**Connection Points veterans, others along path to recovery**

When Daniel Schreck enlisted in the U.S. Air Force at the end of the Vietnam War, he knew little about what that may mean and the journey that would unfold before him. While serving as a law enforcement specialist, the young Airman gained valuable life skills and experience, learning discipline, structure, teamwork, and dedication to service.

During his time of service in the Air Force, he soon felt another calling, one of faith and spiritual values, that led him to enter the Christian ministry and Christian counseling career fields. The Illinois native separated from service and served as a pastor in Indiana for many years. He became a clinical addiction counselor and completed a Ph.D. in Christian Counseling.

“In the military, I learned to be fair, be firm and be direct,” Dr. Schreck said. “There aren’t many other places outside the military where young people can get paid to develop a good work ethic and life skills.

“I still remember my own recruiter,” he added.

Today, Dr. Schreck owns and operates Connection Points, a faith-based organization that provides addiction recovery services, as well as consulting for churches seeking to care for their congregations more effectively. Since the onset of the COVID-19 restrictions, he has been working from a home office, offering virtual counseling sessions and meeting with church leadership via video conferencing.

“I have a little different perspective on mental health,” said Dr. Schreck. “A person’s physical, mental, and spiritual issues can be addressed from the position of relationship. Walking with someone through their life-controlling problem and addressing all elements of the human psyche can be a very effective way of making the transition to an effective, healthy life that is free from addiction and cycles of abuse.”

The techniques Dr. Schreck employs for individuals and families were built on the foundational principles of discipline and caring for others, principles he learned while serving in the Air Force. The doctor has found that many appreciate the therapy a healthy, quality relationship can bring to a life in crisis.

“A person can’t really do anything in life without relationship – and so the main focus of a therapeutic session has to be built on a relationship – and not solely on feeling and thinking,” he said. “A person must grow out of themselves and look around them and take the world in; it is simply becoming aware of the wider world and something bigger than themselves, something the military teaches also.”

While veterans make up a large group of those who seek his counsel, Dr. Schreck also serves the larger community in his adopted hometown of Fort Wayne.

“I do miss the discipline the military brings,” said Dr. Schreck. “But I am proud to be a veteran who understands the unique perspective on life that veterans bring to the world.”