



Sierra Law Enforcement Chaplaincy

October 2017

www.slec.us

Volume 27, Issue 10

COMMENTS FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR STEVE WRIGHT

For the past few months, I have been getting to know this community, the law enforcement agencies that we serve, and especially our volunteer chaplains. As you can imagine, this job cannot be done by one individual, but fortunately for us, we have some of the best chaplains around. They sacrifice so much to ensure that each and every crisis in our community is met with compassion; we truly could not do this without them.

So as the Executive Director of the Sierra Law Enforcement Chaplaincy, it is my distinct honor to get to introduce more of our chaplains to you. In the upcoming months, we will be telling you a little about our chaplains so you can get to know the individuals bringing hope to our community.

Chaplain Lois Stowe

Lois Stowe was born and raised in South Africa, but as a teenager, she immigrated to Northern California with her parents. Although she attended church with her grandparents, her faith was limited to an "academic" understanding of the Bible. That all changed in 2010 when her 7-year-old son, William, was diagnosed with an extremely rare form of childhood cancer. For the first few months, Lois struggled to understand why God would punish an innocent child with such a horrid diagnosis. A year later, Lois and William moved to Southern California where William was able to receive a bone marrow transplant at City of Hope Hospital. It was during her time at City of Hope Hospital that she established a friendship with the hospital chaplain.



The chaplain came to their room on a daily basis to offer nothing more than a smile and a cup of coffee. Sometimes his smiles led to very deep conversations and insightful debates; other times he would just say "Good morning", smile, and leave a cup of coffee by the door before waving to William and leaving. Through dozens of rounds of chemotherapy, surgeries, radiation, and numerous other procedures, Lois discovered that even though she wanted to be alone, she did not want to be lonely. The chaplains became a crucial part of Lois' staying connected with others.

William passed away at age 9, and Lois started attending GriefShare at Green Valley Community Church. It was during one of those sessions that Lois had a very clear and vivid conversation with the Lord where she said, "Okay Lord, here I am... I am yours, use my grief! Make all this pain mean something, and turn it into something good!" Six months later, she became a facilitator at GriefShare and later decided to become a chaplain.

For the past 4 years, Lois has been a chaplain at Marshall Hospital and with the El Dorado Sheriff's Office. She brings her compassion and love to plant a seed of hope in someone's current season of life. Most importantly Lois' experiences have taught her to know when to be quiet. Serving our community and law enforcement officers is not something to ever be taken for granted or considered to be easy, but it's definitely a beautiful blessing and a promise fulfilled by Lois.

In addition to being a chaplain, Lois is also active in the St Baldrick's Foundation to conquer childhood cancer.

COMMENTS FROM CHAPLAIN TIM

Though Steve Wright has assumed the role of Executive Director of the Chaplaincy, I still respond to call-outs because there is no way to predict when one of our chaplains might be called upon to provide spiritual support to a family or officer, and, sometimes, we need all the help we can get. That happened when the sheriff's office called for multiple chaplains to respond to a stabbing that had occurred in our county. Chaplain Steve went to the scene where a woman had been killed, and I went to the hospital where a four-year-old child was being taken; I spent time ministering to the parents and emergency room staff. I called for Chaplain Jose Rivera who speaks Spanish to minister to the family. It was a very intense situation as the Emergency Room staff worked desperately on the four-year-old. Chaplain Joe and I spent time with the mom and dad, giving them spiritual support and praying for their child.

Both parents had been at work and had friends drive them to the hospital. The medical staff was able to stabilize the child, and it was decided to have the child flown to the UCD Medical Center in Sacramento to the children's trauma unit. Chaplain Joe took the mother and father down to Sacramento since they didn't have any transportation. He stayed with them at the hospital as the medical team took the child back into surgery. He stayed with the parents, ministering to them until their family and friends arrived at the hospital.

I stayed with the hospital staff, ministering to the nurses, doctors, and other members of the trauma team. Once the shift was completed, I stayed with the medical staff and participated in a critical incident stress debriefing that we held at the hospital. Please pray for all the people involved in this tragic event: the parents of the four-year-old child, the family whose mother was killed, our chaplains, and the medical staff that responded to this horrific event. This is just one of many occasions where the chaplaincy interfaces both with law enforcement and the hospital staff.

PLEASE PRAY WITH US FOR...

- ◆ A deputy who is recovering from major back surgery
- ◆ A retired officer who is recovering from a hip replacement
- ◆ The family whose mother was murdered
- ◆ The four-year-old child recovering from her wounds and for her parents
- ◆ A chaplain's wife who has been in the hospital for weeks fighting a bad infection
- ◆ A veteran who found his wife had died during the night and is grieving
- ◆ A retired narcotics officer who is also grieving as he lost his wife to a pulmonary disease
- ◆ The family of a retired officer who died from cancer
- ◆ One of our board members, as he waits to hear what doctors decide to do to help his many back problems
- ◆ A deputy's step-mother who is terminally ill and this officer's father as they face this huge challenge

Thank you for praying!

Chaplain Steve Wright

Chaplain Tim Thompson

