

# *County-Wide Chaplaincy*

## *Thanks you!*

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August 2019

Hello, my name is Cari Arnsparger and I am one of the new chaplains in training with County-Wide Chaplaincy. I was asked to publish in this month's update my training experience at the Chaplains Academy. The academy is held twice a year at the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission in Burien Washington. It is a week-long, 12 hours a day school. The curriculum is divided into four sections of foundational, informational, tactical and practical training. The core of the training was Ministry of Presence, demonstrating the love of Jesus Christ in every situation and leaning on His understanding and not our own. We learned the ethics of being a fire and police chaplain, the chain of command, and the importance of following the chain of command for the safety of everyone on scene. We had the hard courses with heart breaking discussions around suicide, substance abuse, first responder injury, line of duty death, PTSD, and death notifications. Those were balanced out with encouraging classes and biblical references all pointing back to the gospel.

The instructors for the various courses were wonderful. Not only were they extremely knowledgeable about the subject matter they presented, but they had years of experience as fire fighters, police, chaplains or pastors. To me, learning from others with experience is important because they have tested the "how to text book scenarios" and they were able to give a lot of good testimony of what does and does not work in crisis situations that chaplains walk into with the fire and police personnel. The comradery of all the instructors and staff at the academy was honoring to be around. They demonstrated true kindness and compassion for the community that they serve together, and that was a common thread that I picked up on immediately. We are serving our community TOGETHER! A quote was shared the first day of class... "We are trained to be warriors with the heart of a guardian."

Every class instructor had resources to give and continually encouraged us to stay in contact and ask questions. I was able to sit along side three other chaplains from our neighbor county, Cowlitz County, and another from Skamania County. All of us learning, training and having fellowship with one another really solidified the Scripture of unity and diversity in the body in 1 Corinthians 12:12-27. As I continue my chaplaincy with County-Wide, I want to bridge our borders more with those in other counties; and continue to train and have fellowship with one another so that when crisis hits, we are even more ready to be guardians of hearts Together with the Love of Jesus Christ.

## ***Chaplains in Training –***

We have some great new chaplains in training right now, and we wanted you to meet them. It's not an easy process to become a chaplain with County-Wide Chaplaincy. They spend a lot of class time, attend a week long academy as mentioned in Cari's letter, and spend hours assisting a current chaplain on live calls. All this just to be a volunteer. Here are three wonderful people that are close to completing their training.

*Al Wanke*



*Cari Arnsparger*



*Brenda Smith*



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