



Chips

Serving
Oregon
since 1984

"CHAPLAINS IN PUBLIC SAFETY"

"Serving those who serve . . ."

What Chaplains Do

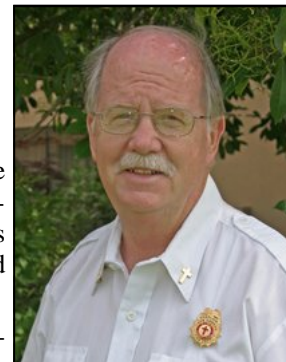
You may have never noticed the presence of a Chaplain at an on-scene event, but consider the value they bring. The Chaplain is a person of integrity trusted with highly sensitive and confidential information, often operating in emotionally explosive circumstances demanding mental, emotional, and spiritual preparedness and self-control. Unique to the function of any other official personnel, they bring the perceptive insight and compassion of the spiritual nature.

Chaplains are frequently called to *on-scene* tragic situations. Here they become the conduit of information as each of the various emergency response teams has different procedures which Chaplains are familiar with and understand their vital significances. The understanding of tragedy, the personnel involved, and sensitivity to individuals of the tragedy is where the chaplain brings his gifts meeting practical, emotional, and spiritual needs. How that process begins can determine the success a person has steering through the emotional canyons of the tragedy. And on rare occasion, Chaplains discover that they are working with *the general public*, invited to participate in community functions when an event has touched us all.

Another facet is sensitivity and assistance to the emergency personnel on-scene. Emergency service personnel are affected by the same trauma and emotional stress that others experience, but are *expected* to be unaffected. The Chaplain understands these unique circumstances and is equipped to assist and support them in their duties. Ultimately, the question is: how well is an emergency response person processing the situation from a cognitive and emotional perspective?

From the on-scene event the Chaplain moves to the next important facet of *notifying the next of kin* after a tragic event. Ask any police officer or medical examiner what part of their job they "dislike" and you will likely hear, "Telling the next of kin their loved one has died." This notification can happen on-scene or at some other location, like a home. The manner in which a person is informed and the immediate follow-up are critical to the recovery process. It is in this situation that spiritual sensitivity and compassion play the most unique and critically important role to human wellbeing and the healing process. Technically, everything is over from the public sector, but for the victims, the tragedy continues. Public Safety Chaplains seek to minister the same sensitivity and compassion of Jesus Christ, genuinely concerned for the whole person and their welfare. Because of this very character of the Chaplain, the general public often see them as an extension of their family and community. Thus, it is not unusual that the Chaplain continues with further follow-up calls, putting those affected by the tragedy in touch with other sources of support and assistance. And part of this grief counseling may involve funeral preparations. In the State of Oregon, ethical guidelines establish and control the process for funeral arrangements. Throughout the whole ordeal, the Chaplain recognizes the constraints, restrictions, and safeguards of both the public safety personnel and private individuals and willingly assist all in their process of healing.

Obviously, one of the most important areas of a Chaplain's work is *with the public safety personnel they interface with, often on a daily basis*. Chaplains see them as the human beings they are, deeply affected by these tragic events, and are willingly on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Public Safety personnel have a unique work environment. For example, most police officers on the street are between the ages of 25 to 45, and entered law enforcement to help the community. They will spend a significant portion of their time with the worst elements of society. They also must be sensitive to the political system where the whim of voters can control their future. They go to work every day knowing that their lives are at risk, as a significant numbers of officers lose their lives to people determined to kill them or those just being careless. And divorce is just one of the many tolls that comes with the job. Yes, Chaplaincy is also a family matter! Chaplains are advisor and confidantes to these officers and their supervisors. They recognize the unique stress of this workplace on the whole person, and are open and sensitive to the deeper emotional and spiritual issues that come into play yet are suppose to remain unaffected and unspoken.



Chaplain Chuck Boman,
Lake Oswego & West Linn

And Thank You

to Greater Portland Bible Church

for allowing us to use their facilities for our monthly board and chaplains meetings. A special thank you to Laura Doud and Randy Antonson for always preparing and making available the rooms.

**Please pray for
the health of our
chaplains**



The Assignment

Chaplain John Stetzer , Scappoose & Columbia County



My granddaughter Jaednø fourth grade teacher in Edmonds, Washington, gave an assignment to choose from three to five charities. These charities were to receive a total of \$5 million. The students were to research and write about each charity, explaining why they chose to give to that particular group. The following is a portion of Jaednø paper as written.

My 3rd charity is my Granpa's charity. It's called Public safety chaplency. Chaplains like my Grandpa respond when there is a crises. Things like House fires, Auto accidents. When somebody dies, Shearch and rescue and hostage situations (that means when someone has been kidnapped). It causes people to be sad and emotional. Poleicemen and firemen aren't always avilible to help them, so that's where my Granpa comes in. He will sit with them and talk and most importantly listen. He rides in po-lice cars sometimes and talks to them about what problems they may have. Poleicemen and firefighters have stressfull jobs and sometimes need somone to pray with them. A Chaplain is a minister of God. My Granpa is a hero to other people and I love him very much. This is why I want to give his charity 1 million dollars and that is 1\5th of 5 million dollars.

From Forest Grove FD—A Special Volunteer - Dexter Danielson



There is not a more aware group then ours when it comes to dark side of the fire service. Dealing with the turmoil, destruction, and death that comes with our job is never easy, nor is it something that anyone in this room relishes. This group before me realizes that our services are called upon when people can no longer solve their own problem. Be it dealing with the family who has just lost a loved one, or to solve some of our own crisis of a more personal nature who do we as firefighters call when we need help?

We at Forest Grove Fire & Rescue are truly fortunate that we have such a dedicated and kindhearted person to call when we need help in Chaplain Dexter Danielson. We can call him to serve not only our community, but our fire-fighter family as well. Be it on scene, or during his regular visits at the fire station you get this genuine feeling from Dexter that he is there for you and that regardless of the chaos of the situation, the care and compassion that Dexter brings is always honest and that you feel that you are his sole purpose in life for that very key and often difficult moment.

Chaplain Dexter Danielson is truly the definition of a volunteer. He never avoids what we recognize as the truly most ugly of tasks, he who never rolls over when his pager goes off and just falls back asleep, he who takes no financial reimbursement for his time or efforts, he who through his own life experiences has come to understand the importance of the emotions of an emergency situation and always handles them tactfully with the utmost of care. All of these reasons are why Chaplain Dexter Danielson was selected by the Staff of Forest Grove Fire & Rescue as this year's Volunteer Officer of the Year.



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SUPPORT OUR CHAPLAINS.**

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