"Lewis County Chaplaincy Services is committed to assisting emergency agencies throughout the county in meeting the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of emergency crisis victims, their families and the emergency responders."

For more information, see our website at: www.lewiscountychaplaincy.org

Chaplain Bill Bowlby Retires

Chaplain Bill Bowlby, 2C5, announced his retirement from LCCS. He came to us three years ago after serving with the Tacoma Police Department for 17 years as a full-time, paid chaplain.

During Bill's time in Tacoma he was involved in many different areas including development of the Police and Fire Chaplain's Academy that we use for our new chaplain training. That academy trains chaplains from across the country to assist agencies and citizens.

Bill brought a vast knowledge base to our program and presented many topics for our training meetings, including Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM), which is a specialty of Bills. He assisted our county team with debriefing when the need presented itself.

We thank Bill for his time with us and wish him well in the future.



Story Ideas?

Please feel free to contact me if you have story ideas, calendar items, photos, etc. or any suggestions on what you'd like to see in the newsletter at: Kistler_technical@q.com or 360/785-3840

Terri L. Kistler

The ChapLine

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

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Recent Responses

From December 1, 2011 to March 31, 2012, chaplains have answered 26 calls through central dispatch, including death notifications and responding to incidents such as the SIDS death of an infant and suicides. Many of the calls generated follow-up visits with the victims.

LCCS Meeting Notes

Human Response Network

Each month, the chaplains participate in a training session. For March, the topic was the Human Response Network, presented by Ruby Collison and Sarah White from the HRN. The mission of their organization is to serve victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and other crimes. Their top priority is the safety and well being of the client as well as confidentiality. The emphasis is to be there for the person in need. They may present different options to a client, but do not make specific recommendations to the victim. They are dedicated to breaking the cycle of violence and they talk to children about how they do not have to accept situations where they are not comfortable. The HRN has a 17-bed facility where they can house victims. It usually is full, but no one is ever turned away. They have other resources to call upon, including some churches that they rely on.

Stronger Families Class Proposed

The LCCS is considering participating in *Oxygen For Your Relationships*, an 8-hr. class on relationships. This is part of the Stronger First-Responder Families program, a program designed to improve couple relationships and strengthen marriages. It is a great course with a lot of interaction and fun as well.



Chaplain Honored at Sheriff's Volunteer Appreciation Banquet

On March 24th, the Sheriff's Department held their annual Volunteer Appreciation Banquet. Designed to recognize the contributions of the many volunteers that assist the Sheriff's Department, the banquet was held at the Veteran's Museum in Chehalis.



Chaplain Brian Carter, 2C14, received the Volunteer of the Year award for the LCCS. He was awarded a certificate and a commemorative coin. Chaplains Betty Kitchen and Sherie Malotte also attended the banquet.

The presentation this year was a slide show of Deputy English's climb of Mt. Rainer.



Meet The New Chaplains

The Lewis County Chaplaincy welcomes four new chaplains: Betty Kitchen, Sherie Malotte, Jim Martin and Bob Harris.

Betty Kitchen

Betty moved back to Chehalis in Sept 2009. "Getting involved in the community was a personal MUST for me, having been in ministry for many years," she said. "After working for many years as a nurse and in other areas of the medical field, the chaplaincy was a perfect fit."

After training in Federal Way, Betty was licensed as a chaplain by the International Alliance Chaplain Corps. She has a BS in Nursing, an MS in Clinical Psychology, a Doctorate of Science, and currently is working on a PhD in Restorative Justice online with Alameda University. She also serves as a guardian ad litem in juvenile court and part time in family court. As a guardian ad litem, she is the voice of the child; in a sense she acts as an attorney for the child.

"Children under juvenile court have been taken away from both parents and the child is a ward of the court," says Betty. "Our goal is that at least one of the parents will be able to get their life back in order and the child will be returned. It is very rewarding - you conduct your own investigation of the facts, interview all parties in the case and formulate your opinion in the best interest of the child."

Married with four children, 12 grandchildren and "4.75 great grandchildren" (the baby is due in May), Betty is looking forward to serving on her first call. She likes sunny, warm weather and really enjoys working with individuals and families in counseling. "This is part of my ministry call, a call to help," she says.



Jim Martin

Jim Martin was called to the Lewis County chaplaincy through God giving him a strong desire to help others. A business systems analyst at Cardinal Glass in Winlock, Jim also serves as a volunteer firefighter/EMT and as the boys' Awana director at the First Baptist Church of Chehalis. Married to Becky for '14 years and counting', the couple have three daughters: Jaimie (7), Megan (13) and Angela (soon to be 21). Jim enjoys volunteering, spending time with his family and hunting.



Sherie Malotte (Jeanne)

Recently commissioned with the Lewis County Chaplains, Sherie also is recently married to William Malotte, a pastor with Teen Challenge. Sherie has four children: Nick, Beau, Jake and Gabe, and is finishing her Bachelor of Science in Restorative Justice.

In addition to being part of the Lewis County Chaplaincy, Sherie acts as chaplain for the nonprofit Inside Out Partnerships—an organization that helps those with life controlling issues with training in behavioral cognitive therapy—and as a chaplain at the Lewis County Jail, leading Bible studies for the women and assisting the head male chaplain in listening, counseling and directing the inmates to God's Word.

