



NORTHWEST ARKANSAS CHAPLAIN MINISTRIES

NEWSLETTER OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 2022

THE “MINISTRY OF PRESENCE”

Although the Chaplain Division at the Benton County Sheriff’s Office is a large part of the work of Northwest Arkansas Chaplain Ministries, it is only one of several areas where we serve.



Chaplains are there for LEOs, firefighters, and their families. One of the chaplain’s most important responsibilities is to provide spiritual and emotional support when the need arises in the emergency services community. Whether it is the death or

illness of an officer or firefighter, or a family or personal crisis, the chaplains are ready to provide a listening ear and support. Chaplains also spend time with Emergency Service men and women in the field, riding with them and building relationships.



Chaplains called to the scene for unattended deaths—those events where a loved one has died and family members and friends are present. Often these events affect not only the families of the deceased, but the law enforcement officers as well. Dealing with the death of an infant or small child can create emotional trauma for an LEO such as one with a child at home and it becomes easy to identify with the tragedy. Chaplains bring “the ministry of presence” into those situations, bringing His presence into traumatic times.

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Chaplains are on call to accompany deputies and police officers when making death notifications. Again, it’s “the ministry of presence. Telling someone a loved one has passed away is never easy, but when a chaplain is on scene that chaplain brings “the ministry of presence”—God’s presence in the midst of difficult times.

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Congratulations to BCSO Chaplain Jacqueline Eakins, who recently was awarded *Senior Chaplain* status by the International Conference of Police Chaplains. Achieving the senior credential level from the ICPC requires 150 hours of professional studies and five years serving as a law enforcement chaplain. Attendance and participation at the ICPC Annual Training Seminar and Regional Seminars are also part of the requirements.



Northwest Arkansas Chaplain Ministries is accepting applications for corporate sponsorships. If you have a heart for law enforcement or fire/EMS, or for those incarcerated in the Benton County Detention Center, and want more information about sponsorship, contact Chaplain Jim by phone or text at (479) 366-4527, or email at chaplainjim@nwachaplains.com

Please receive our best wishes for a wonderful holiday season as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ!



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Chaplains are with families during drowning incidents. A chaplain will remain with the families of drowning victims while local and area agencies conduct recovery operations, providing “the ministry of presence” while serving the family in any way he or she can, and as liaison between the family and those agencies involved in the recovery. Chaplains also provide support to the men and women who are working on recovery operations..



Chaplains also respond to fires. When a family is watching everything they own go up in smoke, it's a traumatic experience. A chaplain can bring a calming effect to both the family and the firefighters, bringing God's peace in the midst of the turmoil. A chaplain can not only provide “the ministry of presence” but also provide practical help such as helping find accommodations or contacting charitable organizations for assistance.

And, of course Chaplains bring the “Ministry of Presence” to the Benton County Detention Center. In spite of restrictions due to Covid and construction projects, one hundred men and women incarcerated in the Benton County Jail have followed the Lord in baptism this year. A team of volunteers faithfully serve in the jail, bringing a message of hope, peace and love to the more than 700 inmates.



So while your prayers and support are, indeed, making a difference in the detention center, they are also bringing you into partnership with the other areas where “the ministry of presence” is so important as well.

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.



“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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