



Cowlitz Chaplaincy

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*A non-profit organization serving Emergency Service Responders
and Citizens since 1983*

Volume 10

Issue Number 4

JULY 2013



Chaplain Mario Gambaro 1-H-8

How high is your Garden?

I am reminded of a story that was told to me when I first came to be a Christian. The story was of a popular teacher who often spoke to his students about his garden. He would relate to the students how as he sat in his garden he would often receive inspiration and insight. His descriptions of his thoughts were so vivid that the students came to think of the garden as a great expanse of green shrubs and beautiful flowers. One night several of his students visited his garden and were astonished to find him seated in a narrow space shut in by walls.

“Your garden is very small,” said one of the surprised young students.

“Yes,” said the teacher, pointing to the sky full of sparkling stars, **“but see how high it is.”**

Jesus’ whole Sermon on the Mount can be read in twenty minutes. All his teachings in the

first three Gospels, if put together, can be read in a little over an hour. They would make a very small book. **But see how high they are!**

As the chaplaincy moves into the summer months we are experiencing some financial burdens. Our monthly income has dropped off. Lack of funding hasn’t reached “critical mass” as of yet, however, if this trend continues we will be forced to make some difficult decision in the near future.

The Chaplaincy is a frugal group to say the least. Many of our upgrades were provided by friends in addition to their regular giving or by us as chaplains.

We so appreciate those churches and individuals who have partnered with our mission. Their loyal support has sustained the mission for many years. Our needs continue, as we are responsible to pay our rent, electricity, utilities, office supplies, gasoline, vehicle maintenance, insurance, and other operating expenses.

Chaplain Doug has been driving the Chaplaincies white truck, while Chaplain Tom and I drive our personal vehicles with magnetic Chaplain signs on the doors. Our gas is paid only for the weeks that we are on call. Tom and I maintain our own vehicles at no charge to the Chaplaincy.

In addition to providing 24/7 on call availability to Cowlitz County the Chaplaincy has responded to 94 call outs since January 1st and has donated over 2500 worked hours to our local communities.

The Cowlitz Chaplaincy is one of the oldest Chaplaincies within the State of Washington. We are 30 years strong and have had the opportunity to touch countless lives.

If you are one of our sustaining partners, know how much you are appreciated and how you have blessed us and our community thru your generosity.

If you are not partnered with the Chaplaincy, we would ask that you prayerfully consider becoming a sustaining partner. Any amount given on a consistent basis is helpful.

As we continue to tend to the garden our mission calls us to tend, we are reminded that in the greater scheme of God’s plans we are but a small garden indeed... **But look! How high our garden is!**



Chaplain Mario





Chaplain Tom Haan 1-H-15

Our thoughts, and more importantly our prayers, go out to the families of 19 firefighters who died battling the Yarnell Hills wild land blaze in Arizona on June 30, 2013. Such a large number certainly gains the attention of the media, and puts such a terrible tragedy in front of us all. Even as our hearts go out to the loved ones of these young firefighters, it is hard for us to wrap our minds around the intensity of the loss being experienced by the Prescott Fire Department family at this time.

When the media draws our attention to heroes dying it is usually the brave men and women who are fighting overseas. So far in 2013, 75 soldiers have died in Afghanistan. Each one of these deaths are tragic and one too many, but we also need to remember that firefighters and law enforcement officers die in the line of duty on a regular basis right here at home in the United States.

At the time of this writing 63 firefighters and 53 law enforcement officers have died in the line of duty in the U.S. so far in 2013. Each of these men and women have loved ones they

leave behind, but they also leave behind comrades in the fight, and each of these deaths are felt deeply for many years by every member of their departments. When I attended the chaplains' academy last October we spent an evening with the Seattle Fire Department. During our discussion time I asked a general question about the lessons learned in the Pang Warehouse Fire in 1995 when that department lost four members. There were two firefighters at that discussion who were members of the department in 1995, and by the quivering in their voices we could tell the loss of four of their department fire family was still very heavy on their hearts.

