



NIBIC NEWS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF BUSINESS AND INDUSTRIAL CHAPLAINS
February, 2009

From NIBIC Executive Director

This issue of the NIBIC News contains a number of articles celebrating the vital ministries of our members as they have been reaching out to employees and their families, victims of natural disasters, travelers, those affected by the economic downturn, service members returning from Afghanistan and Iraq, and more.

As the Texas Gulf Coast continues its slow recovery from Hurricane Ike this fall, we still see too many blue tarps, tall piles of rubble, displaced people and not enough FEMA trailers, hospitals closed and community services struggling. NIBIC member Steve Holden traveled to the area to assist, and I want to give a special big thanks to Certified Member Sonny Davis for his generous financial contribution to the Worklife Institute to assist with our outreach ministry after Ike.

Please give Tim Bancroft's article on Futuring your particular attention and send your feedback for the next issue. We want to continue to follow up on our international roundtable last June and take the lead in moving chaplaincy ahead into collaborative service in the workplace.

It is Membership Renewal time, so we have included our Dues and Directory Update sheet to this issue of the Newsletter. We know that many NIBIC members are experiencing challenges in their lives and ministries, and we have heard from members who have recently been laid off as their companies are reducing force. So, for 2009, we are reducing Certified, Clinical and Professional membership dues to \$75, to give you a bit of relief.

Continue to send in your news, and also please consider volunteering your talent to enhance our Newsletter by coming on board to serve as editor. Let us know if you would be interested in a monthly or quarterly teleconferencing roundtable discussion. We have that service at the Worklife Institute and will be happy to host themed discussions. This is the year for creative connections with one another in ministry.

Chaplain Diana Dale, D.Min., NBCC

Breezewood Trucker and Traveler Ministry

The Breezewood Trucker and Traveler Ministry is a highway workplace ministry sponsored by the Pennsylvania Council of Churches at the crossroads of Breezewood.

We endeavor to live out a gospel witness in a very public setting guided by the parable of the Good Samaritan. The Chaplaincy is a Christian outreach of prayer, presence, counsel, hospitality, and emergency assistance to truck drivers, their families, travelers and local area employees.

Local business, civic groups, and churches/regional church bodies are partners in the chaplaincy, providing numerous resources for ministry. We continue to operate within the two Breezewood Travel Plazas, providing a space for counsel and prayer, meeting needs for meals, lodging, gas, or transportation, offering Travel Plaza hospitality tables, faith literature/devotionals/CDs/ Bibles, and "ziplock" traveler care packages – among other forms of outreach. Additionally, we supervised a Wesley Theological Seminary "Immersion" student in 2008.

The year 2008 continued a trend of increasing emergency assistance requests, due to financial strains across the socio-economic spectrum. The nature of our "interventions" has been more involved and complex. Many traveler requests evolved into problem solving for more than just an engine overhaul or lodging for a person who was homeless. Broken family relations, substance abuse, and budget counseling were a few of the topics addressed. Additionally, we found an increase in complex family situations among area employees and residents who had been laid off or had reduced hours.

Chaplain Bruce B. Maxwell

How Do You Comfort Someone Who Has Lost Everything?

Chaplain Steve Holden, Executive Director of the United States Emergency Chaplain Corps, has been on the site of every major disaster since 9/11. He has confronted that question every time.

“People will say, ‘What do you say to somebody?’ ” he said. “It’s not always what you say. It’s what you can do. What’s most significant is, can we bring hope? Can we put hope back in a situation?”

When someone is at the end of their rope emotionally, he said, nobody can help them until they’re convinced there’s something to move toward.

“That’s the number one thing I try to do, put hope back into the situation, instead of chaos,” he said.

A former volunteer firefighter with the Harristown Fire Department, Holden served as chaplain for the Macon County Fire Association before founding the U.S. Emergency Chaplain Corps. The Corps’ main focus is the first responders themselves. Chaplains were on hand with rescuers who worked at Ground Zero recovering remains after 9/11 and would pray when someone was found and then escort the remains to the morgue. Chaplains rode with police, fire and rescue workers in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina on the same kind of mission, to help first responders cope with the death and destruction they were seeing.

Holden was on the Gulf Coast again for Gustav and Rita, and went to Greensburg, Kansas, when that community was destroyed by a tornado.

In between, the Corps holds an annual 9/11 memorial on the site of the latest disaster – this year, Greensburg – where they rebuild a destroyed home and march through the community in full uniform, accompanied by a bagpiper. Each year, there are more first responders from more places, Holden said, because people come from the previous year’s site to add their numbers to the march.

