

## Chaplain Stories From The Ministry

Many times as chaplains we are called on, to visit patients we have never met before and we know very little of their spiritual background and their families. Three years ago I had a request from one of our rural pastors from a small town in Northern Minnesota to visit a patient at Abbott Northwestern Hospital in Minneapolis.

Upon entering into his room in the cancer wing of the hospital, I introduced myself and let this fine gentleman know that I was representing a pastor from his community. Inside the hospital room was a lady, who I assumed was his wife. In no uncertain terms she explained to me that she was not his wife, but was his long time, live in girlfriend. I treated them like they were believers in Christ Jesus and started with giving them one Scripture per visit to meditate on. I then asked them if I may pray with them for spiritual strength and for this cancer in this man's body.

As I got to know this couple better over several visits during the next three weeks. I started sharing about heaven, our eternal home after this life has ended on the earth. Please remember this, at the end of each visit, when we prayed together. I prayed as if they were believers and asked Father God to heal this man's body of cancer and give this couple spiritual strength. Near one of my last visits with this gentleman he told me: "I don't think I am a believer." I asked him if he wanted to be a believer and he responded; "YES!"

We prayed together and this man received Jesus as his Lord and Savior. Please remember his girlfriend. I was starting to win her over by showing Christ's love for her. I did not know it, but she also accepted Jesus into her own life during one of our prayer times together. She was listening to every word out of my mouth and encouraging herself to open up her life to Jesus.

The gentleman graduated from this earth, to his eternal home in heaven. His girlfriend asked myself if I would officiate his funeral service. What a joy it was for myself to help her and the relatives to know that the love of their life was at home in heaven... waiting for them to join him for eternity.

The girlfriend has been attending this fine rural church from that day forward and does not miss a Sunday at church. She has been discipled by the pastor and his wife and loves the Lord with all of her heart.

When we minister with patients and their family, who are present with us during the visit. Please remember this, we are ministering to everyone in the room. Not just the patient, but family members, nurses and even doctors.

*Scripture: Galatians 6:1-2 (NIV)*

### **Doing Good to All**

*1 Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted. 2 Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.*

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We make calls to every age person in the chaplaincy. Many of the calls I make to hospitals in the metro area are at the five Children's Hospitals. Many of these hospital visits are with parents who have never stood inside any church in and in their parent's life. A request is usually made for the visit from a Godly friend or relative.

to many of these families I visit “Jesus Christ” are words they use to curse with. Through showing Father God’s love for them. After a few visits with the families their language begins to change in front of Scripture: of myself. Father God is changing their cold, stony heart to a new heart of flesh and love for Him.

Many people I have discovered have never had the opportunity to experience God’s love and mercy for them. Please ask for the Holy Spirit to let you make the connection and show His love to others.

*Scripture: 1 John 5:20 (NIV)*

*We know also that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true. And we are in him who is true by being in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.*

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Early one morning, two years ago, I received a call from one of our pastors in the state. This pastor likes to make his own hospital visits and very rarely, does he request myself to visit one of his church members.

I quickly rearranged my schedule of visits for the day and went immediately to Minneapolis Children’s Hospital to visit and pray with a little girl and her mother.

Upon my arrival on the floor for this little girls room, I began walking toward the room, when a group of doctors and the medical team exited her room. By their demeanor and the look on their faces, I knew that had giving this little girl and her mother the worst news possible. (Medical Teams give you facts... Jesus gives us hope.)

As I approached the room, I prayed and knocked on the door. As I entered into the room both of these precious children of God were crying together. There was so much heaviness in the room, so after I introduced myself to them and told them their pastor was out of town and that he asked me to stop by and pray with them. I knew I had to lighten the atmosphere within the room.

I starting telling them some really corny jokes that I pulled from my past children’s pastor ministry years.

“What do you get when you throw a purple rock into the red sea?” **“A Wet Rock!”**

“What State love Jesus more than any other State?” **“Ohio Loves Jesus, Ohio Loves Jesus!”**

“What do you call a beef cow with two legs?” **“Lean Beef!”**

“What do you call a beef cow with no legs?” **“Ground Beef!”**

“Why did the chicken cross the playground?” **“To Get To The Other Slide!”**

After a few of these corny jokes, laughter had filled the room with smiles on the little girls and her mothers faces. Then it was time to pray together. As we prayed with hope for the blood of Jesus to bring healing to this little girls body, we prayed and believed Father God for her physical healing in her body.

The back story is that the medical team who had left the little girls room, had told them the facts of her case. They had told them that they had done everything they could do medically for this little girl. She had two to three days to live. Facts are fine but Hope is better!

This little girl did go home two days latter with her mother “Miraculously Healed!”

A month or two later, this mother and daughter would always sit in the second row at church each Sunday. This particular Sunday there was an older gentleman sitting next to this little girl. After the service was dismissed by the pastor, this gentleman approached the pastor and informed him of how happy his daughter and granddaughter have been in attending this church. He was a member of a main line denominational church and was visiting on this Sunday.

This wonderful pastor was in the middle of a building campaign and needed to raise a little over four million dollars for the churches children’s addition they were adding to their building. This gentleman reached into his front shirt pocket and handed the pastor a folded check, telling him that he wanted to give towards this building. The pastor did not open the folded check and simply put it into his shirt pocket, thanked him and greeted the other visitors at church that day.

After everyone had left the building, the pastor was reminded of the folded check in his shirt pocket. Upon unfolding the check in his hands, the pastor was surprised and overjoyed to find the amount written on the check was for \$250,000.

The pastor immediately called his finance manager at the church and told him; “We have to start supporting Pastor Carl Lindelien on a monthly basis for the hospital ministries.” Thank You Pastor.

Within the year on a Sunday morning worship service another older gentleman was sitting next to this little girl and her mother. After the service was dismissed this gentleman approached the pastor with thanksgiving for the ministry from the church to his niece and her daughter. This gentleman also reached into his shirt pocket and removed a folded check and gave it to the pastor, telling him he wanted to be a part of this building project. This man did not attend the church and was visiting with a purpose in mind.

The pastor thanked the man for the check and opened it up to find the check was a matching gift of \$250,000. “After every Miracle comes a Blessing!”

I often tell pastors this story and let them know; “If you do not call on myself to make hospital visits for you... you could miss out on a half a million dollar gift!”

**Scripture: Romans 15:26-28 (NIV)**

*26 For Macedonia and Achaia were pleased to make a contribution for the poor among the Lord’s people in Jerusalem. 27 They were pleased to do it, and indeed they owe it to them. For if the Gentiles have shared in the Jews’ spiritual blessings, they owe it to the Jews to share with them their material blessings.*