As chaplains it is our privilege to come alongside law enforcement officers and firefighters every week. Each of them go to work each shift to serve with integrity, but they also know that their service could put them in danger at a moment's notice. It is our ministry to encourage them in their work, but also to walk through the valleys with them. When critical incidences happen we gather them together to do critical incident defusing and debriefings. We also spend time with them one on one to listen to their stories and help them unpack how the difficult situations they deal with one day may affect the way they deal with the public the next day. We are also concerned with how they are able to successfully unload what happens on the job so that it does not negatively affect their home life, and the other activities they get involved in outside the job.

Along with remembering to keep all our law enforcement officers

and firefighters in prayer for their physical, emotional, and spiritual safety, I have another practical way we can all bless the first responders who serve us so we can live safely each day. Often when we see military personnel in uniform we come up to them and thank them for their service. Next time you see a law enforcement officer or firefighter in uniform take a few moments to walk up to them and thank them for their service to our county.

***Golf Scramble July 27, 2013,
Shot Gun Start at 8:00 a.m.
Lewis River Golf Course
Woodland, WA.***

Calling all golfers! There is still time to put together a team for our four person golf scramble on July 27 at Lewis River Golf Course. There will be a lot of fun and prizes, plus the financial blessing it will bring to the chaplaincy. Even if you can get two or three people together we can pair you with someone else. Maybe you cannot be there that day, but another way you can support the golf tournament is through sponsoring a hole. We will put your name or business at one hole for \$100, and at two holes for \$200.

Chaplain Tom Haan





Chaplain Doug Fields 1-H-16

Aaahhhh! That is the feeling I have after just returning home from a week of family time in Montana where it was hot, hot , hot!!!! And where the only creature that wanted to get into my fishing boat was a rattlesnake!! (picture two grown men trying to frantically beat the snake over the head with an oar and a fishing net handle) Don't worry both men and the snake survived. Its nice to be back home to more normal activities. Its also nice to know that in the midst of hot weather, vacations and crazy schedules ,news of fallen comrades in other areas, our dedicated firefighters continue to train and do an awesome job of protecting our community. I have had the opportunity to spend some time with firefighters in several of our stations and departments this spring and summer attending drill and even some training fires where we(the chaplains) were able to provide beverages and snacks to the firefighters. (let me shout out a special thanks to the folks at First Baptist-Longview who have provided some of the refreshments for us to share).

It has been uplifting to see how hard our firefighters work in between calls to train and keep their skills current. I have enjoyed learning along with some of the volunteer and career firefighters during drills and training. It has also given me the opportunity to have more conversations with individuals as well as just give the crews more exposure to having a chaplain around. I overheard one volunteer firefighter commenting how "cool" it was to have the chaplain present and participating in drill. My sentiments exactly! It is so cool for me to have the opportunity to train with them! I look forward to getting to know the crews and individual firefighters in all of the departments in the area. I covet your prayers to allow me more opportunities to partner with our dedicated firefighters in the area. Who knows maybe sometime I will get a helmet and coat ☺



A SPECIAL SHOUT OUT!

A special thanks to Ron King from Love Inc for installing a beautiful custom built handrail outside the front door at the chaplains office this month.

We are so fortunate to be blessed with such skilled and caring individuals from Love Inc since our move into the new office. Thank you Love Inc for following through on your commitments and for providing so much for us. So come on by and check out sturdy it is and stop by for a visit. Our office is usually staffed by at least one chaplain every day until 1pm. Or call us and we will meet you there.



Chaplain Doug Fields



Charity Golf Scramble

Sponsored by:

Cowlitz Chaplaincy

DATE:	SATURDAY, JULY 27, 2013
PLACE:	LEWIS RIVER GOLF COURSE WOODLAND, WA
TIME:	8:00 A.M. SHOTGUN START
CHECK-IN:	7:00 A.M.

MEN'S GROUPS—LADIES' GROUPS—MIXED GROUPS

COST \$120.00 PER GOLFER

Includes:

*Continental Breakfast / Golf / Cart / Range Balls
Scoring / BBQ Lunch
Prizes / Raffles / Mulligans*

Registration Form Must Be Returned By July 13, 2013

TEAM CAPTAIN: _____ **PHONE:** _____
GOLFER #2: _____ **PHONE:** _____
GOLFER #3: _____ **PHONE:** _____
GOLFER #4: _____ **PHONE:** _____

Cowlitz Chaplaincy

servicing LAW ENFORCEMENT-FIRE-RESCUE since 1983



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