



COWLITZ CHAPLAINCY

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“Views from the Jump Seat”

What a great title for a talk! Views from the jump seat was the title of one of the classes I took a couple of week ago while attending fire training at the annual Washington Fire Symposium held in Yakama. I was privileged to attend with a group of firefighters from Cowlitz 2 Fire & Rescue.

The main idea of the course was to share some teachings and observations from an experienced career firefighter to help other firefighters stay in top form, and be ready to serve. It was just one of several courses offered to challenge and encourage firefighters to strive for excellence.

I noticed throughout several individual sessions there was an emphasis on “teamwork” and “community” among crews, in other words “relationships.” Several of the courses, at one point or another, stressed the importance of developing and maintaining healthy relationships with coworkers as a deterrent to complacency, injuries, and as a key to career satisfaction. I was glad to hear the emphasis placed on these important principles.

As a Chaplain, I believe in the importance of relationships. I remind people often that the Scriptures teach that we were created in the image of God, which means basically we were created to be in relationship with others. We were created to love and be loved, not just in the context of this life, but also in the context of the next life with our Heavenly Father. This is one of the most important tasks that we as humans can accomplish.

This teaching also guides our mission as Chaplains because it is our desire to see first responders experience productive and healthy careers, healthy relationships with each other, and ultimately, with the Divine Father. This is why I feel privileged to spend time with first responders, and why I enjoyed spending so much time in training with the firefighters from Cowlitz 2 and Cowlitz 6.



Chaplain Doug Fields

Chaplains Activity

In January and February the Chaplains were called out to assist first responder agencies 25 times. This is a sharp decrease from last year, so we are hoping the Lord will bless us with less crisis calls than last year, but we are ready to serve no matter how many times we are called out in 2018.

On January 10 Chief Ralph Herrera of Kalama PD called the community together to remember the one year anniversary of the death of Chief Randy Gibson. Chaplains Tom, Ray, Flip and Caliatra participated in that ceremony. We continue to pray for Chief Gibson’s wife Dawn, Kalama PD, and the entire community of Kalama as they grieve and heal.

On January 17 Chaplains Tom, Doug, Mario, and Flip traveled to Tacoma to attend the memorial service for Deputy Daniel McCartney from the Pierce Co. Sheriff’s Office who was killed in the line of duty. January and February were terrible months for law enforcement deaths. There were 17 line of duty deaths the first two months of this year; 13 in February alone. Law enforcement officers killed by gun fire is up 129% from this time last year. We need to keep all our first responders in our daily prayers.

Longview Police held their annual awards banquet on February 9. There were many awards given out reflecting the excellent work done every day by Longview Police. Det. Brandon McNew was awarded officer of the year, and Corporal Brian Streissgruth was awarded supervisor of the year. Chaplains Mario and Tom received letters of commendation for their efforts at a vehicle-pedestrian fatality on 7th Ave.

On February 12 Chaplains Flip, Mario, Doug, and Tom attended the swearing in of Scott Neves as the new police chief of Castle Rock. Congratulations Chief Neves!

Calvary Community Church held its annual Mission's Sunday on February 25. Chaplains Caliatra, Tom, Mario, and Flip attended, and we were able to share what the Lord is doing through our ministry.

We want to pass on our prayers and comfort to Deputy Tim Britcher and his wife Patty, also DeAnn and Lawrence Sharp and Jessica Tangen of Cowlitz Fire District 5, in the loss of their father and grandfather Bob Bowers. Mr. Bowers was the father of Patty and DeAnn, and the grandfather of Jessica. We also want to support Deputy Fred Taylor and wife Tina in the death of Tina's mother Roxie Hudson.

New Board Members

At the beginning of this year we welcomed two new members of the Cowlitz Chaplaincy Board of Directors. Chief Ralph Herrera of Kalama Police replaced Chief Randy Gibson, and Lt. Jeff Thompson of Longview Fire replaced Chief Bob Heuer who retired.

Chaplain Training

The International Conference of Police Chaplains Region 2 Annual Conference was held at Cannon Beach Conference Grounds on February 5-8. Chaplains Flip, Tom, Ray, Francisco, and Mario attended this year. The keynote speaker was Jeff Kemp, former NFL quarterback. He was even the quarterback for the Seahawks at one time. He was very excited a back up quarterback led his team to a Super Bowl victory, because Jeff spent most of his 11 seasons in the NFL as a back up.

Jeff Kemp focused his talk around a book he wrote in 2016 called, "Handling the Blitz: Three Strategies for Turning Tragedies into Triumphs" Jeff used many football analogies to talk about difficulties in his own life, and how God helped him turn those very difficult situations into triumphs. Jeff and his wife now focus their ministry on strengthening marriages.

Thanks for Supporting Us

Telephone Issues

We had some mysterious issues with our voicemail system, but we are happy to report we discovered the culprit! So please call and leave a message if needed, and you will not be asked to put in an extension.

The 2018 Cowlitz Chaplaincy Benefit Dinner and Auction will be **May 12, 2018** at the Cowlitz County Event Center starting at 5:30 p.m. Go to www.cowlitzchaplaincy.org for all the details. We would love to have you sponsor a table, host a table, and submit auction items. All auction items must be into the office by April 20. Please call the office with any questions: 360-425-7222.

2018 Cowlitz Chaplaincy Golf Classic
September 15, 2018
Three Rivers Golf Course in Kelso, WA

Grocery Outlet

Grocery Outlet on Ocean Beach in Longview will donate 5% of your purchase if you present the card we have in our office. Please stop by our office or call us at 360-425-7222 to get your card and one for a friend!

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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"