

Workplace
Chaplains U.S.
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Our Mission:

Partnering with client companies to provide care, counsel and crisis management services to their employees from a Christian perspective.

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CHAPLAINS @ WORK

Workplace Chaplains U.S.

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Good News from Chaplains

I'm sure you have noticed (as I have especially of late) how much of the news we receive from the public media is negative. Maybe it is the nature of the news media and what sells. Maybe it is just the gray reality of fall that makes me more sensitive to this negativity.

Whatever the case may be, I felt it might be helpful to use this newsletter to focus on all the positive realities that we as chaplains observe and participate in from day to day – sometimes in the very midst of the most negative circum-

stances. The anecdotes below come from the monthly reports of our staff.

Thursday afternoon we held a memorial service for an employee who had died on October 9 from cancer. Bliia was only 47 years old and had worked in the plant for over 10 years. We invited the whole family to come and 11 family members attended the service. I believe the memorial service will help the family in their grief plus it allowed workers to express their appreciation of Bliia's work and express

their condolences. (Dave W.)

I was used to help a staff member who was unexpectedly dealing with a suicidal person on the phone. She wasn't sure about how she handled everything and not just pertaining to the hospital but with (cont'd) her faith. Her response to my assistance showed that she was relieved and confident for the future in facing these encounters with hurting people. (Ed G.)

A young TMO recently shared that he & his girlfriend planned to move in

Numbering Our Days

As the seasons change and we move into that holiday-filled portion of the old year before moving into the new one, I am reminded again of how quickly the days, months and years go by. It often brings to my mind the interesting phrase from the middle of a familiar Psalm (90: 12) – “Teach us to number our days that we

may gain a heart of wisdom.”

“Numbers” and “wisdom” seem like odd relatives. Numbers are objective, precise and cold. Wisdom is more intangible, elusive and difficult to describe or measure. Wisdom may come with age, but is not

always in proportion to years.

Since the Psalm contrasts the brevity of life and the eternity of God, I suspect that “numbering our days” has less to do with counting each day than it does with making each day count; to count each day as precious and to be used to its fullest.

Numbering (Cont'd)

As a Pastor and Chaplain I have stood at the graveside of countless individuals who expected to live much longer, including several close family members. Others we have come to know in the church and the workplace were fully capable and active one day, then confined to their home, bed or wheelchair the next.

If you are enjoying today a measure of health, a family, a

home and a predictable income source you are blessed beyond most and envied by many. To abuse these blessings or to take them for granted in a thankless routine is not just a waste precious time, it is a serious sin.

We have just celebrated Thanksgiving. We will soon enter a new year. Are you counting your blessings and numbering your days?

Good News (Cont'd)

together. I showed genuine interest in how he came to make that decision & suggested that it was important to consider what God sees as best for him as well. I felt honored that he shared an area of his life that he knew I would see differently, yet we were able to discuss it in a way in which his autonomy was respected. (Maureen DJ)

This week I spoke with someone whose father is probably terminally ill. While affirming the strength of the family's faith, I also acknowledged the reality of their pain, in seeing his dad suffer. The employee really opened up & when I prayed for him, we were both deeply moved. It was a sacred moment. (Maureen DJ)

(As employee) has experienced some depression from her fam-

ily — her son has no driver license but still drives to work every night. She asked for help ... (Two other employees) gave thanks for my visiting when they had a new baby. They invited me to join their celebration at the Buddhist temple. I could not join them but gave them blessing! (Somsay I)

I spoke several times last month with a father of a teenage son who is exhibiting repeated anger and behavior issues at home and school following the divorce of his parents. This normally quiet father really appreciated the chance to unload his frustrations, but also to get reinforcement for some of his very positive choices and information about other community resources. He also appreciated being reminded that God's love for us is our model for training up our children. (Ron K)

CHAPLAIN CONTINUES TO DEVELOP SKILLS

On November 7-10, 2007 Rich Langton, Director of Mission Advancement and Chaplain, attended two two-day trainings to further his knowledge of crisis management intervention. The City of Cadillac Police and Fire Departments and Workplace Chaplains U.S. paid for the training.

The first two-day seminar was entitled "Responding to School Crises: An Integrated Multi-Component Crisis Intervention Approach." During the training Rich became familiar with the effects of traumatic stress on learning and the school milieu. He also developed a working knowledge of the specific goals of crisis response in a school setting.

The second seminar, "Individual Crisis Intervention and Peer Support" focused on assisting individuals in crisis. Skills were learned in understanding the nature and definition of a psychological crisis and psychological crisis intervention as well as practicing basic crisis communication techniques.

In the future Rich will share some of the material presented with other staff to assist all of us in becoming better care givers and especially better care givers to those in crisis.

*As we end another year,
We are thankful for the prayers
and support of all of you who help
to make this ministry a reality.*



*May God bless and
keep you all as you
continue with us
into God's unimaginable
grace and goodness!*

Ron Klimp
Executive Director