

"Broke and Healed Heart"
Medicine Hat College

The staff member paused at my open door, and quietly asked, "Could you help this student, please? She seems upset and frightened. She told me that she once got help from a church, so I thought of bringing her to you." I immediately cleared some time in my schedule to meet with this young woman in distress. She had survived a violent crime, and wanted to know if I could help her to cope with her memories and fears. She tearfully told me her story, and I bore witness to her pain. We prayed together, and made a safety plan, and connected her with further campus and community supports. By the time she left, she didn't feel so afraid or alone.

Whether a student seeks out Chaplaincy services for routine difficulties or for more serious concerns, they often ask 1) whether or not God is real, and 2) whether or not God cares about them. I feel honoured to respond to those questions by sharing God's compassionate love. Our ecumenical ministry is growing right alongside the high volume of requests for our services, yet continued growth is only possible because of your generous support. I encounter students on a very regular basis who have never set foot in a church, and yet, they still long for answers to the "big questions" of life. The gospel witness on campus includes student advocacy, a hospitality ministry, pastoral care, guest teaching and preaching on and off campus, and weekly Christian programming such as "Campus Alpha" and "Life Tree Café," in addition to our "Wednesday Word" Bible study group.

On behalf of the Medicine Hat Ecumenical Campus Ministry board, thank you for your continued support of this developing ministry. Your faithful contributions help hurting students to encounter God's healing love.

Blessings,
Chaplain Lisa

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