Valerie Wells, H&R Staff Writer, Decatur, GA

NIBIC Certified Members (NBCC)

All current NIBIC Certified members have received by e-mail your 2009 Recertification forms. Please fill in your continuing education and chaplain leadership activities accomplished during 2008. Email us if you need another copy.

Please return them ASAP to the national office, along with your Directory Updates.

NIBIC Participation - COMISS Network Annual Forum

Executive Director Diana Dale and Certified Member Robert Lewis represented NIBIC in Washington, D.C. the first weekend of January 2009 at the COMISS Network Forum. This year we focused on spiritual care of veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan and their families.

Dr. Dale contributed a number of resources for pastoral care givers to use, including web sites of the leading benefits and services organizations. If you are working with this population, contact her for a list of useful websites, organizations and other materials at dcdale@worklifeinstitute.com.

Of particular note is the new National Resource Directory, an online partnership for wounded, ill and injured Service Members, Veterans and their families and those who support them. It is sponsored by the Departments of Labor, Defense and Veterans Affairs. The Director can be accessed at www.nationalresourcedirectory.org The Worklife Institute has its program listed.

The COMISS Network is continuing to work on its draft *Covenant Between Religious Endorsing Bodies and Pastoral Care Certifying Bodies*.

Endorsement by a faith group declares that a person meets its standards to serve in specialized settings and provides support and discernment. Certification is granted by certifying agencies, such as NIBIC, to declare that the person is in compliance with professional standards of competence. Both are needed for accountability and integrity of service in outreach ministries.

NIBIC News and Notes

3

Carol Crowder, NIBIC member from Austin, TX, and her husband have owned a radiator repair shop business for 12 years where they train men to be industrial radiator mechanics. Recently released former offenders are one population they have been interested in training and helping attain good livelihoods. Now they are exploring offering this opportunity to returning veterans. Once people receive the training they can be certified through the National Automotive Service Association and can find well-paying work at any industrial radiator shop or even open their own business.

3

Carmen Figueroa, from Southern California, continues as a volunteer Chaplain with Vitas Hospice and Sharp Medical Center in San Diego.

3

Kevin Glesener, Chaplain with Vermeer, located in Pella, Iowa, wrote to clarify his chaplaincy affiliation. Workplace and Family Life Services provides the Employee Assistance Program for Vermeer, and Kevin is employed by WFLS as the first chaplain to work with Vermeer. His supervisor is a therapist, and it is good to see this recognition and collaboration from the clinical side of EAP and their openness to chaplaincy in the workplace.

3

Steve Holden, of U.S. Emergency Chaplain Corps: We did our second annual Stars of Hope project in Galveston, Texas. This project began last year in an effort to bring a little color and life to Greensburg, Kansas, in the recovery from the deadly tornado that wiped out the town. This year Galveston was chosen in the wake of Hurricane Ike.

The school children paint a personal message on their stars with absolutely the brightest colors we can find. Then each star is fastened to a stake which we hammer in at as many street corners as we can prior to Christmas vacation. I can't tell you how excited the kids are to go looking for their star during the holidays with their family.

Steve adds: I would also like to address another issue – our spiritual side. I know there are lots of (New Year's) resolutions everyone is fighting to keep but let our spiritual side take center stage. I took a weekend and went to Kansas City for some prayer and reflection at the International House of Prayer and feel all the better for doing so.

We keep hearing of the economic storms and political upheaval here and abroad. Let me speak a few words of calm to the spiritual storm. As Jesus stared down the storm at sea and commanded "Peace be still" I take these

Grant by San Antonio Area Foundation TRIAD Fund Extended

The San Antonio Foundation received a 2-year extension of their TRIAD (Texas Resources for Iraq-Afghanistan Deployment) grant, and have been given an additional seven and a half million dollars to provide grants to non-profit organizations across the southern Texas regions.

The grants from TRIAD, to provide for unmet needs, are restricted to service members (active, retired, Guard and Reserve) who are now or have served in Iraq and/or Afghanistan, post 9/11. These grants also provide services for the military person's family, who often are excluded from the service member's other benefits.

The Worklife Institute and the United Way 211 hotline in Houston have applied to extend their successful grants from the previous year.

The Worklife Institute's program, *OEF/OIF Reentry and Worklife Transition Program*, is designed as a one-stop-shop, where service-members and their families can come for career transition and job search counseling, personal and family counseling, legal services and referral. Also, the Institute is open for service members to come in and meet, relax, and use the Institute computers to access the internet.



