

BRAVEHEART CHAPLAIN MINISTRY

March 2021

P.O. Box 1132

406-871-0183

Kalispell MT 59903

braveheartministry.com

Braveheart Chaplain Ministry is growing! My name is Chris Messenger & I'm the new Assistant Chaplain for Braveheart. I hail from Kansas City and my wife, Amy grew up in a small town in northwest Montana. We moved our lives to Kalispell, Montana to live close to Amy's roots and where I have fallen in love with chopping firewood and exploring the woods on snowshoes. I have worked in various ministry settings in the last 15 years and have a Master of Divinity degree from Midwestern Seminary in Kansas City. I am currently working on my second Masters Degree in Pastoral Care & Counseling from the Antiochian House of Studies. In addition to being an emergency responder chaplain for the Kalispell Police & Fire Department, I am a hospice chaplain with Frontier Hospice. I am also a portrait photographer, a musician, and I spend time actively involved in my parish, St. Herman's Orthodox Church.

My movement into a part-time role with Braveheart has been a dream of Drew & I for the past 15 months. As of February this year, the board members have voted to officially bring on an assistant chaplain in a paid role.

It's easy for Drew & I to see God's perfect timing for this role since the number of serious first responder calls is growing rapidly in the Flathead. Even as I write this, my phone is lighting up with concerns/follow-up to a difficult event the night before.

I have hit the ground running with my emergency responder chaplain work. My most immediate work is spending time with Kalispell Police & Fire & overseeing the Braveheart volunteer chaplains. If you know Drew well, then you realize he is an extremely busy man & constantly on the go while helping build this chaplain ministry. My position along with the volunteer chaplains allows Braveheart to have a more consistent presence within all the different departments of the Flathead Valley's first responders. Every week consists of me doing a ride-along with both KPD & KFD. Additionally, I am coordinating our volunteer chaplains to start gathering on a monthly basis so we can grow both in our chaplain work & as a team. As a testament to Braveheart's impact within law enforcement over the years, the county even provided me with a decommissioned vehicle to in order to get around the county for my work. I joke with Drew that we even have a growing Braveheart vehicle fleet!

It brings me an immense amount of joy to work with Drew & the Braveheart Board in an official capacity. Its common for people to give me a half smile & a nod when I tell them I work part-time as an emergency responder chaplain as their brains try to comprehend what it is to be a law enforcement chaplain. If I only have the time to response in a sentence, I always say, "We are there for the first responders when they need us & at a moments notice, we are there for every member of the community on some of the toughest days of their lives."

What a gift. On behalf of Drew & myself, thank you to each person reading this letter for the multitude of ways you support us. We have needed help spiritually, emotionally, & financially to provide this ministry to our community & its first responders, and you have been there continually supporting us in the many ways that you do. THANK YOU! If the first 3 months of 2021 are any kind of forecast for the rest of the year, it's indeed going to be a busy one. Please pray for us as we come to mind & pray that Braveheart Chaplain Ministry will continue to serve our community both for God's glory & for the good of Flathead County. May God bless you.

Sincerely,

Chris Messenger

The Braveheart Chaplain corps is made up of:



Lead Chaplain—Drew Buckner



Assistant Chaplain—Chris Messenger



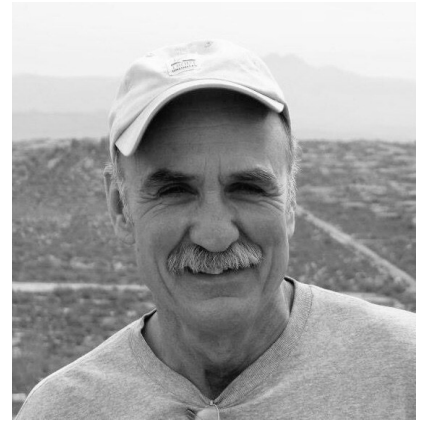
Volunteer Chaplain - Joe Decree



Volunteer Chaplain—Craig Nissen



Volunteer Chaplain - Steve Snipstead



Volunteer Chaplain—Mark Breese

The chaplains bring many years of collective pastoral ministry experience from a variety of backgrounds. This enables us to effectively relate to people of all walks of life, both within responder agencies and throughout our community. These years of life experience helps us to assist them in whatever need is facing them.

I am extremely grateful for these co-laborers who faithfully serve and care for those the Lord has placed in our realm.

Linda with the Bigfork Ladies Service Club presents a \$1,000 check to Braveheart. We are so grateful for this community minded women's group!



Braveheart is currently seeking a volunteer Administrative Assistant. Responsibilities include layout of quarterly newsletter, mailings, attending board meetings every six weeks, and coordinating with lead and assistant chaplain to make sure all administrative needs are met. If you or someone you know may be interested in joining our volunteer staff, please let us know.

We are also looking for female volunteers to do follow up with women who have been through a traumatic event. After a chaplain has been on a scene, Braveheart volunteers provide follow up to help the family continue to move forward. More women are needed to help other females. Training will be provided.