



# COWLITZ CHAPLAINCY

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## THANK YOU!

On May 14 we gathered for the 11th Annual Les Nelson Memorial Breakfast and Auction. We had 49 table and event sponsors, which is one more than last year, and 335 early Saturday risers attended, which is over 30 more than last year.

We had the opportunity to acknowledge and thank our board members, volunteers, Chaplains, and Mrs. Wanda Nelson as our honorary Chaplain. We introduced Chaplain Francisco and his family, and Francisco received his official Chaplain Shield. We also introduced Chaplain Caliatra and her family, and wished her well as she headed off to the Chaplain's Academy the next day.

In the midst of the celebration we took time to reflect on how the Lord uses the Chaplaincy in the lives of our first responders and in the lives of community members who are going through crisis. We want to thank firefighter Erik Dearth, and Tina Sturgill for sharing their personal experiences. As Chaplains we are thankful we can provide a ministry of presence as people go through the valleys of life.

Because of all of your gracious help and giving we grossed over \$37,000.00, which is a thousand more than the previous year. Check out all the details on our website [www.cowlitzchaplaincy.org](http://www.cowlitzchaplaincy.org)

### *And We Have a Winner!*

In addition, we raised \$6,210.00 through the raffle toward replacing our 1998 truck. Congratulations to Tim Hanson of Longview whose ticket won him a \$500 gift card from Bob's Sporting Goods!

## Chaplains Activity

In the months of March and April the Chaplains were called to assist first responders 31 times, which brings the total for the year to 55 call outs.

On March 3 one of the state Department of Correction officers was involved in a shooting in Castle Rock. Chaplain Doug was on call that day and responded to provide emotional support. He was also involved in the Critical Incident Stress Debriefing for local DOC officers.

On March 11-12, the Chaplaincy and the Sheriff's Office, hosted the Sheepdog Seminar at First Baptist Church Longview. There were about 300 in attendance. This seminar focused on criminal acts around places of worship.

On Friday evening we watched the movie Faith Under Fire which is a documentary on one of the first mass shootings at a place of worship in the United States. It occurred in 1980 in Daingerfield, Texas.

Since 1999 there have been 542 deaths on church and faith based properties. There are also thousands of women and children who have been sexually assaulted while at a places of worship.

The seminar focuses on making us aware of what is actually happening in our places of worship, and the growing threats that are coming our way. But the seminar also focuses on prevention, and the action churches and places of worship need to take now to help stop such horrible events from touching our lives.

As far as weekly activities, the Chaplains logged 151 hours of agency visits. We did 9 ride-alongs with individual officers. We provided 78 hours of counseling first responders and community members, as well as officiating at 14 funerals.

We do not want to forget the many hour our office assistant, Cynthia Moon, donates, as well as the volunteer Chaplains. In March and April they volunteered 251 hours of service. These hours do not even include all the hours our fundraising volunteers put forth on our behalf. **We are truly blessed!**

## Every 15 Minute Program

In March and April the Chaplains have been involved in The Every 15 Minute Program in the county high schools. This program focuses on the prevention of alcohol related driving accidents, but it also includes all distracted driving.

Mark Morris: March 31-April 1, R.A. Long: April 14-15  
Kelso H.S.: April 21-22, Woodland H.S.: May 5-6  
Castle Rock H.S.: June 2-3

## Chaplain Training

In April Chaplains Mario and Tom attended a morning of training at the Department of Emergency Management. This training was in preparation for a county-wide exercise with all emergency service agencies on June 8. On that day there will be a simulation exercise in the event of a major earthquake in our region. We hope and pray that it never happens, but many scientists are predicting it is not a matter of "if," but of "when." On June 8 we will coordinate with other agencies and study how the Chaplaincy will be involved in supporting first responders and the community in the event of a major disaster.

### ITS TIME TO GET PREPARED!

On May 15-20 Chaplain Caliatra Riesterer attended the Police and Fire Chaplains Academy on the campus of the Law Enforcement Academy in Burien, WA. This is what Chaplain Caliatra had to say about her experience.

"The academy was a time where I could get together with "like minds" who have the same calling. The most important tool I took away was the realization that this commitment is big! I learned that being called by God is the first step, but it's not enough. Taking the training and learning as much as possible to be equipped to do the work is also very important. I learned valuable lessons packed into one week, and met lifelong friends. I know I feel more ready to do the work."

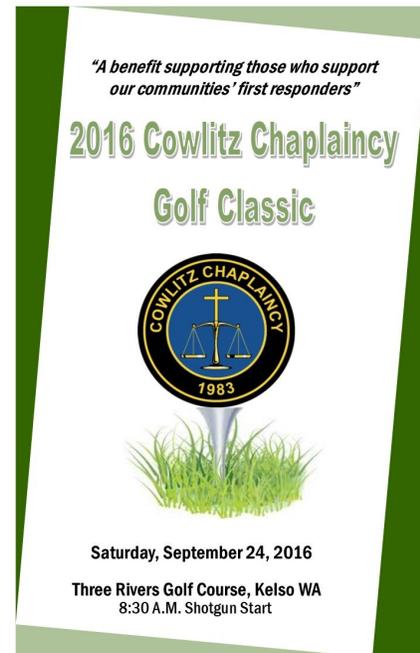
## Fundraising

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.

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See [www.cowlitzchaplaincy.org](http://www.cowlitzchaplaincy.org) for details on sponsorships and team registration



## Cowlitz Chaplaincy

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"Supporting those who support our communities' first responders"