

## Newsletter June 2026

***"But a Samaritan while traveling came across him, and when he saw him he was moved with compassion. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, treating them with oil and wine. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him." Luke 10:34***

I love the story of the Good Samaritan that Jesus tells in Luke Chapter 10. You know the story.... Jesus teaches on what it is to be a neighbor by challenging the arrogance of some religious leaders making an "ungodly" Samaritan the hero of his story. All the while the respected and "godly" leaders didn't have enough time to show compassion to a neighbor in need.

As I reflect on the people that I get the great opportunity to serve, I realize that the men and women of the first responder community are much like the Samaritan of Jesus' story. They wake up everyday and willingly do hard things to serve their neighbors with compassion and dignity. They provide this service with no regard to the hurt person's identity or status. Also like the Samaritan, they provide this service at significant cost to themselves.

What is that cost? These professionals could make more than they do in other jobs and yet they willingly sacrifice for a compensation that is far more valuable. The compensation of knowing that you made a difference with your day. They also risk their mental, emotional, spiritual and even physical health. They do this by working long hours at all times of the day and night. They do this by running towards danger when everyone else is running away. They do this by carrying burdens and emotional pain that the average person will never have to carry.

The first responders we get to serve at Frontline Faith are amazing people, but they are still people. Just like the Samaritan, their compassion comes at a cost to them and we owe it to them to return the favor and help them with compassionate service and healing in Jesus name.

I went on a ride a long with an officer recently and the North Region admin assistant took this picture of me before heading out. During this ride the officer and I were dispatched to a call where a young mother had all of her monthly income stolen. This young mom was fighting back tears as she told the officer her story. I asked her if she would like for me to pray for her. She said that she very much would like that. The officer I was with wanted to join in with us. So there we were, a Chaplain, a cop, and a

young mom praying on the side of the road. We weren't able to help her to replace the money she had lost but maybe we were able to give her a little hope.

At the end of the ride, I was talking to the officer and his supervisor about Chaplaincy and how we can care for our officers. The officer then said, "We need this", speaking of the support of chaplaincy in Law Enforcement. I was so thankful and encouraged to ride with this officer. He is truly a modern good Samaritan type of guy!

The picture below is a group of my friends after we had lunch together at Mission BBQ. We call ourselves "The Hive Five". When Roger, Sherri, Shannon, Rayna, and I meet for lunch we laugh so hard that sometimes we cry! All of them work to assist victim's of crime in our state and I have the privilege of working with them through the state Victim's Advocate Association. Each of them work hard everyday to show compassion for the hurting and bring tangible help to the broken. All of them are driven by their faith in Jesus. All of them make our state better with the work that they do. These folks also are good Samaritan types and I'm thankful to have their friendship.

Lastly, this is Chaplain Dale and I with one of our 911 dispatchers, Dominic. Our dispatchers are on the frontlines of the first responder world because every call comes through them and is managed by them. First Responder work cannot function without men and women like Dominic. They too are like the Samaritan ready to get you the help you need when you call 911.

Dale and I have decided to go out together once a month and do "Chaplain Check-ins". We find that sometimes just showing up and talking to people creates great opportunity for ministry and encouragement. After we left the 911 call center we went over to police headquarters and talked with several of our staff there. They really seemed to enjoy a visit and Dale and I enjoyed working together, so we're going to make it a regular thing!

The story of the Good Samaritan is so impactful to me because anyone can be a good neighbor. You don't have to have a ministry job, or a seminary degree. All you have to have is some compassion and a willingness to give a little of yourself to help your neighbor in need. This is what the First Responder Community is all about and it's what Chaplaincy is all about. I also think that Jesus wants all of us to have this neighborly compassion for the hurting around us. I hope that we all can catch the same kind of compassion and neighborly care of the Good Samaritan and of the local heroes that serve us everyday!

If you are on Facebook or Instagram give us a follow and share our page. We are trying to post several times a week there to keep everyone better informed on the work we are blessed to do.