"We were able to disciple them via studies and books while they were incarcerated after an initial meeting," she said.

She has served in many capacities within Bethel Church over the past 8 years and Sherie and her husband have been called together to New Beginnings church in Chehalis in January. They also are in the process of having a weekly Sunday evening church service at Green Hill Penitentiary.



Bob Harris

Chaplain Bob Harris (second from the left, first row) serves as Lewis County Sheriff's Office chaplain. He currently works about 30 hours a week with personnel in the sheriff's office, jail (not inmates), and dispatch. He does not envision going out on call's involving citizens and family members.

Bob also is a reserve deputy and an ordained minister with the Lutheran church. He served as a chaplain and counselor for 33 years in the Army, and he and his wife Sharon both retired from military careers. They now operate a small farm where they grow produce, raise bees and milk a few cows.

If you are interested in becoming a Lewis County chaplain or know someone who is interested, please contact Kevin Curfman at 360/880-3473 or any of the other chaplains. In particular, there is a need for a chaplain who would cover the eastern part of the county as far as Packwood.



Chaplains Hold Annual Meeting

By Betty Kitchen, 2C5

On February 27, 2012, the Lewis County Chaplains gathered at Spiffy's restaurant for their annual business meeting and the commissioning of new chaplains.

After dinner, chaplain Kevin Curfman, LCCS president, thanked chaplains and their guests for attending, with special acknowledgment to Lewis County Sheriff Steve Mansfield. Kevin then introduced Belle Williams, whose husband was killed on the ninth birthday of their twin daughters. She described how Chaplain Wayne Lobaugh offered the support, and

comfort she needed and

how he was there for her and her family. What I heard was how this chaplain truly walked alongside her, showing the love of Christ, and how he empowered her in the midst of this tragedy to use the strength that resided deep within her to assure that her twin daughters had a very happy birthday. This was an incredible story of God's love in action and how in our pain He uses each and every one that will. Isaiah 6:8 *Then I heard the Lord asking, "Whom should I send as a messenger to this people? Who will go for us?" I said, "Here I am. Send me."* Thanks to the love of Jesus manifested in the walk of a man, Chaplain Wayne.



Belle Williams who was helped by chaplain Wayne Lobaugh when her husband was killed



Jay Coon, Auburn PD/FD chaplain

The key note speaker, Jay Coon, an Auburn Police and Fire Department chaplain, shared his experiences as chaplain and the liberty, and responsibility, of moving within the department. Jay's message was loud and clear, "It's not about us"; it's about those we serve. Matthew 28:19 *Therefore, as you go, disciple people in all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.* God has called each of us to Go...

Kevin addressed the group about the commissioning of four new chaplains; Robert Harris, Sherie Malotte, Betty Kitchen and Jim Martin. The new chaplains repeated the oath of office and signed their official Oath of Office certification.

The Importance of Chaplains in a Crisis

Departments across the country have long recognized the importance of having chaplains available to assist both the public and their own personnel. First responders are there to help when things go horribly wrong. They often work in stressful situations where there is danger, disaster and death. First responders, while resilient and capable, can feel the pressure of multiple incidents or a severe crisis. A chaplain is able to assist by providing a place to debrief and regain perspective. This helps to avoid the long-term effects of stress on a first responder.



Commissioning of new chaplains



In addition to the needs of department personnel, victims and families also need personal care and compassion - someone they can talk to who can help them to take the next steps to move forward and deal with an often tragic situation.

A chaplain can help bring order to a traumatized mind, can speak words of kindness and bring comfort and hope. A chaplain helps victims find their natural support system: friends and family. A chaplain looks for ways to serve: a glass of water, a walk around the block, a discussion about what happened. A chaplain is there if people need to talk, pray, cry or even be silent with someone by their side.

Book Review—LA Justice

By Robert Vernon, assistant chief of police, LAPD

Robert (Bob) Vernon retired from the LAPD after 38 years on the force. The son of a 20-year LAPD officer, Bob rose through the ranks from rookie street cop to second in command of one of the world's most respected police departments.

In the book, Bob describes how a corrupt police department became clean through strong leadership and dedication. He also talks about how a police department can be destroyed. He tells how the politics of a city government led by a mayor with his own agenda weakened and negatively impacted a police department. He describes in detail the effect that the Rodney King incident and verdict had on the city, its citizen's and the LAPD.

Bob addresses in depth the current issues of social unrest and family breakdown in our society and what can make young people "moral flat liners". He lists what he feels are four main root causes:

- abandonment of our children; placing money and material wealth ahead of our children
- devotion to hedonism (the pursuit of sensual pleasure above all else); substitution of a quick feeling (often artificial) for real or lasting fulfillment
- loss of conscience—"In the name of acceptance and tolerance, we've become confused. We now accept not only the person, but the antisocial conduct as well as the weakness."
- neglect of principles—"Relativism has replaced time-tested principles".

In some ways the book is biographical in that it relates stories and anecdotes, both sad and humorous, of Bob's career.

I had the opportunity to meet Bob at the ICPC training in January. He has an excellent staff and anyone of several people could have presented his Christian-based, leadership seminar. He seldom gives seminars in person anymore, but his belief and support of chaplains is very strong, and he wanted to be with us for two days.

I highly recommend this book to anyone. It should be mandatory reading for every police officer and city government official.

