



COWLITZ CHAPLAINCY

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Chaplains Activity

Each newsletter we write about the activities the Chaplains have been involved in over the last two months. During the months of July and August the Chaplains were called out to assist first responder agencies 30 times during crisis events. That brings the total for the year to 117 through August.

Each crisis we are called to is important and we care about every person and family we serve, but on August 17 our care and concern and ministry was raised to a higher level. On that day Officer John Johnston was involved in an officer involved shooting. (OIS)

Chaplains Doug and Mario were alerted by Dispatch and immediately went to the scene. Chaplain Tom received the news through a phone call from a concerned officer. He said, "All I heard on the radio was, 'shots fired, officer down.' It's Kelso." Chaplain Tom's first thought was, "The worst thing we train for, which we never want to happen, may have just happened."

We regret what happened and we pray for the loved ones of Omer Ismail Ali, but we are very thankful that Officer Johnston was spared and is recovering from his injuries. All of the Chaplains were involved that day, and have been involved in the continuing care of our first responders and the healing of our community. We want to thank all of you for your thoughts and prayers, and support for our officers during this critical time.

In July Chaplain Mario and Nancy participated in the Ralph Painter Memorial run.

August 2 was National Night Out. Chaplains were out supporting the law enforcement officers and thanking the community for their partnership in keeping our county safe.

Also in August we were blessed to support Cowlitz 2 fire-fighter Brad Yoder and his wife Laura, as Brad donated a kidney to Laura's friend Dana Clayton. We are very thankful both Brad and Dana are doing well.

We also celebrated with Lt. Jean McGovern who retired from Cowlitz 2 after 21 years of service. Blessings to Jean as she focuses more on spending time with her family.

Kelso Police Department welcomed two new officers, Andrew Drakos and Dyan Roberts, who graduated from the Law Enforcement Academy on August 11.

Chaplain Training

In July Chaplain Tom attended the International Conference of Police Chaplains Convention in Albuquerque, NM. This year the convention remembered the 15th anniversary of the September 11, 2001 attacks, and recognized the Chaplains who responded to that crisis. During the plenary session we heard the story of a business man who was in a meeting on the 105th floor of the south tower of the World Trade Center when the north tower was hit by the plane. One statement that really stood out was, "As we were going down the stairs we passed the first responders who were going up the stairs. Their eyes were filled with fear and determination, and the looks on their faces expressed they knew they were not going to come out alive." Thank you first responders for running toward the danger while we all run away.

New Chaplains

During this summer we welcomed two new volunteer Chaplains—Ray Orr and Darryk Dwelle. This brings the total number of Chaplains to eight. We have three paid Chaplains and five volunteers. To read more about Ray and Darryk look on our website www.cowlitzchaplaincy.org under the Chaplain tab.

With the addition of new Chaplains we are able to better distribute the workload and give more focused attention to each agency we serve.

Fundraising

We want to thank the fire commissioners and chiefs from Cowlitz 2 and Cowlitz 5 for the transfer of vehicles to our agency. Cowlitz 2 transferred a 2006 Ford Expedition to us, so now Chaplain Tom can retire his own vehicle from the Chaplaincy. Cowlitz 5 transferred a 2001 Ford F350 pickup to us. The pickup has a diesel engine that is in high demand. The plan is to sell this pickup and add the money to our on-call vehicle fund. If you are interested in the purchase of this pickup call the office at 360-425-7222.

We will give a full report on the success of the 2016 Golf Classic in the next newsletter, but if you want to view the pictures you can see them on our website.

Shop with a First Responder

The kids are back to school! If you are like me and my wife, we breathed a sigh of relief to once again return to a more normal mix of routine and activities with the children. Of course school itself comes with a lot of activities and events to look forward to and keep us busy. And since school has started it also reminds us that (believe it or not) Christmas is right around the corner, and with it comes an event that I am looking forward to.

It is our annual "Shop with a First Responder" program. This program pairs officers and deputies from area law enforcement departments, and firefighters from a local fire department, with deserving kids in our area to give them the opportunity to purchase Christmas gifts. The kids get to spend time shopping with individual first responder, getting to know them, and coming to see them as friends and positive role models. For the kids, it is also a special opportunity to purchase Christmas gifts for family members.

Planning is under way for the current year. Last year we were able to help over 60 kids in Longview and the county, and over 20 in Kelso. We are once again hoping that the Wal-Mart Foundation will bless us with significant grants (last year it was \$7500) But I also want to see if we can expand our program to help more kids. To that end I want to invite you, our supporters, to con-

sider participating in our program this year by donating to the program. 100% of the donations go directly to ensuring that the children can purchase gifts. All other expenses are donated by the first responder agencies. Donations can be made to Cowlitz Chaplaincy with a note to indicate that it is for the Shop with a First Responder program.

I want to say thanks for your continued support and prayers in helping us to minister to our First Responders. Any questions can be addressed to me at chaplain.doug@hotmail.com or by calling me at 360-355-2379.

Thank You!

Sadly in July the board of directors accepted the resignation of Chief Wayne Nelson (Ret.) from our board. Wayne has served a continual term on our board since 2000. He and his family continue to be faithful supporters of the Chaplaincy through their prayers, efforts, and donations. We wish Wayne all the best in his new adventures and service to the Kingdom of God.

With Wayne Nelson's retirement from the board, we are looking for a new at large board member. If you would like to be considered for a position on our board, contact Chaplain Tom at the office or email him at chaplain.tom@hotmail.com.

Prayers Requested

As Chaplains we are called to minister to members of the community during times of crisis. Now we ask your prayers for one of our own. Chaplain Caliatra Riesterer's husband Ken has been stricken with terminal cancer. Please pray with us that the Lord will fill them with His abundance grace and comfort as Ken makes his journey to heaven. Psalm 23.



Cowlitz Chaplaincy

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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"