

A Christmas Blessing

Mid-December I was called out to an assisted living home after one of the residents passed away. I had a lovely meeting with the deceased's daughter and son-in-law for a few hours. As I walked out, one of the employees of the home asked if she could speak with me. I naturally assumed it was about the deceased woman, but as she began speaking I realized she needed prayer for her own family. She was becoming very emotional, and spoke very little English but I found it amazing how the Holy Spirit intervened and made things clear for me. She told me about her son being in trouble with the law, lost in Portland and that her family hadn't been able to locate or reach him in several weeks- she feared the worst. I asked her if she had a faith background and she responded "Orthodox". I asked if she I could pray over her and her family and she happily said yes. We moved to a quieter place and I placed my hand on her shoulder as she held her hands out in surrender to God. Lead by the Holy Spirit, I prayed that the Lord would intervene and guide her son back home. A week later I received a call from her brother, whom I'd never met. He said she asked him to call me and tell me that God had answered the prayers and her son came home Christmas Eve. I was so touched by this answer to prayer. All the glory to God for what he does through people and prayer! May God continue to work in her son!

When Tragedy Strikes a Small Town



My first solo call of 2022 was in February at the tragic Line of Duty Death of St. Paul Volunteer firefighter, Austin Smith. When the call came through early that morning it didn't sound like anything too unusual until I arrived on scene and found out a firefighter was down. Austin had just been Life Flighted to

OHSU in Portland. The firefighters regrouped at the station as well as two other TVF&R Chaplains. Together, we did a diffusing exercise with the firemen - providing coping mechanisms based on what they were feeling the first few hours after this powerful event. I was later asked to be one of the Chaplains at the funeral service and be available for the community as they processed their grief. It was gut wrenching to hear the recorded radio call from dispatch - an experience I will never forget. The community came together in such a powerful way and it was apparent how many lives Austin Smith touched in his short thirty years.



Leo Day Keelan, July 11, 1944 – May 16, 2022

In May of 2022 we lost my father, Leo D. Keelan to organ failure. Leo enlisted in the United States Air Force on April 15, 1964. He proudly served his country while being stationed in Germany and at the Minot Air Force Base. He was honorably discharged on May 14, 1968. While serving at the Minot Air Force Base he met Janice Edwards. They were married on April 22, 1972. Leo began working for the Minot Police Department (MPD) following his discharge. During his time with the MPD Leo served as a detective, a sergeant, and had the first police K9 unit in Minot. He proudly served MPD for 36 years and upon retirement began working security at the Ward County Court House.

As his son, I saw first hand the effects of the trauma and stress he endured as a police officer and it is one of the reasons I'm passionate about helping the men and women I serve. It is my desire to help our police and fire department personnel process through the events they see on a daily basis in a healthy manner with the goal of preserving their marriages, and families and building their resiliency. Through this work I hope to make a kingdom impact in my local community - together we can come alongside these brave individuals and bring them the love and hope of Jesus.

CHAP FACTS - 2022 CALLS

- Dundee Volunteer Fire Station Completed 670 Calls in 2022
- TVF&R (28 Fire Stations) Answered Nearly 60,000 Calls in 2022
- Washington County Sheriff Answered 104,575 Calls in 2022- averaging over 300 calls a day



How to Partner with Leo Keelan, Hope Chaplain:

To give online, go to HopeChaplain.com and click on **Partner/Donate**. This takes you to Tithe.ly via Public Safety Chaplaincy -the non-profit I work for that processes all of my donations. **IMPORTANT:** Please make a note that it is for **Hope Chaplain or Leo Keelan**. If you prefer to send a check, please address it to Public Safety Chaplaincy, 1500 NW 167th Place, Beaverton, OR 97006. Write *Hope Chaplain or Leo Keelan* in the MEMO so PSC knows who to credit the donation to. Donations through PSC are tax deductible. Federal 501(c)(3) ID # 93-0872565.

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Serving these Organizations: TVF&R, Dundee Fire/Rescue, Newberg Police, Washington County Sheriff, Aurora Fire District, McMinnville Fire District, Oregon Fire Chief Association, Grace Chapel MRT, Doug Center & SW Washington CISM Team.