

Official Identification
International Fellowship
of Chaplains



Honesty Integrity
Commitment

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DEATH
NOTIFICATION

Death Notification

The Law Enforcement Scenario - Called to the Scene ...

The rain beat against the police car window in a wind swept frenzy. Alternating colors of blue and red, hypnotic and penetrating, made the steam on the windshield close in on the occupants. Nothing seemed real.

The words of the officer in the front seat seemed of little consequence to the middle aged couple sitting in the back seat.

Tears running freely down the man's cheek seemed somehow natural while the dazed and somewhat distant glaze in the eyes of the woman seemed as out of place, the officer thought.

A knock on the window brought the officer's attention back to the present.

As he began to roll the window down relief was visible in his eyes.

I thought you were never going to get here the officer said as he unconsciously looked at his watch. Eleven minutes had passed since he called dispatch on his radio to ask for the police chaplain to be sent to the accident scene. Eleven minutes! Yet it seemed like an eternity. Thank God it's a small town.

The man at the window smiled down at him. Windswept rain ran down his face. He was dressed in a suit that said that he'd been at some kind of function when his pager went off. Now he stood there in the soaking rain as though he were unaware of where he was. "Sorry Jim. I was at our church fellowship meeting. I came as soon as I got the page."

The officer stepped out of the car and walked the short way with the Chaplain.

"I know it's hard to sit there with them when... well you know."

The officer looked away towards the accident scene as he spoke with his eyes. He hoped that the rain would hide it.

"The lady was driving, Chaplain. The man was asleep in the backseat. They are on a trip. Witnesses said that the kids in the other car pulled out in front of them. There was no chance to miss them."

He glanced back at the car. No one was visible through the steamy glass, but he really wasn't looking for anyone. "The woman is taking it pretty bad. I thought maybe...well, you do the stuff for us, and I for one, am glad you do."

"Do you have any specifics on the kids, Jim? Names, how many were involved, ages, and has anyone notified their parents?"

"Not yet, Chaplain. The other guys are gathering the information for you now. It will be ready for you by the time you finish talking with these folks."

The officer walked towards the lights of the police cars at the crash site. "Oh, Chaplain." he called back. "The kids had been drinking." "Thanks Jim, I'll talk with these folks."

As the dome light came on, the lady in the back seat jumped as though a shot had been fired. Their eyes met and she burst into tears. Words fluttered from her as she pleaded with him to tell her that the people in the other car were all right.

The Chaplain closed the door the car door. As the rain pelted the window in a roar, it made this discussion nearly impossible. It's going to be a long night, he thought.

This situation is all too common. The Chaplain is called to the scene of a tragedy, and with little or no information, attempts to console and minister to the victims involved.

Complicated at best. Often the Chaplain is called upon to put forth extraordinary effort in the name of ministry.

As in any other ministry, "The Call" as well as "Training" is necessary for the minister to effectively function as a Police Chaplain.

This type of ministry is not for everyone! God's Word tells us to count the cost of the things we do, and this is a good case in point.

In this scenario, the Chaplain has several hours of heart-rending ministry ahead of him/her. First, to minister to the middle-aged couple and then to the families of each of the young people. Then, back to the department to talk with the officers on the scene and maybe the EMT folks who were on the scene for the sake of debriefing. A report must then be written describing the efforts of the Chaplain. The list of those to be ministered to is expanded in proportion to the number of people involved. At times, follow-up is necessary.

The Scenario can run over and over in a week's time, and, on occasion, in the same 24-hour period.

All Ministers are not Chaplains! ---TEST-- Not all Pastors function well as Police Chaplains, or Hospital Chaplains, or Youth Ministry Chaplains, etc., just as all Chaplains are not Pastors. Proper training is a must if you intend to function as a Chaplain. Get all the training you can get! The better you are prepared before you are called to the scene, the more respect you will be shown by the people you serve.

There are several rewards in the work of Chaplaincy excitement, respect, honor, fulfillment. However, the greatest reward is that of serving God's people.

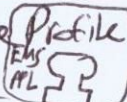
Emergency Services:

- o Reserve Personality
- o Internal Motivation
- o Need to be of service
- o High Tolerance for anxiety
- o High Tolerance for stress

For the first time in their life the outside matched the inside

Care from alcohol/abuse/violent home,

- ~~What do you~~ They want you to know they're human beings (too)
- They're not less prone to emotional outbursts, you'll just have to see it.
- They have a phrase when they're about to lose it

Emergency Services ~~Profile~~ Profile  (2)

43%

Law Enforcement (601)

They carry the pain of life & death on their hips unlike firefighters etc.

