



**“STAYING
CONNECTED”
Free Methodist
Chaplain
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THANK YOU!!! Chaplains, Chaplain Families, & all who Pray/Praise for Free Methodist Chaplains, Pastors, Missionaries, all other CHRIST-Followers!
“The first thing I want you to do is pray. Pray every way you know how, for everyone you know.” I Tim 2:1

Devotional: “Chaplains can be **well-Connected!**”

As believing servants of Christ and faithful workers within the Kingdom of God every active Christian (ordained clergy and/or baptized laity) can be spiritually connected to God through Christ by the Holy Spirit. Wow! ***I hope we never “get over” being amazed, humbled, and profoundly encouraged by the wonderful grace of God*** – who makes divine connection possible for us all! God’s grace seeks us out (prevenient grace, divine enablement that “goes before”) and enables us to freely choose to confess, repent of our sin, and accept the life that God offers. **Never forget** God’s love and grace in creating humankind in his likeness! And God’s grace offered in the sacrifice of Christ and the gift of the Holy Spirit. His grace goes far beyond forgiveness and includes divine power for life and godliness (Ephesians 2:8-10; II Peter 1:2-4). Peter writes that our lives connected to Christ show (1:5-8) faith, goodness, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness and love; and that if a believer lacks these qualities it is because he/she “has forgotten that he has been cleansed of his past sins.” (1:9) **Remember** dear sisters and brothers what God’s grace means to you, and know that you are never so connected to Christ as **when you are sharing that grace with others!**

Dr. **David Ashton** echoes a similar connecting thought in a Light and Life Magazine article: “John Wesley’s sermons ‘On Visiting the Sick’ and ‘On Zeal,’ arrange the means of grace in a hierarchy. He lists church attendance as the lowest and least effective means of grace, with works of piety, reading the Scriptures, receiving the sacraments, private and public prayer and fasting as being only moderate means of grace. But when it comes to participation in works of mercy, Wesley claims them as the highest means of

grace. It is there, he insists, that God is most actively present. It is there that we are most like God (godly). He also underscores his claim that visiting with the sick is one of the ways we worship God best. Jesus said, “Whatever you did for one of the least of these . . . you did for me” (Matthew 25:40). If worship is ministering to God, then ministering to the needs of the ill and housebound is serving our Lord Himself.”

Be encouraged chaplains and all others serving the Lord through serving others! Thanks be to God! You can have a **very alive connection!**



Six years ago this month **Bishop David Kendall** endorsed River Conference Elder **Rick L. Kerr** as Hospital and Hospice Chaplain. Rick had already learned a lot about connecting with people.

Chaplain Kerr & CEO Pate He served 21 years as Pastor to several FM Churches in Oregon, Washington, and Idaho. After a CPE Residency at the St. Luke’s Boise Medical Center he was hired as a full time Staff Chaplain. His skills and compassion were so evident that he became a Board Certified Chaplain in his second year. In his sixth year CH Kerr was presented St. Luke’s Presidents Award- 16 out of 4,000 employees. **David C. Pate, M.D. J.D.** President and CEO of St. Luke’s Health System said CH Rick bolstered morale, helped decrease staff burnout in what can be a very difficult emotional environment, and worked to develop “reflection rounds” focused on the emotions of patient



care. The ICU Staff wrote Rick is a compassionate person, cares so deeply for the staff and patients, and is a great part of our team. He is only the second chaplain to receive this award since 1990! **Norm** on the left is the manager of Spiritual

Care, then wife **Debbie, Ch Kerr** and son **Jordan**.

Congratulations Chaplain “Care” Rick Kerr!

Please pray for several of our Chaplains who are recovering:

SCA Ch **Cheri Coleman** after a Dec. motorcycle accident, ACTS Ch **John “Ike” Owen** following knee replacement, NCC Ch **Ray Leach** pinched nerve, herniated disc surgery WAB Ch **Larry “Rac” Racster** after a hernia operation

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