

## **Emergency Services Chaplain**

Whitman County Sheriff's Chaplain, Ron McMurray

### **Purpose:**

To demonstrate God's compassion to those in need and give them hope that He is present to help them in their present crisis.

Teaching others to manage their stress by trusting in someone greater than themselves ( Luke 12:25-26). You cannot add a second to your life by worrying so why damage yourself with it? Mark 9:23 says, "All things are possible to him who believes."

Offering a permanent solution to temporary problems through Christ.

**Skills:** Chaplains must be an understanding listener and have strong faith to deal with the pressures of police and fire work. Chaplaincy is about serving and encouraging others. Chaplain must continue to receive specialized training in emergency services work.

**Police Work:** Police officers are trained to control situations. This means a high stress level on their job. To alleviate stress they need to learn to relax because they cannot control others, participate in some activity to relieve stress, pray and meditate, and talk to someone they trust.

**Goal:** Be a link in the chain that helps people come to have a personal relationship with God. Bring those in suffering closer to God by tearing down barriers through kindness, understanding and aid.

**Personal Testimony-** While on duty, September 20, 2004, I was critically injured in a car collision. I was in the hospital for a month and had five months of physical therapy following the event. I gained insight to how victims feel when they have gone through a traumatic event. I learned the following;

1. The greatest blessing was gaining a greater appreciation for God's mercy because I knew, I mean I KNEW, that He was always with Me. He was with me during my long recovery and strengthened my soul with the Scriptures that I have studied over the years.

2. The next greatest blessing in life is my family. My dedicated, longsuffering wife, and my children and grandchildren were at my side assisting me and praying for my recovery.
3. It has helped me experience the chaplaincy from the victim's point of view. I have a better understanding that the chaplaincy is not the actions of one man. It is comprised of all those who make the chaplaincy possible including the Chaplaincy Board, the Sheriff's Office personnel, Fire and Ambulance crews, and the Hospital staff.

Those who support the Chaplaincy program through prayer and financial support are a great source of encouragement and support. Many of them reached out with calls, emails, and letters during my recovery.

4. Even though I am partially but permanently disabled, and it takes more energy for me to get around, I receive joy at the simplest physical accomplishments. For months I could not go up or down stairs but now I can. For three months I could not get through the day without pain killers but now I don't need them. I am thankful for the things I don't need in my life (crutches, pain killers, wheelchair, physical therapy, hospital help).
5. It has humbled me and heightened my sense of humor. I have always been proud of my physical strength but now I no longer take it for granted. Small tasks became large tasks and I had to laugh at myself when I struggled to do this everyone else takes for granted.