Workplace Chaplaincy Strategic Directions for the Future

As I have contemplated the state of workplace chaplaincy amidst the contemporary pastoral care movement, some outlines of defining shapes have emerged that will impact the future of our work together.

Workplace chaplaincy must retain a core of ethical integrity that allows both the chaplain and recipients of pastoral care to respect each others' spiritual traditions and values. A non-proselytizing ethic is the cornerstone for all other pastoral care work.

Further, the strategic development of NIBIC must address the following issues.

1. The New Connectivity

Pastoral care lives and thrives only to the extent it is expressed in relationships. Although the post World War II generations have too often been so consumed in narcissism, they have shown the eternal relational dimension of human existence in the variety of informational technology connections (email, blogs, twitters, ipod recording, etc.) that are being used to connect with others. The next generation of chaplaincy must be relational in both the interpersonal sense and with the variety of information technology avenues.

2. Identity "Branding"

Traditional organizational development has focused on helping organizations develop their identity, mission and vision statements. We are now realizing that contemporary Americans have been so programmed by our advertising culture that it is important to assist people to disconnect from that advertising programming. Hence, we must cap our identity, mission and vision statements with a clear advertising strategy that allows our chaplaincy profession to stand out amidst the defining image that has been planted in the minds of most Americans.

3. Alignment of the Total Organization

Once we have developed the connectivity of interpersonal and information technology networks, and fashioned our identity / mission / vision statement into a clear identity "brand" amidst our consumerist culture, we must correlate the size and task force/committees of our organizations to consistently express and apply who we are and what we do.

4. Promotion

Lastly, it is time to celebrate our work by promoting its importance and relevance to each of our workplace settings. Again, this means using the whole range of interpersonal, written, and information technology venues within a coordinated strategy.

Too many try to begin their efforts with number four, while number one is the most difficult. Yet taking time to build your "new connectivity" and your "brand identity" will allow the rest of pastoral care work to take on a clearer focus and a greater effectiveness.

Chaplain Tim Bancroft, NBCC



Training at Worklife Institute

Houston, Texas

Family Mediation Training (30 hours)

March 11-14, 2009

Professional Mediation Training (40 hours)

April 16-18, 23-25, 2009

Workplace Conflict Management Programs

(24 hours)

May 14-16, 2009

Contact Worklife Institute at
713-266-2456

The following article appeared in the Memphis Conference edition of The United Methodist Reporter, November 28, 2008.

100-year-old United Methodist Neighborhood Centers of Memphis still alive and in ministry

Contrary to what you may have heard about budget shortfalls affecting ministry, United Methodist Neighborhood Centers is still in the business of helping people. New Interim Executive Director, Chaplain Elvernice “Sonny” Davis, believes a great future awaits the agency.

Sharon Lockhart, president of the Key Women, says things have really been looking up since Davis took the reins of the organization. “We know God will lead us in the direction He wants us to go.”

Lockhart added that the Board of Trustees is meeting to decide “our steps forward.” Plans already include the sale of the buildings on Walnut Grove and Greenlaw. “I hope to see a greater connectional presence at Neighborhood Centers in the future,” she said, expressing optimism that Davis’ leadership is moving the agency in the right direction.

This Christmas, thanks to UMNC volunteers, more than 100 families will receive Thanksgiving baskets and over 250 children will play with new toys this Christmas season.

That’s in addition to countless families receiving food from five Food Pantries, 400 hot meals served weekly at Holy Community Church, and 72 mothers and children—mostly from Sudan, Somalia, Egypt, Ethiopia and Yemen—being tutored in English as a Second Language classes in the Refugee Economic

Independence Program.

UMNC cares for 65-70 children in the Day Care Center and its Thrift Stores provide affordable prices needy families.

Chaplain Davis, who recently retired from Methodist Healthcare as Senior Vice President of Health and Welfare Ministries, was surprised to find that UMNC also provides emergency aid to stranded travelers and provides utility cutoff prevention.

Davis is very appreciative of agencies that provide assistance to those families experiencing hard times. He said he’s very proud that the Memphis Conference strongly supports this social outreach.



Journal of Pastoral Care

All members of NIBIC should be receiving the *Journal of Pastoral Care & Counseling*. This is a membership benefit, so please contact the NIBIC office at 713-266-2456 or email to dcdale@worklifeinstitute.com if you are not receiving the journal.

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