

# Kainos Kapsule

A Newsletter of Chaplain John W. Cundiff, D.Min.

July 2007 Volume 2 Number 7

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June was an exciting month. I left you hanging about some exciting thing that had just taken place as I sent my last newsletter. I will begin with that.

I officiated a wedding that came to me suddenly and unrepentantly. This couple had been married in Australia by the bride's father, who is a pastor there. Because of some international red tape that marriage was not recognized here. So she applied for a fiancé visa and received it after almost a year to come here to get married.

After getting here the pastor of the groom's church told them before he could not do the wedding ceremony before they had completed pre-marital counseling that took six months to year. (Before I continue with the story, I want to say that my normal requirement is the same for pre-marital counseling before I will officiate a wedding. So this requirement is not the issue, read on.) The pastor at the groom's mother's church also had the same requirement.

On Monday June 4, I was having lunch and then going to shoot pool with the mother of the groom. As she shared this story me, I was thinking there is no reason that I would not do this ceremony. I told her that. While we shooting pool, the groom called to share that he had arranged to get married by a judge the next day. Time was important because the bride only had 45 days left on her visa. They had a marriage license from Washington County.

During that phone call she told him that I was willing to do the ceremony. We all met that night. I did the ceremony the next evening in a park. The bride's family was able to listen through a cell phone. Her father answered the question, "who gives this woman to be this man's bride?"

I know one these pastors and the other is from the some brotherhood of churches that I am from. I feel sad for them that are so constrained by man made church rules that they could not see their way free to go outside the rules for .1% of situations that may come into the pastor's office. The rules work and are necessary for 99.9% of weddings that come to the pastor.

I had fun with this wedding. The couple is getting the counseling and is going to have a reception in the fall. They told me I will be invited to that reception. Pictures were taken. I have not seen them yet. I was glad to be available to do this for this couple.

I spoke at Westside Singles Ministry on 6-8 on the topic of "Jesus being the Resurrection and the Life."

My uncle died 6-11 and I helped my family with some of those things regarding that.

The most memorable call out this month was assisting the family who had seen their father die. Medical had been dispatched to the house first and as they were getting him treated he collapsed and they were unable to revive him. This took place with family looking on. I was called on to assist the family with what they had seen and answer questions about what to do now.

I had two ride-a-longs this month. One was with a deputy that had never ridden with before. This was good time and I was extended the invitation to ride any time I wanted. That is always a compliment when the deputy makes that offer.

I attended the monthly meeting of the Washington County Fire Chaplains. This meeting is a time for cross training and dialogue. Frequently we meet on the same scenes and if know each other before then it makes things go much easier. Then there are times when I have to respond to a fire because the fire chaplains are occupied elsewhere and vice versa. This meeting was in Gaston. Many of us had never been to the Gaston Fire Department or knew where it was.

I am finding that email is good for ministry. I have a data base for the Singles Alive @ BCC class, the data base for Kainos Ministries, and just recently I took on the task of doing the email for Westside Singles Ministry. And of course I have my personal email that I use for hunter education and everything else. That is three different servers that I have contact with. I still do not know how to set up the email programs to make them work, so I am not a geek. I get help from others to help me get the email set up. I have a webmaster who keeps my web site updated. I supply all the written material for it but do not know how to put on the web site.

To conclude this newsletter with I would like to share some thoughts that I was considering and a fire chaplain friend, Joel Peterson, wrote about in devotion. These thoughts have to do with the weather. Sometimes we complain because it is raining or it is too hot or too cold or it is snowing. Then there are those few times when the weather is just perfect. Have you taken the time to notice that all those around you are also experiencing the same weather you are. Joel made this observation, "The weather is a common bond for all of us, a safe entry into a shared experience that establishes some general connection. As an important part of our Oregon setting, the weather impacts our decisions to go out or stay in, to spend time peering out windows at rain or time out walking in gardens." Why do we begin so many of conversations by talking about the weather? Could it be to make that connection so we can share something more important? "We cannot control the weather. We end up taking whatever comes and making the best of it. Sometimes it is easy to adapt ourselves to changing circumstances. Sometimes we simply grab a jacket out of the closet on a cold day and go out and continue on our merry way. But other times we are completely derailed by fierce storm or bitter cold, and long-established plans are temporarily or permanently shelved" (Joel Peterson). Talking about the weather is all about making a powerful life changing connection.

Take Care,

Chaplain John W. Cundiff, D.Min.

"Do not repay evil for evil or abuse for abuse, but on the contrary, repay with a blessing. It is for this that you were called—that you might inherit a blessing." 1 Peter 3:9