



COWLITZ CHAPLAINCY

Volume 13

Issue Number 6

November 2016

Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. I Thessalonians 5:16-18.

"Always" "Continually" "In all circumstances" These are difficult commands. In this month when we celebrate Thanksgiving it can be a challenge at times to give thanks in all circumstances, especially when your circumstances are difficult.

As I'm writing this my heart is heavy because, as of this date, 123 law enforcement officers have died this year in the line of duty. What is horrifying is that deaths due to gun violence against officers is up 70% over this time last year. Yes, you read that correctly, 70%. It is a difficult time for law enforcement.

Just this last week two officers in Pennsylvania were ambushed responding to a domestic disturbance, and a Sheriff Deputy in California was found dead of an execution style killing.

Even in these circumstances we are asked to give thanks. That's tough. I have people ask me all the time, "How can God exist when there is so much evil in the world?" I respond with a question of my own. "How do we explain the good in the world when we read every day how much evil people do?"

The only explanation for good in the world is God's grace. And this is the reason why we can be thankful in all circumstances. Whether it is good, bad, or ugly, God is present in the middle of it working his redemptive plan.

Some people might say we should be thankful when our luck has had a good run, and we should "thank our lucky stars." But the Bible tells us that luck has nothing to do with it. Our circumstances are directed by the will of God. That perhaps creates a whole other set of difficult questions, but we can be thankful in all circumstances because God is always directing; God is always in the valley with us, and God's grace is our only hope for the future.

After the season of Thanksgiving, we enter into the season of Christmas. This is God's greatest demonstration of coming into our dark and violent world to be present with us and provide a way for hope and a future. Jesus is indeed the first of the first responders.

As you take time to give thanks this month, remember to give thanks for our country, and the freedoms we enjoy. Remember to give thanks to God for our law enforcement officers who are dealing with difficult circumstances. Pray for our nation that the violence against law enforcement will stop. Give thanks that our county has not lost any law enforcement officers during these turbulent times. Also pray that we will realize the much deeper issues we have in our country when some want to put forth the idea that somehow violence against law enforcement is a constructive part of our national discussion.

Let us give thanks to God for each law enforcement officer in our county. Give thanks for their integrity and professionalism. Give thanks for their willingness to fight the good fight on the front lines. Pray for their spouses and children who have to live with the anxiety of a dangerous calling. Pray the Lord will provide his protecting angels for each of our officers. Pray that through these difficult times our society will understand the greater issues that confront us and turn to God for his grace.

We also give thanks to the Lord for our firefighters, other emergency services personnel, dispatchers, and everyone who is part of our first responder community. We pray for their continued safety, and may the Lord richly bless them for their willingness to serve, their commitment to answer the call, and their compassion and caring for everyone in our county.

THANK YOU!

We give thanks to the Lord for the individuals, households, churches, and businesses who are our monthly donors. We could not do our ministry without your faithfulness in remembering us each month!

Chaplains Activity

The Chaplains were called out 34 times in September and October to assist first responder agencies during crisis times. Through October the Chaplains have been called to assist 151 times.

On September 11 we participated in the 15th remembrance of the attacks that occurred on 9/11/2001. Both Cowlitz 2 Fire and Rescue and Longview Fire hold ceremonies on that day.

On September 28 Castle Rock Christian Church held a law enforcement appreciation dinner for the Castle Rock Police Dept. and all law enforcement officers who live in the Castle Rock area. It was a great night of support and encouragement for the law enforcement community.

Chaplains Doug and Ray provided a Critical Incident Stress Debriefing for the Sheriff Deputies and Kalama Officer who were involved in the apprehension of a suspect who went the wrong way down 1-5.

Chaplain Mario spent a week at the Chaplains' Academy auditing their curriculum to make sure it meets the standards of the International Conference of Police Chaplains.

We also want to thank our volunteers for all the work donated in service to the Chaplaincy. We could not put on our golf classic without all the help of our volunteers. This year we added students from the fire science class and the law enforcement class as helpers, and they did a great job! Our office assistant Cynthia Moon donates three half days a week. And our volunteer Chaplains put in 265 hours of work in September and October. THANK YOU!

Fundraising

We held the 2016 Chaplaincy Golf Classic at Three Rivers Golf Course on September 24. We had the most sponsors we have had, and the most golfers, 84! All the sponsors are listed on our website. Thank you! A special thanks to AMR for being the tournament sponsor, and McCord's Dodge, Chrysler, Jeep, Ram for sponsoring the hole in one contest. Congratulations to Chaplain

Tom, David Lee, Rob Elam, and Steve Swanson for winning the men's division. Congratulations to Dyann Crayne, Sharon Hutton, James Luchau, and Cody Anderson who won the mixed division. Put us on your calendar for next September.

SUPPORT THE COWLITZ
CHAPLAINCY THROUGH
SHOPPING:

You shop. Amazon gives.

Welcome to
amazonsmile

Shop with a First Responder

The time to shop with the kids will soon be upon us. Here is the schedule for this season.

Longview Police, December 2 at 7:00 a.m. 7th Ave Walmart.

Sheriff's Deputies and Castle Rock Police, December 3, 10:00 a.m. Ocean Beach Walmart.

Kelso Police, December 10 at 8:00 a.m., Kelso Target.

Woodland Police, December 10 at 8:30 a.m. at Woodland Walmart.

Cowlitz 2 F&R, December 17 at 9:00 a.m. Ocean Beach Walmart.

Prayers Requested

In our last newsletter we asked for prayer for Chaplain Caliatra Riesterer and her family as they prepared for the passing of her husband Ken. Ken went to be with the Lord on October 14. His memorial service was held in Woodland on October 22. It was a moving time of worship and celebration of Ken's life and faith, and God's grace and comfort. Please continue to pray for Caliatra and the family as they mourn and heal, and as they discover how the Lord wants to continue to use them in His kingdom.



Cowlitz Chaplaincy

servicing **LAW ENFORCEMENT-FIRE-RESCUE** since 1983

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"