



COWLITZ CHAPLAINCY

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Attitude Adjustment!

In Romans 13, the Apostle Paul teaches us about respect and submission to governing authorities.

For he is God's servant to do you good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword for nothing. He is God's servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer.

When I started school in 1964 my father had a rule—if you get a spanking at school, you will get a second one at home. (That only had to happen once.) In 8th grade I got a technical foul in a basketball game, and my dad made me sit out the next game. Why would he be so strict, as many other parents were at that time? Did my father think that all teachers, coaches, referees, and all adults were always perfect, and always made the correct call or decision? It seemed that way to me, but no, he did not. But my father always wanted me to remember a greater principle: without respect for authority figures our culture, and every individual, will suffer. Because if we do not respect those in authority over us on earth, we will not have respect for the Lord who made the earth and us.

The tragedies of Dallas and Baton Rouge have nothing to do with race. They are the result of an attitude shift in America. We believe that our scientific and technological developments make us better, more advanced, and more equipped to make our world better. But our cultural attitude is as old as the Old Testament book of Judges "...and everyone did what was right in their own eyes." This attitude does not make us better, more advanced, nor equipped to make our world better.

During my time as a chaplain I have asked many law enforcement officers why they became an officer or deputy. Everyone of them gave me a positive answer like, "I want to help people." "I want to keep people safe." "I want to benefit my community." As the apostle wrote, "For he is God's servant to do you good." Be-

lieve me when I tell you that the last thing an officer or deputy wants to do is take someone's life. Statistically, it may well be his/her last day on the job. Not because they did anything wrong, but because it was so contrary to their person and why they got into the profession in the first place.

It is not law enforcement that primarily needs to change their attitude, it is primarily we as citizens who need to change our attitude. Last year I heard a Chaplain from Ferguson, Missouri talk about the Michael Brown case. He said that the African-American ministers in Ferguson were not preaching that Michael Brown was shot because of race. They were preaching that Michael Brown was shot because he was a young man who never learned to have respect for those in authority over him.

If you want to always have a good day with a cop or deputy, understand that the officer is God's servant to do you good. Accept that they are in control of the situation as God' ordained authority in that place. Listen to what they say and do what you are told. Keep your hands in plain sight. If you do these things you will not be harmed, but receive the help you need. You will also understand a greater principle that will make you a better person, and bring our society to a place of stability.

Chaplain Tom Haan

Chaplains Activity

In the months of May and June the Chaplains were called to assist first responders 32 times, which brings the total for the year to 87 call outs.

During the last two months we celebrated the retirements of Sgt. Mike Dalen of Kelso Police and Sgt. Joe Reiss of the Sheriff's Office. We are thankful the Lord provided them safety over long careers, and ask that the Lord will bless them with new opportunities to service in their retirement.

As Chaplains we spent over 150 hours visiting all the first responder departments to offer support and encouragement. We did eight ride-alongs with officers throughout our county. We spent over 40 hours counseling with individual first responders and their families. We also conducted 14 funerals as the result of deaths we responded to during the last two months.

Chaplain Training

In the last newsletter we congratulated Caliatra Riesterer who graduated from the Police and Fire Academy on May 20. Chaplains Tom and Mario attended her graduation, along with Caliatra's husband Ken and daughter Grace.

On June 8 Chaplains Tom and Mario participated in a training at the Department of Emergency Management with several other county first responder agencies and support agencies to attempt to simulate a response to a 9.0 earthquake in our county. The exercise was a very helpful opportunity to reflect and prepare for how we as Chaplains will be involved with other first responders, plus support them and the community, in the event of such a challenging disaster.

Chaplain Doug participated in a training for law enforcement called Blue Courage. This training has to do with law enforcement's approach to community policing in the light of current events. He also was an observer as Kelso Police did an active shooter training at one of the Kelso elementary schools which is vacant due to summer break.

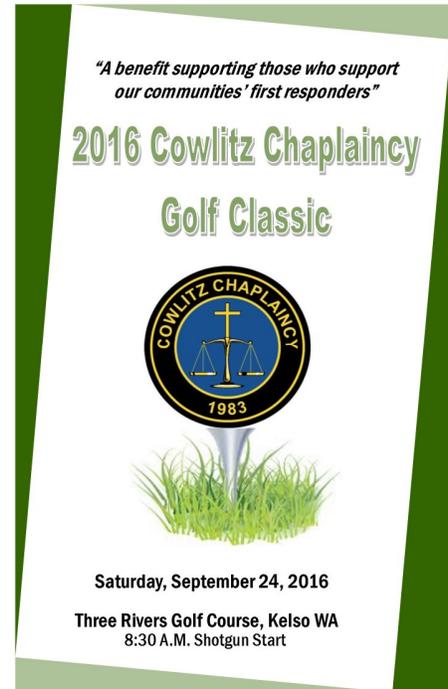
Prayer Service

Three Rivers House of Prayer, 1335 11th Ave., is sponsoring a prayer service for the safety of law enforcement and all first responders on August 2 from 7-9 p.m. This is an important opportunity to gather as a community to pray for God's grace and mercy during these challenging times.

Fundraising

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

You can also support Cowlitz Chaplaincy when you shop at Fred Meyer. Go to www.fredmeyer.com and connect your rewards card under the community rewards link at the bottom of the home page.



For all the details for the September 24 Golf Classic go to www.cowlitzchaplaincy.org. We are in need of teams and sponsors.



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1560 Olympia Way, Longview, WA 98632 Mail: P.O. Box 2578, Longview, WA 98632

Phone 360-425-7222 FAX: 360-423-6249

Website: www.cowlitzchaplaincy.org



"Supporting those who support our communities' first responders"