

The Washington State Criminal
Justice Training Commission

**Suggestions on Working
With Your Local Chaplaincy**

Date: Fall 2008



Utilizing A Meaningful Resource

What's Inside:

- Your access to Pastoral Care...
- People who can be trusted...
- Chaplains and Pastors...not so different...
- Operational principles
- Quick definitions

For Further information: 206.650.9399 or 206.300.2666

Prepared for you by:

*Chaplain **John Oas**

Chaplain for the Seattle Police Department
& The WA St Criminal Justice Training Center

Graduate of Seattle Pacific University—BA 1969
Covenant Seminary—MA Divinity 1973
Covenant Seminary—Honorary Doctorate 2004

35 years with the Seattle Police Department
25 years with Criminal Justice Training Center

***Barbara Gilreath**, Associate Chaplain

Assoc. Chaplain with Chaplaincy International
Assoc. Chaplain & Program Director for City of
SeaTac Fire Department

BA Bethany Bible College
MA Bethany Theological Seminary
ThD Bethany Theological Seminary
Working on her PhD in Christian Counseling

Christian Education experience since 1983
Associate Chaplain since 2002

Table of Contents

Title Page: Working With Chaplaincy

2. Workshop Leaders:

Chaplain John Oas

Chaplain Barbara Gilreath

4. What is a Chaplain?

4. What is a Chaplaincy?

5. How do Chaplains and Pastors Differ?

6. Operational Principles

7. Terms of Endearment

For Further information: 206.650.9399 or 206.300.2666

What is a Chaplain?

Most Chaplains begin from their experience as a Pastor. There is rarely a specific series of classes that a perspective minister can take in under-graduate work or graduate work to prepare. A major in Chaplaincy has to be specifically designed with the university's academic folks.

A Chaplain has the training for Pastoral Care but makes a further decision to branch into Chaplaincy. Through an invitation by a Police Chief or a Fire Chief, they begin by meeting the personnel, and then this turns into an opportunity to help at crisis scenes.

Many churches are supportive of this dual arrangement; some churches are not as supportive. The next decision is one of becoming full-time or remaining part-time. The Chaplain who is full-time then has to form a governing board and a financial base to keep functioning.

So, you can see that what begins as a simple desire to reach a community can become a full-time endeavor. But this effort becomes very fulfilling!

What is a Chaplaincy?

The term Chaplaincy usually refers to a program developed by a Chaplain. There can be a governing Board, Associate Chaplains, program training, long term program goals, and relationships. In addition to denominational accountability, this kind of program sustains a purpose and personnel focused on being their best in stressful situations.

**Similar Message—
Differing Methods**

How is a Chaplain Different from a Pastor?

A Chaplain is called to a need and spends their time consoling and helping the survivor(s) until family or their spiritual support can arrive...they leave in a few hours...

A Pastor will come to a need after the survivors have called and will rally the support of their family and friends...support lasting many days...

A Chaplain has learned to respect differing faith expressions in the community. They will assist the family and loved ones in finding the services and kind of funeral they prefer...

A Pastor usually represents their faith group. They will proceed in the direction of which they are most familiar...and give long term support.

A Chaplain should be trained in the crisis classes offered by the International Conference of Police Chaplains, the International Federation of Fire Chaplains, and the International Critical Incident Stress Foundation...

A Pastor sincerely wants to be of help but may not understand the need for the ICPC, the IFFC, or the ICISF...They may not be aware of this training.

A Chaplain is most often accustomed to the stresses and wide variety of issues facing people today...Their experience gives them true to life understanding...

A Pastor may be more impacted by the level of trauma that their people face...and not understand.

For Further information: 206.650.9399 or 206.300.2666

Operational Principles

Calling out a Chaplain means that they will devote their best to this incident. Let them know the details that will assist them with the survivors. Survivors almost always have questions. For example, men often want to know how the death took place, while women want to know if the 'loved-one' suffered. The information the Chaplain has will mean that better answers can be given.

Meeting the Chaplain at a designated location will mean that you can control the approach. They can follow you there without predisposing the survivor's emotions. If you're already there, you can meet them outside and brief them on what to expect from the loved-ones. If you lead the way, then you can observe the location for what to expect. The Chaplain can stay if you're called to another emergency.

Once notified of the event the survivors may respond in a variety of ways. Human emotions are very difficult to predict. Let the Chaplain do the comforting. As the officer, you can answer the technical questions. The Chaplain may also get other Chaplains involved if the number of family members and friends begins to get unmanageable. The Chaplain can also help with telephoning, and securing the family's faith support. They often already know these folks.

The Chaplain can also assist in the arrival of the medical examiner/coroner. They can see to it that the prayers are already said. They can explain to the survivors the need for the body to be examined. They can also reflect the concerns of the loved-ones back to the medical examiner/coroner if they find this difficult. They can do all this while you, as the officer/deputy, preserve important evidence and do your interviews for your report. You will work very well together.

The Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission

<p>Stress—often comes from a feeling of being alone. Few people face crisis well by themselves. The right people together in a scene can be powerful.</p>	<p>Critical Incident Stress—is the particular stress professionals face as they sense their own vulnerability. It is tough to ask for help!</p>
<p>Victim/Survivor—most often used interchangeably is changing. The term preferred these days is survivor, because it does not leave the helpless feeling that victim does.</p>	<p>Being the ones who are Emotionally Safe—has it's downside. Both Officer/Deputy and Chaplain can face the brunt of emotions directed outward.</p>
<p>Family vs. Friends—be sure to ask the survivor (s) who they want to be telephoned, as some family members are more disrupting than helpful.</p>	<p>Caution on the 'gore' - Though survivors may act tough, they will soon learn all the details they would ever imagine. We should only say what we know.</p>
<p>Encourage the Survivor—to write down their lists of people to eventually call. Write down their shopping needs... Write down their errands... Write down suggested Funeral Homes... Encourage a group Session to make plans (as long as they are not overwhelmed).</p>	<p>Children are Important—Children get their emotions from the adults. Encourage some kind of expressions that they can own. Coloring, writing, painting, talking, all help. Let the school know, too.</p>

Here are Further Resources

Stress

www.kidshealth.org/teen/your_mind

Stress Symptoms

www.medicinenet.com

International Conference of Police Chaplains

www.ICPC.org

International Critical Incident Stress Foundation

www.ICISF.org

International Fire Fighter Chaplaincy

www.IFFC.org

Stress and Your Health

www.womenshealth.gov/faq/stress

Stress: Definition from Answers

www.answers.com/topic/stress

Stress

www.EverydayHealth.com

Managing Stress

Book by David Fontana

Stress: A Brief History

Book by Cary Cooper