

This is one of the best explanations that I use with my flock of why it seems, that G-d allows pain and suffering. It's an explanation some people will understand and those that don't at least it will give them something to ponder.

A man went to a barbershop to have his hair cut and his beard trimmed.

As the barber began to work, they began to have a good conversation.

They talked about many things and various subjects.

When they eventually touched on the subject of G-d, the barber said:

"I don't believe that G-d exists." "Why do you say that?" asked the customer.

"Well, you just have to go out in the street to realize that G-d doesn't exist. Tell me, if G-d exists, would there be so many sick people, and poor people?

Would there be abandoned children? If G-d existed, there would be neither suffering nor pain. And especially all the hate we see. I can't imagine a loving a G-d who would allow all of these things to be."

The customer thought for a moment, but didn't respond because he didn't want to start an argument. The barber finished his job and the customer left the shop. Just after he left the barbershop, he saw a man in the street with long, stringy, dirty hair and an untrimmed beard. He looked dirty and unkempt! The customer turned back and entered the barber shop again and he said to the barber: "You know what? Barbers do not exist."

"How can you say that?" asked the surprised barber. "I am here, and I am a barber and I just worked on you!"

"No!" the customer exclaimed. "Barbers don't exist because if they did, there would be no people with dirty long hair and untrimmed beards, like that man outside." "Ah, but barbers DO exist! What happens is, people do not come to me." "Exactly!" affirmed the customer.

"That's the point! G-d, too, DOES exist! What happens, is, people don't go to Him and do not look for Him. You can have a prayer book on the shelf, but if you don't read it, you can't nourish your soul. it's like having a subscription for medication for your cold but you don't fill it. Sometimes people forget to fill their spiritual subscriptions or to read the signals.

That's why there's so much pain and suffering in the world."

The following anecdote will drive the point home..... "G—d's Signal"

A farmer is in Iowa during a flood. The river is overflowing, with water surrounding the farmer's home up to his front porch. As he is standing there, a boat comes up, the man in the boat says "Jump in I'll take you to safety". The farmer crosses his arms and says stubbornly, "Nope, I put my trust in G-d" The boat goes away. The water rises to the second floor. Another boat comes

up, the man says to the farmer who is now in the second story window, "Jump in, I'll save you" The farmer again says, "Nope, I put my trust in G-d", The boat goes away. Now the water is up to the roof. As The farmer stands on the roof, a helicopter comes over, and drops a ladder.

The pilot yells down to the farmer "I'll save you, climb the ladder." The farmer says "Nope, I put my trust in G-d" The helicopter goes away. The water continues to rise and sweeps the farmer off the roof. He drowns. The farmer goes to heaven. G-d sees him and says "What are you doing here?" The farmer says "I put my trust in you and you let me down." G-d says, "What do you mean, let you down? I sent you two boats and a helicopter"!!!

So, as we enter a new year let's make a resolution to renew our faith, and keep our eyes open to the heavenly signals, they may come in ways you least expect.

And before we close a bit of humor from the "Moshe Files"...."The Taxi Driver"

A passenger in a taxi leaned over to ask the driver a question and tapped him on the shoulder. The driver screamed, lost control of the cab, nearly hit a bus, drove up over the curb, and topped just inches from a large plate glass window. For a few moments, everything was silent in the cab, and then the still-shaking driver said,

"I'm sorry but you scared the daylights out of me." The frightened passenger apologized to the driver and said he didn't realize a mere tap on the shoulder could frighten him so much.

The driver replied, "No, no, I'm sorry! It's entirely my fault. Today is my first day driving a cab. I've been driving a hearse for the last 25 years.".... LOL

On behalf of ALL the Chaplains (look us up in your FOP Handbook under "Chaplains"), best wishes to you and your loved ones for a Happy and Healthy New Year. Amen.

Should you need an ear to listen, a shoulder to lean on, or perhaps have some good humor or good stories to share, please don't hesitate to give us a call.

Visit the Chaplains website at: www.chicagopcm.org

Compliments of your Police Chaplain

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