



Braveheart Chaplain Ministry



August 2015

God is our refuge and strength, a helper
who is always found in times of trouble.
Therefore we will not be afraid, though
the earth trembles and the mountains
topple into the depths of the seas, though
its waters roar and foam and the
mountains quake with its turmoil.

Psalm 46:1-3



THE SUMMER OF BIG EVENTS

This summer has been the season of big events in the local emergency responder world. These events have not been the type to garner national news attention; however, they do impact people's lives in a major way. Basically every week, sirens have blared as fire engines and ambulances along with law enforcement vehicles sped to another traumatic scene where events left deep imprints in their wake.

I have had the opportunity to serve responders, victims, and citizens in these situations. I have talked with trauma victims, along with their family and friends, about their experiences; I ensured they received tools to better handle their crisis, and also provided guidance as they take the next step in life.



Month-by-month, some of these big events have been:

June:

- A three vehicle head-on collision on a major highway leaving one driver dead, another taken to the hospital along with an infant passenger.
- A suicide which left behind a husband and teen child. On scene I gave them emotional and logistical support. Gathered additional support, made follow-up phone calls to husband and provided suicide survivor materials.
- Made multiple visits to a citizen in the hospital who had been badly beaten.
- Dispatched to unexpected death scene for senior adult to assist spouse. Conducted graveside service a few days later.
- Counseling session with couple whose home burned.
- Conducted debriefing in Polebridge, adjacent to Glacier National Park, in relation to a drowning incident. Five citizens and two park rangers who helped on scene were aided through the session.
- Assisted employees of medical clinic after a patient suddenly died.
- Taught personal ethics and integrity seminar for Kalispell Police Department's Junior Police Academy.

July:

- 1-vehicle rollover. Provided support to driver and spouse for challenging event.
- Visited officer in emergency room who had been stabbed in the line of duty.
- Spent time in hospital with officer whose baby was born 10 weeks premature.
- On scene of 3-vehicle collision. Assisted teen driver responsible for accident and his family member along with other drivers.
- Responded to unresponsive patient at her residence. Supported family at hospital while unsuccessful resuscitation efforts were made. I had previously served this family when another relative had needed emergency attention.
- 3-vehicle crash. Gave emotional and logistical support to drivers and family members, on scene and at hospital.
- Ride along with deputy which included a 17-minute pursuit resulting in an arrest.

August:

- Assisted fire departments and law enforcement on fire which burned several homes, outbuildings, and grassland. Eleven fire departments along with two firefighting helicopters worked together to suppress the fire and protect surrounding properties.
- 4-vehicle highway accident. Helped involved drivers and passengers process their incident along with family members who arrived on scene which included three teens.
- Responded to plane crash at local city airport. Both pilot and passenger were safe. Provided support as they processed events of the crash.
- Visited responder after his parent suffered an aneurism and was flown out of state for treatment.
- Provided care and guidance to parents after their son killed himself. Made follow-up calls and will be recommending suicide survivor support group.
- Officiated wedding for a dispatcher.

Your support of Braveheart enables me to provide full-time chaplain services throughout our county. The number of traumatic events I was involved in this summer is a stark reminder of the need for Braveheart. Thank you for being a part of this critical ministry.

Drew



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