County-Wide Chaplaincy Thanks you!

August 2026

STORY: Part 4

"Who am I to question the pen in the hands of The Author?"

This is a line from a song I hear often on the radio lately. There are so many things in this world that don't make sense to us. Particularly as believers, it is hard not to question the Lord and wonder, "What is He doing?" or "Is He doing anything?" As the song reminds us, He is the author, and even when it doesn't feel right or good or fair, He can and will work things out for good.

In my journey to learn more about our chaplains' stories, I learned that Chaplain Sam's call to the chaplaincy might fit in this category. His call came out of two very difficult tragedies, the unexpected deaths of two very close friends, causing one to truly question what is happening. But rather than a specific call or sense that being a chaplain is "what I want to do" it was more of him being put in certain places or alongside certain people. He describes it as the Lord just opening and closing doors.

Sam had been an electrician by trade and because of an injury was unable to continue in that profession. In his journey to do what the Lord placed in front of him, he continued to learn more about the chaplaincy, sometimes in unexpected places. Along the way, he also met people who clearly saw him as a chaplain and encouraged him in that direction. People were kind, people invested in him, and the Lord continued to lead. He would ride alongside other chaplains and learn from them and their experience. After about six years of training and then doing calls on his own, he was quite surprised when he was asked to be in a lead role in this ministry, the Interim Director. Again, the Lord opened doors, worked through others, and directed Sam as to how He would want to use him. Years before, while going to Bible College, he had wondered what God would ask of him in service for His work. I think the Lord has made it clear! Sam has served in the chaplaincy over 20 years now and I am one of the many who have benefited from and appreciated his help in times of great distress. It is clearly a testimony to the faithfulness of the Lord when we choose to be moldable, available and willing. Sam has done just that! Sam chose to follow the Lord's leading to "be there to help when it hurts" and in turn many have been blessed!

His story is a great reminder that God uses even the hardest of times that come into our lives to mold us and shape us and use us. The closing line of the same song states, “I’m ink in the pen in the hands of The Author.” It reminds me of the verse in Isaiah 64:8: “Yet you, Lord, are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand.” As we strive to be the ink, to be the moldable clay, let us remind ourselves that we serve a good God who loves us more that we can understand.

Thank you for your support and care for this ministry.

Jan Richards

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