~~Never~~

Police officers, are alone unlike ~~firefighters~~ fire fighters & EMTs
Live together, ride together

Video of Police killing someone (1/4)
2 Min 50 sec
Suicide by cop
Led by police officers first & last day on job

He ran his plate & saw he had a very long "rap sheet" so they knew it wasn't going to turn out good.

(4)

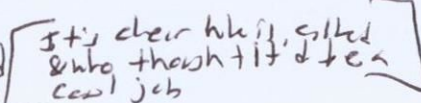
26:35 538P (601) Emergency Services:

A Little Bit of A Diff Group Action Oriented People

We get called when it's bad.
"A Day In The Life"

Sit & Wait

o Action Oriented

o Understand their call 

o Need to be of service

o Controlling Personality (Positive)

o High Dedication

o Difficulty saying No

It was (Police) (Fire fighters) (Profilers) (1)

Emergency Services (601)

Not necessarily immune to the sight of blood
Not always in control
Not always fearless

They all have a desire to serve (Altruistic)

Over time selflessness sets out of balance:

Work Life / Home Life vs vs. Them (dislocation)

Being Controlling

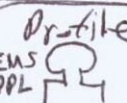
They treat each other better than family by nitlike

"one of us or one of them" thinking

desires job people over family

You'll never see a trembling police officer on the news something you just don't see but still have things

(Death) (Good)

Profile  (3)

Law Enforcement 2 38:37

5

- o death of an infant
- o Discharging a fire-arm in line of duty
- o serious & death notification
- o witnessing a disaster

Even the best still can be rattled when officers engage in dealing with it

Don't Get Sucked In

You must work hard to earn their trust, then they'll trust you.
They'll test you: They have the ability to make life miserable
Reacting looking for a reaction

Reaction Testers

Law Enforcement 2

They'll teach you how to drive a cop car

Citizen Police Academy

Highly Recommended

- Participate in wide variety of training programs
- Officers Range Training
- Defensive Driving
- Narcotics identification & ops

7

Law Enforcement 2

DONT Get sucked in to bureaucracies/politics

- Develop Solid Trust
- Be on time
- Do what they ask/tell
- Find ways to build relationships w/ officers
- Forger
- Dedicated time ride alongs, meetings needs

Howe

6

Law Enforcement 2

Support
Counsel

When Asked
Officers see it as a trust issue
betrayal if disciplin
talks to family w/out
officers agreement.

Offer Prayers

during special occasions such as:
Recruit Graduation - Award Ceremonies, Dedication
of buildings, etc

Some as part of crisis response team

Visit sick & injured dept personnel in home & hospital

Some organizations require you to be a police officer to be a chaplain

Vigilance is natural
~~Hyper~~ Hyper vigilance is
 destructive

6:46 PM

"Vigilance is a psychological trait that allows an individual to scan their environment for threats in an effort to maintain safety but hypervigilance takes that positive quality to a negative extreme. Hyper vigilance places you in a state of high alert that is stressful, anxiety provoking, & exhausting to maintain. Hyper vigilance is linked to anxiety, trauma & substance use disorders."

keep checking their surroundings & find it hard to focus on conversations
 Easily startled & jump or scream at things they hear or see suddenly
 Overreact to things happening around them in ways that seems hostile.
 choosing Anzhyo.com

(9)

Leave the space
 Give them time to decompress

Systems Of disengagement

- Desire for social isolation at home re-energizes to interact w/ others,
- Limited conversations or activities not related to police work
- Reduced interaction w/ non police
- Procrastination in things not related to work
- Your officer loves you with all their heart but they're not capable of... (at home decisions like eating)
- Not involved w/ children
- I "VSTA" syndrome lost of interest in things they used to do.

Hyper Vigilance Can't

(10)

- o Encourage a sleep routine
- o Encourage healthy eating
- o Invest in relationships with social community groups outside of law enforcement circles.
- o Allow for quiet or down time (Good speaks in silence)

Combat
 Myriad of
 issues.

Assignment
 7-De

Dead Law Enforcement Scenario
 "Called to the scene"
 Appendix A-1 & A2

Emotional Survival for Law Enforcement
 by Kevin Gilman, Ph.D (2002)

7:58 PM

(11)

Emergency Service & Law Enforcement Quiz (4 Q's)

7:20 PM

50% 1st try

100%

47%
 Course completion

(12)