

GAME WARDEN CHAPLAIN'S CHAT



"WORDS OF LIFE"

This month's word is a "cosmic" word. In other words, it has to do with eternity, everlasting, both forward and backward. It's one of the words the New Testament Greek uses for "Heaven." As you can imagine, as a pastor and now as a Chaplain, I get many questions about eternity and Heaven. The words I hear often contain the ideas of "when" is eternity?, "when" did eternity start? Or, about Heaven, I hear questions about "where is Heaven?" as though it has a geography and Google Maps might have a way to find it. The truth is, "eternity" is a cosmological, philosophical, theological and ethereal idea, whereas "Heaven" is almost exclusively a theological (words about God) issue.

To be honest, though I have spent many years dealing with both issues, we are not told much in our religious texts, no matter what religion you follow or whether you follow one at all, about either one. We make inferences, deductions and suppositions about both of them, but in the grand scheme of things, we don't know much about either. The word you see below is the Greek New Testament word for both. Literally translated, it means "eternal and everlasting." Metaphorically, it is also used for "Heaven" because the idea is the same—eternity. Strictly speaking, not all religions even have this concept of "Heaven," and some really don't care about it.

The reason I
month's
heard a

αιωνιος

bring it up in this
newsletter is that I
wonderful illustration

about what it means for those of us who believe in and have an interest in eternity and/or heaven. It goes something like this:

A sick man turned to his doctor as he was preparing to leave the examination room and said, "Doctor, I am afraid to die. Tell me what lies on the other side." Very quietly, the doctor said, "I don't really know." The patient looked startled and replied, "You, a religious man, do not know what is on the other side?" The doctor was holding the handle of the door; on the other side came a sound of scratching and whining. As he opened the door, a dog sprang into the room and leaped on him with an eager show of gladness. Turning to the patient, the doctor said, "Did you notice my dog? He's never been in this room before. He didn't know what was inside. He knew nothing except that his master was in here, and when the door opened, he sprang in without fear. I know little of what is on the other side of death, but I do know one thing: I know my Master is there, and that is enough for me."

Each of us faces the reality of death. Hopefully, it will be far off for us and our loved ones, but each of us will face it, eventually. Yet, some of us are scared to death of it and want nothing to do with it, while others of us don't want it now, but relish the thought of "going home." You?

“Watching Ourselves”

Growing Up . . . At Any Age!! I had a friend I cared about deeply. Articulate, smart, pleasant (when she wanted to be), and was a class act. I always admired her for her way with words.

Controversy, however, was her joy, and she loved a good fight. The smallest issue became a point of contention. She had to convince you that she was right about most things. She could walk into a calm, peaceful situation and in a short time have people at each others' throats. She took sides on non-important issues, and you could easily offend her. As much as people loved her—and they did—she could not avoid confrontation. Some people became hostile and opposed her at every opportunity. Every experience for



her was a cliffhanger. After a long stint in her leadership position, she was fired from her very good job. Years later our paths crossed and she lamented to me the sorrows and hurts of her life. She had forsaken her spouse and had become involved with several others outside her marriage, and now the world around her had crumbled. She was alone.

As we talked, I loved her enough to ask, “Why, why, why?”

She responded, “I never grew up, never assumed responsibility. I never learned to shut my mouth! I lost it all.”

As your Chaplain, I say: “Make sure you grow up! Remember to take responsibility for yourself, your spouse, your kids, your fellow Game Wardens and your spiritu-

“Family Foundations”

When I decided to ask D’Lisa to marry me, I was obliged to give her something of great worth. Now, most people would give a big diamond, 24K gold ring, or something worthwhile. I was in college and we were so poor, together, that the most we could afford was a three-piece set of rings for about \$300 (1982); not much, especially in today’s economy. Over the years I have watched as many things have changed in relation to worth. Gold, silver and diamonds have gained ground in their worth, but many other things have gained even more worth in my eyes. Take, for instance, the wisdom of children as they look at the world. Maybe these ideas will give you an idea of just how worthwhile the wisdom of a child might be:

JACK (age 3) was watching his Mom breast-feeding his new baby sister... After a while he asked: 'Mom why have you got two? Is one for hot milk and one for cold milk?'

