

## Stories & Testimonies

*She became desperate and considered suicide.* When her husband had died, it was a cold winter evening, around midnight. The roads had been covered with about 6 inches of fresh snow. The chaplain accompanied the county coroner on the call. Now in their sixties, she and her husband had years before become estranged from their local church. Yet her husband was a believer and had died peacefully in his sleep.

She recalled the comfort and spiritual care the chaplain provided. But here she was a week later, alone. A terrible ice storm had hit. With all the devastation around her, it seemed that life was not worth living. She knew she should not give in to thoughts of suicide, but she had no strength. And she didn't have a relationship with any minister that she could call at a time like this. She thanked the Lord for bringing to her mind that chaplain who came to her home the week before. She thought, "If I can only talk to that chaplain again and have him pray for me, I think I can make it!" She couldn't find his card, so she called 9-1-1.

Dispatchers tried to contact the chaplain on his home phone and cell phone, but he, too, had been displaced by the widespread power outage. Finally, they toned a fire department call on the radio. "Attention, Marshfield Fire Department. Chaplain assistance needed!" The chaplain heard the call on his radio and was able to contact the desperate woman and pray her through to a place of spiritual victory that night. Later, the chaplain invited her to a church in her community where he was to preach. At the service, she told everyone, "God saved my life. He used the chaplain to save my life!" She and the local body of believers committed to work together for her continued spiritual growth. What a victory!