

This month's newsletter is different from past newsletters. Chaplain Jim Dixon has written a commentary on how chaplains serve their agencies and the public, drawing on his own 20 years of experience for examples. It is our hope that this commentary will help you understand the importance of the chaplain's role.

Though Covid-19 has restricted access to the Benton County Detention Center we're still busy doing what we can to touch the lives of men and women incarcerated. In the last two weeks we have worked to fulfill fifty requests for religious materials. We are also working toward using available technology to conduct Bible studies online.

In the meantime, we continue to serve the men and women who patrol the roads in our county, spending time with them, hearing their stories and encouraging them.

We also continue to hone our skills to better serve. In October Chaplain Jim attended classes on suicide awareness and fundamentals of chaplaincy. Your support of Northwest Arkansas Chaplain Ministries makes training and serving possible.

## IN THE LIFE OF A LAW ENFORCEMENT CHAPLAIN

**So much focus is on the impact the chaplains have been ministry in the jail. But that's only half of the story. Over the last 20 years of law enforcement chaplaincy:**

**I have stood at the bedside** of law enforcement officers who had been shot in the line of duty, being there for them, their families and their brothers and sisters from their agencies while I waited to hear the outcome. I have been there for our agencies, providing strength and support for our own men and women, when officers from other agencies were shot and killed in the line of duty. I have been there to support the family and members of a department when one of their own died in a traffic accident. I have been there to support police officers, firefighters, and paramedics as they tried to cope with tragic events no one should ever have to deal with.

**I have been there to cry** with the parents of a 16-year old girl after an officer and I told them their princess would not be coming home from her first date. I have stood lakeside with families who were hoping for the best but expecting the worst as dive teams sought to recover the bodies of their loved ones. I have stood by with families as they watched their homes burn to the ground with their children inside, and then tried to comfort them in their grief when they learned the outcome.

**I have been there to provide support** for families as they watched detectives go about their work, investigating a loved one's death. I have cried with prisoners in the Benton County Jail after telling them a loved one died, broken-hearted myself, knowing the prisoners would be unable to grieve with their families. I have listened as LEO's poured out their hearts over their failing marriages, and in some cases, was able to help restore their marriages, and in all cases provide some encouragement.

**What was I doing during these events?** I was bringing God's presence into tragic events where His presence was so desperately needed.

***These really aren't my stories, but they are the stories of those who so desperately needed the presence of God in their troubled times. And stories reflect the importance of your prayers and support for Northwest Arkansas Chaplain Ministries.. Thank you for standing with us.***