



Dr. Timothy W. Thompson, CHAPLAIN

SIERRA LAW ENFORCEMENT CHAPLAINCY

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Dear Friends,

Every year our county chooses law enforcement officers from each agency to be our officers of the year. This year, the local CHP chose Kevin Daugherty, the police department chose Andrew Litsius, and the Sheriff's Office chose Deputy Todd Carver. I know all three of these men, and all three of them are fine officers. I was really proud of them as each department head read their name, the citation they were receiving, and called them forward to be recognized and receive their award. It was a most fitting moment when Todd Carver came forward that everyone leapt to their feet to give him a standing ovation. Deputy Carver saved the lives of three of his fellow deputies this summer. They walked into an ambush and three deputies were shot. Deputy Carver exposed himself to the lethal threat and did something no other deputy wanted to do. He engaged the murderer (for he had already killed his father earlier) and neutralized the threat, which allowed medics to get the wounded officers to safety and to a hospital. For his bravery and courage, Deputy Carver was rightfully awarded the department's Medal of Honor.

There are many times we think that life is not fair. Certainly the deputies who were shot thought it wasn't fair at all that they get shot while trying to protect the public. We all think at times that our Heavenly Father doesn't seem to see. Does He know what we are going through? The Scriptures tell us that one day we will all appear before his "Bema Seat," that is, before an awards ceremony, that our works will be tested by fire and those good works we have done will come out of the fire like gold, silver, and precious stones, and we will be granted our eternal rewards. Paul said before he died in Rome,

"I know whom I have believed in and I am persuaded that He is able, to keep that which I have been entrusted unto Him until that day."

Later Paul wrote just before the Romans beheaded him,

"There now waits for me a righteous crown which the Lord the righteous judge will give to me on that day and not to me only but to all those who look for His appearing."

What a day that will be. That all the injustice in this world will be made right and the scales will be balanced. Those who thought they were going to get away with evil will find it finally catches up with them. Therefore, I don't have to worry about being criticized or being a disappointment to my fellow man. One day the righteous judge will balance it all out while you and I receive our just reward. What a day that will be! That is why I continue to have faith in Him and I trust that you do too, and I am thrilled to share the message of a loving all-powerful God who will make everything right one day.

I was paged early in the morning and thought it odd to get a page that early since I was not on-call. The answering service asked me to make contact with a family I knew in law enforcement and told me there had been a death in the family. Naturally, my mind started thinking who it could be. I knew the family had elderly parents and I secretly worried about another member of the family that had personal problems that were a struggle for him. My fears were confirmed when I contacted the family and learned that in fact the young son-in-law had died. The details were unclear how he died which did not dissolve any of the grief for the family. I spent time giving them support as we cried together. I had officiated at the daughter's wedding and liked the young man she married. Even though he had personal problems, he was a very likeable guy. I spent the late morning with the extended family members as we talked about the children who would be coming home from school soon and what would be the best way to explain their father's death to them.

This is not a topic any parent ever envisions that they will have to discuss with their children. I helped guide the mother's understanding of what was healthy to share with the children and what was not healthy. I gave her more information about what clinicians state is appropriate and not appropriate to discuss with children. I stayed with the family until the children came home from school and helped the mother in her disclosure of the painful information to her children that their father had died. I continued to stay with the family all afternoon giving them spiritual support and comfort. I left for a few hours to give the family some time alone. While I was gone I gathered various materials on death and dying and explaining death to children and then went back to their home to share this material with the family. They invited me to stay for dinner, and, through the dinner, I continued to listen, reflect, and give support for this bereaved family as they walked through their pain. Before I left, I held the mother as she cried and I prayed for the Lord's hand to be on her and her children and to comfort their hearts. The following day, I made contact with the family again and they stated that the materials I had left for them and the children were extremely helpful. Yesterday, I had given them the phone number to Victim Assistance. After contacting them, they were told that they will be helping financially with the counseling for the children and the family was very pleased that I shared these resources with them.

Chaplain Tim talks with soldiers at a recent Veterans Memorial Ceremony that he officiated



In His Service,

Tim Thompson, D. Min., CTR
Chief Chaplain

PEOPLE TO PRAY FOR

- For the family and children whose husband/father died
- Praise for those brave officers who keep the peace and protect us
- Praise for recognition of the officers of the year who are very deserving of that recognition
- For family members who are recovering from the homicide committed on their street
- For the family whose member was killed by the neighbor
- For the neighbor who killed his neighbor's relative
- For the correctional officer who is a new believer as he prepares to go to trial
- For the officers who have returned to duty after being shot
- For an officer who is still off duty having a difficult time
- For our Reserve Chaplains who volunteer their time to be on-call for me
- For our fire fighters as a new and dangerous fire season begins
- For our Search and Rescue people who take great risk locating and rescuing people
- Remember the five local families who have most recently lost loved ones in the war in Iraq