

Kainos Kapsule

A Newsletter of Chaplain John W. Cundiff, D.Min.

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Welcome

This is the first newsletter of my chaplaincy as a Community Chaplain with Northwest Sheriff's Chaplain Association (NWSCA) through the Washington County Sheriff's Office.

I was first contacted about this ministry in April and made decisions to accept this call. I completed the application, background check and interview. I had an interview with Sheriff Rob Gordon and he swore me in as the first Community Chaplain in the county.

July was a probation month of training and showing what I know and can do. After three ride-a-longs with a deputy and had several meetings with the two department chaplains I was approved. My biggest task was and is getting comfortable with the Sheriff's office and policies and procedures.

Highlights of the Month

On my first ride-a-long we responded to a plane crash and fire in Hillsboro. I was the first chaplain in the scene and I located the home- owners whose houses were on fire. My ministry focused on these people for the rest of time I was there. It was good cooperation with the fire chaplains to meet the needs of these people.

The other ride-a-long did not provide anything like a plane crash, rather I was able to ask questions and learn about the patrol aspect of the Sheriff's office. I was able to meet several deputies and was welcomed.

Training meetings were good. I discovered how to navigate through the Sheriff's office building and procedures for those times when I minister to inmates inside the jail. We talked about possible areas of service as a chaplain and policies about what to do in these situations.

A New Position

As the first community chaplain in the county there are many things that are not known. This allows me to help develop what this position will look like.

Things that I will be involved with include most of the situations that involve a death. My focus will be the family and other people affected. I have been asked to help develop and lead the CISM team of community chaplains. This is a huge responsibility. These services will be available to businesses, groups, or individuals that make themselves available after an incident. I will also serve as a chaplain to WACCA (dispatch). These are special people that do so much for emergency service responders. They need to have access to a chaplain who can help them deal with their stress.

Personal Notes

I hope to have my website more complete by the end of August. It will take a while to make the site what I envision for it. I ask for your patience.

I continue to communicate with grieving people. It is an honor to walk with them through their grief and share experiences as we go.

Some articles I have read recently are confirming that previous grief—bereavement issues are a major consideration when dealing with people who ask for counseling.

Thank you for your support.

John W. Cundiff

“Do not repay evil for evil or abuse for abuse; but on the contrary, repay with a blessing. It is for this that you were called—that you might inherit a blessing.”

1 Peter 3:9