

Kainos Kapsule

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

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July was a calm month until the end. The last and a half week of the month we were slammed with calls. It seemed like two a day on average. As a group of three chaplains we each took our share of the calls.

No calls are routine but some stand out over the others. The ones that bother me the most are when I have to tell children that their parents have died. I had one these calls this month. I told an eleven year girl that her dad had died. Pray for her.

We will get tactical vests to wear on scene. I have not seen the vests yet but I have been told that they have many pockets and one made to carry the radio. Having a place to carry the radio will be good. It is great that the chaplains were issued radios but we do not have a practical way to carry them. We do not use the radios enough to be good with them. At least I still feel I am slow when I speak on it and I always forget to tell them the ID number of my radio when I sign on. These vests will identify us as chaplains more clearly from the front and back.

We will also get those orange vests to wear at traffic accidents so we can be seen. I know some you know why orange, but others may not so let me tell you why orange. Orange is the only color that can be seen by everyone including color blind people. It stands out distinctly from every other color that a color blind person sees. They may not see orange but looks different from everything else. Many states have mandatory blaze orange requirements when hunting. Wearing orange is the best to avoid becoming involved in a hunting accident.

I was able to get some time to get away from the county for a few days. I took a day trip to Point Defiance to visit the zoo and take five mile drive. I saw fort Nisqually. On the way home I stopped at the Olympic Museum of Flight in Olympia. It was good trip.

The next week I was able to take three days in row to go to Boise to visit the zoo. I visited several museums on the way. I would like to do this trip again before Labor Day and see three sights that I did not see on this trip in addition to the Boise Zoo. You may ask what is so great about the Boise Zoo. They have great butterflies. About 3 times the varieties as the Oregon Zoo and in a bigger exhibit with better flowers and it is better to view the butterflies. It is worth the drive just for the butterflies. The butterflies are gone after Labor Day.

Singles ministry is going well. For WSM we have speakers confirmed for the rest of the year and our schedule outlined and most details filled in. For Singles Alive @ BCC I have the lessons planned for the rest of the year. I am working on a plan for Jan – Mar. 2008. I have an idea that I am exploring to see if I can make it work.

One of the chaplains that worked with at Ground Zero in 2001 and help with his 9-11 remembrance service most years, Chaplain Wally Johnston with the Beaverton PD, in one of his newsletter shared a thought that I liked and he gave me permission to use it in my newsletter.

Wally wrote, "There are very few shallow thoughts in deep waters. I found that true when I went to help out in NYC after 9/11/01. So much of what we do and the things that upset us are really shallow at times. But when faced with the greater issues, they seem to fade away, at least for a while."

When I asked permission to use this thought I was thinking about sharing something about my experience in New York, but after the bridge collapse in Minneapolis yesterday I have decided to write about that instead.

I have written a blog about one aspect of the bridge collapse on myspace referenced above that is open to everyone to read. I hope that you keep the whole situation in your prayers.

Wally's thought has power as I think of the people affected by the bridge. My cousin and her husband live near there and she uses that bridge every day. She had to do an errand that took home on a different route yesterday or she may have been on the bridge about the time it collapsed. I am not going to say it was God's providence that my cousin was not on the bridge yesterday because so may others can not say that because they were on the bridge when it fell. That would be saying that God prefers some people more than other people and those people that died and were injured on the bridge are being punished by God and that is not the situation and any one who would suggest that needs to adjust his/her theology. The greater issue is that people lives have been changed forever by this event and one of the best things we can do is pray for their physical and emotional well being. Also pray that they will be to make adjustments and changes as the physical and emotional scars remain forever.

I am reminded of the Alan Jackson song, "Where Were You When the World Stopped Turning". While that song is about 9-11 specifically, I think it gives good advice about remembering what people did in response to the towers falling that we could do in response to the bridge falling. Such as saying "thank you" to police and firefighters, gathering for prayer, giving blood, and being friendly with your neighbors.

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](#)