



# LIFELINE CHAPLAINCY

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## Campaign for Central Texas

March 20, 2008

To: Lifeline Chaplaincy Advocates

**Re: Lifeline Chaplaincy – Central Texas becomes a reality!**

Big things are happening in our efforts to show Jesus to the people of Central Texas through association with Lifeline Chaplaincy and its Compassionate Touch and Soft Touch ministries.

- Because literally hundreds of people have expressed the desire to participate in the various Lifeline ministries, because of the encouragement and support of a number of local congregations, and because the required budget hurdles are being cleared, the Board of Directors of Lifeline Chaplaincy authorized staff to begin the search for a lead chaplain to serve Central Texas. Executive Director Virgil Fry recently announced that an offer has been made, and just now the offer has been accepted by **Tom Nuckels**, minister since 1995 of the Elgin, TX, Church of Christ. Tom has long had a calling to this type ministry, having completed much of the necessary Pastoral Care education and for the last several years having served as an on-call chaplain at Scott & White Hospital in Temple. Dr. Fry states that ...”Mr. Nuckels was an obvious choice for these reasons, because many Central Texans already know and respect him, and because he already has connections with more than one major local hospital.” Those of you who know Tom and Janice recognize his gentle and caring spirit, and you will immediately be able to picture him in such a role.

Tom’s tentative start-date is July 1<sup>st</sup>, allowing for a smooth transition for his church family in Elgin. In early April, Tom and Dr. Virgil Fry are scheduled to begin working on the establishment of credentials with the major Central Texas hospitals and their Pastoral Care staffs. In late April and early May he has familiarization visits scheduled with Paul Riddle and Jesse Stroup, Lifeline’s Houston and Dallas area chaplains. Tom and Dr. Riddle will be planning and scheduling Volunteer Chaplain training, and they intend to determine the best way of providing Soft Touch sewing ministry training for local volunteers.

- Another significant event was the Saturday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, Lifeline program hosted by the Belton Church of Christ, where about 75 interested individuals from the north part of the region attended. Speakers from Lifeline Houston and Lifeline Dallas talked about their various ministries and answered questions. This seminar was much like those at Georgetown and Austin, and the results were similar...a number of people are expected to participate when Lifeline is in operation here. Thank you Belton!

- Three more local congregations, **Southern Hills** in Buda, **Cameron Road** in Austin, and the **Belton** Church of Christ have officially lent their support to bringing Lifeline to Central Texas, and several others are soon expected to come alongside. Each is encouraging the involvement of its members, and each has also committed financial support. The goal of making this an area-wide cooperative ministry appears to be what church leaders want.
- Lifeline Chaplaincy agreed to establish its ministry in Central Texas if financial support was raised locally. The budget for hiring a chaplain with his/her expenses, training costs, and ministry organization expenses was determined to be \$125,000 per year. Lifeline asked for assurance of this minimal budget for the first three years of the effort. To date churches and individuals have committed \$114,000 for the first year and \$110,000 for each of the second and third years. If you have not already done so, please help bring Lifeline here to serve our hospitalized brethren and as an outreach to the remainder of God's children in Central Texas. Is this a worthwhile ministry? Then please take action now in its support. Information on donations may be found at [www.lifelinechaplaincy.org](http://www.lifelinechaplaincy.org), or by calling 800-767-6363.

So there are many good things happening at Lifeline, aided by a lot of good people in Central Texas. Thank you all for making this ministry a reality!

In His service,

Steering Committee for  
Bringing Lifeline Chaplaincy to Central Texas