



NORTHWEST ARKANSAS CHAPLAIN MINISTRIES

NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2022

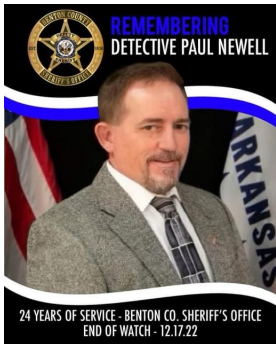
MONTH IN REVIEW

December 12 was 1212 Day in Pea Ridge. The Pea Ridge Police Department and the entire community came together to remember Officer Kevin Apple, Badge 1212, who was killed last year by a hit-and-run driver. The event was highlighted by the unveiling of a mockup of the memorial being placed near the place of his death. Apple trees have been planted on each side of the memorial. The actual monument is expected to be installed soon.



It was a tough month for the law enforcement community. We laid to rest two men who had dedicated their lives to serving and protecting.

Retired Little Flock Chief of Police Jesse Martinez fought a courageous battle with a rare form of cancer, and succumbed to the disease on December 14. The outpouring of love toward Chief Martinez' family, LFPD and the Little Flock Community illustrated the respect he earned during his twenty-three year career. Prior to beginning his career in law enforcement Chief Martinez served in the United States Marine Corps. Chief Martinez was laid to rest on December 20. His funeral was preceded by a blue-light escort involving dozens of LEO's who were there to pay their respects.



Saturday morning, December 19, Chaplain Jim Dixon received a call no chaplain ever wants to receive, and responded to the scene of a motorcycle accident which took the life of BCSO Detective Paul Newell. Detective Newell was part of a motorcycle escort for a Wreaths Across America truck en route to the Fayetteville National Cemetery. Detective Newell struck a curb, lost control and struck the truck he was escorting. Chaplain Dixon immediately responded to the scene, and later accompanied Sheriff Holloway and Chief Deputy Gilbert to notify Detective Newell's wife. Chaplain Dixon was joined by Chaplains Dave Hadsell and Terry Simmons, bringing the "ministry of presence" to those who had responded.



The remainder of the day was spent with deputies, with Detective Newell's family, and doing what he could to serve those who were hurting.

Detective Newell's funeral was December 28 and was followed by internment in Maysville. He was escorted there by a several-miles-long parade of blue lights honoring him.

"We train for this, knowing these things can happen, but we are never fully prepared when they do happen", said Chaplain Dixon.

MORE MONTH IN REVIEW ON PAGE 2



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DECEMBER NEWSLETTER PAGE 2

MONTH IN REVIEW (*From Page 1*)

One hundred men and women have followed the Lord in baptism through the month of December! Due to COVID-19 quarantine, plumbing issues and Detention Center remodeling, only four baptism services were held in 2022. However, the Jail Ministers have returned to the Detention Center in full force, and dozens or more inmates have given their lives to Jesus Christ this year.



While chaplains serve ecumenically and minister to people of all faiths—or no faith at all, our Jail Ministers are fully committed to evangelism. Hundreds of Bibles have been distributed in the Detention Center this year, thanks to donations by churches and individuals who want to see the good news available to all.

All in all, it's been a busy year. BCSO Chaplains have responded to over 75 requests, both in the field and in the Detention Center, in addition to the one-on-one visits with inmates not recorded in activity reports. Add to these numbers the number of men and women who attended the 70 or more Bible studies offered in December, and the numbers are amazing.

When an inmate requests to see a chaplain, or for a Bible or other religious material, the goal is to not just hand out material, but also to visit with each requesting inmate on an individual basis. As many as 40% of those with whom chaplains take time to visit will either give their lives to Jesus Christ or be restored to relationship with Him.

Our thanks to the dozens of dedicated volunteers who give their time to bring the hope of Jesus Christ to the detention center.

Your support of Northwest Arkansas Chaplain Ministries helps make chaplain services available to the Benton County Sheriff's Office and to other area law enforcement agencies and fire/EMS agencies in this area. Northwest Arkansas Chaplain Ministries is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation supported entirely by donations. You can support this ministry by giving online at nwachaplains.com/support.htm, or scan the code to the left.



"I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in; naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me." Matt 25:35-36 NAS

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