BRITTANY (age 4) had an ear ache and wanted an aspirin. The girl tried in vain to take the lid off the bottle. Seeing her frustration, her Mom explained it was a child-proof cap and she'd have to open it for her. Eyes wide with wonder, the little girl asked: 'How does it know it's me?'

SUSAN (age 4) was drinking juice when she got the hiccups. 'Please don't give me this juice again,' she said, 'It makes my teeth cough.'

DJ (age 4) stepped onto the bathroom scale and asked: 'How much do I cost?'

CLINTON (age 5) was in his bedroom looking worried when his Mom asked what was troubling him, he replied, 'I don't know what'll happen with this bed when I get married. How will my wife fit in it?'

MARC (age 4) was engrossed in a young couple that were hugging and kissing in a restaurant. Without taking his eyes off them, he asked his dad: 'Why is he whispering in her mouth?'

TAMMY (age 4) was with her mother when they met an elderly, rather wrinkled woman her Mom knew. Tammy looked at her for a while and then asked, 'Why doesn't your skin fit your face?'

JAMES (age 4) was listening to a Bible story. His dad read: 'The man named Lot was warned to take his wife and flee out of the city but his wife looked back and was turned to salt.' Concerned, James asked: 'What happened to the flea?'

The Sermon I think this Mom will never forget... This particular Sunday sermon... 'Dear Lord,' the minister began, with arms extended toward heaven and a rapturous look on his upturned face. 'Without you, we are but dust....' He would have continued but at that moment my very obedient daughter, who was listening, leaned over to me and asked quite audibly in her shrill little four year old girl voice, 'Mom, what is butt dust?'

Remember, the children, of whom God has blessed us, are an eye-piece into their world. We have grown so old that we sometimes forget that our children see things in a more literal sense than we do. Be patient with them. Be amused and filled with joy that they don't see the ugliness our world can be. Learn to look at life through their eyes and it might tend to be more fun!

HELP!!

I am in NEED of a good number of Volunteer Chaplains to help me help you! As you can imagine, it is not particularly easy to get to every area of the state in a moments notice (though I will always try) when you, one of the victims of a bad circumstance, or a member of their family may need a Chaplain. So, I am in the process of trying to find some men and women who feel called to serve our LE Division when the need arises.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

Education: Graduation from an accredited four-year college or university with a Bachelor of Divinity or a related degree.

Experience: Five years' experience as an ordained minister in a parish setting or chaplaincy, including satisfactory completion of some clinical pastoral education in an accredited clinical pastoral education center.

Licensure: Must possess and maintain a valid Texas Driver's License.

Formal ordination or licensing by a recognized church or denomination of churches, and be a member in good standing of a church.

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS:

Education: Master of Divinity, Master of Theology, Master of Religious Education, or a related degree.

Experience: Ten years of ministerial experience, preferably pastoral, under the supervision of a properly constituted church.

Formal endorsement to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Law Enforcement Division from a properly constituted church or religious body attesting to the fitness of the applicant to serve as a chaplain.

Some of you may be members of churches, synagogues, temples, etc. that may have a minister that you believe would be a good fit for this Volunteer Chaplain position. If you do, please have them call me at 409-330-5343 or email me at: scott.mcintosh@tpwd.texas.gov. He or she may be just the person we are looking for and this may be just the thing they are looking for by have been unable to articulate!

There will be ongoing training for all of us periodically in the areas of Law Enforcement Support; Victim Support; Crisis Intervention; Stress Management; Family Ministry; Ride-along do's and don'ts; Understanding better the work of Game Wardens; Marriage Counseling; etc. We will be able to provide the Volunteer Chaplains with whatever they may need in the field with you. Thank you for your help.

Lead Chaplain Scott McIntosh

Texas Game Warden Lead Chaplain Scott McIntosh

4200 Smith School

scott.mcintosh@tpwd.texas.gov

Cell: 409-330-5343

If you would prefer not to receive these Newsletters, I understand. Please let me know and I will remove you ASAP. No harm, no foul. No one will know!!

