



COWLITZ CHAPLAINCY

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Chaplains Activity

During the months of November and December the Chaplains were called out 30 times to assist first responder agencies in our county. We completed 2015 with 196 calls to assist first responder agencies which is a few less than the record high 203 calls we had in 2014.

2015 will be remembered by the Chaplains for several critical incidents in Woodland. In June the Chaplains were called because of an officer involved shooting. We provided care for the spouse of the victim, and follow up care for the officers and all the staff of the Woodland Police Department.

In December we spend a couple of days in Woodland because of the freeway closure due to a mud slide. We provided support to the Woodland officers and county deputies who spent long hours dealing with confused and upset drivers. It was heart-warming to witness all the law enforcement officers demonstrating a lot of restraint and compassion as they dealt with many frustrated drivers. As Chaplains we also visited all the shelters to suppress rumors and false information, and provide a listening ear to stranded travelers dealing with frustration and fear.

The night of New Years Eve/Day we were called to a homicide in Woodland. There were about 20 people out in 25-degree temperature needing blankets and emotional support. In the days following the death two of our Chaplains walked through the funeral preparations with the family of the victim and attended the funeral. Volunteer Chaplain Caliatra Riesterer was very helpful providing care for the mother of the victim, and volunteer Chaplain Francisco Uribe was very helpful providing the opportunity for the family to express their grief in Spanish.

In December Chaplains Mario, Doug, and Tom started an activity of focused attention in the six law enforcement agencies in our county. Each month a Chaplain will give focused attention to two law enforcement de-

partments. This will include attending more of their shift briefings, trainings, and doing ride-a-longs with individual officers. Chaplain Flip, who is also a Chaplain for WA State Patrol, has been focusing more attention on attending briefings, training, and ride-a-longs with the troopers.

Shop with a Cop/Firefighter

This year's Shop with a Cop/Firefighter was a LARGE success. In 2014 this holiday program helped over 60 children with gifts for Christmas. In 2015 there were over 180 children helped to buy gifts for themselves and their family.

Chaplain Challenge Coin



To some historians the challenge coin can be traced back to the Roman Empire when soldiers were given special coins to signify their accomplishments or bravery in battle. To most the challenge coin can be traced to WWI when special coins were given to squadrons of fighter pilots so that if they were shot down and separated from their countryman they could validate their identity as they made their way back to friendly troops. Over time the presentation of coins was expanded to other military personnel as a way of showing appreciation for their service and to say, "you are one of us."

Today many emergency service agencies have a challenge coin to symbolize their identity and mission.

The coins are also given to other EMS agencies in appreciation for their service and as a way of saying, "you are one of us."

As Chaplains we have designed and supplied the funds for our own challenge coin. Members of the EMS agencies we serve can be nominated by a Chaplain or a team member of their agency for demonstrating **STRENGTH—INTEGRITY—COURAGE**, based on Joshua 1:9 or for **COMPASSION—CARING—COMMITMENT**, based on Matthew 25:35-40. We have already presented our challenge coin to few first responders we have witnessed going the "extra mile" to show compassion and caring to victim of crisis.

Upcoming Events

SHEEPDOG SEMINAR

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH LONGVIEW

March 11-12, 2016

Details: www.cowlitzchaplaincy.org

[Www.sheepdogseminar.com](http://www.sheepdogseminar.com)

This important seminar is lead by Lt. Col. David Grossman. It will deal with the issue of safety on church campuses and other public events. Please pass the word along and register soon because this event will fill up fast!

THIS EVENT IS SPONSORED BY

SHERIFF MARK NELSON

COWLITZ CHAPLAINCY

2016 Chaplaincy Golf Classic

Three Rivers Golf Course

September 24, 2016

Fundraising

As you do your online shopping, please consider using AmazonSmile, and designate Cowlitz Chaplaincy as the non-profit organization to receive a percentage of your purchases.

SUPPORT THE COWLITZ
CHAPLAINCY THROUGH
SHOPPING:

You shop. Amazon gives.



11th Annual Les Nelson

Memorial Breakfast and Auction

Cowlitz County Convention Center

May 14, 2016

7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

Our preparation for this year's breakfast and auction is in full swing. Plan now to attend! For all the details and opportunities to sponsor a table, fill a table of 8 guests for a corporate sponsor, or donate an auction item, visit our website **www.cowlitzchaplaincy.org** for more details and forms.

New Platinum Monthly Sponsor

We are grateful to announce the owners of Dahl-McVicker Funeral Homes and Steele Chapel at Longview Memorial Park have committed to be a \$500.00 per month sponsor of the Chaplaincy. There support is a wonderful encouragement to our mission in Cowlitz County.



Cowlitz Chaplaincy



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"Supporting those who support our communities' first responders"