Greetings to everyone,

Please join me in welcoming one of our new Chaplains to the SCSO Chaplaincy! Welcome aboard Chaplain Ryan Stemkoski. Here are a few things he shares with you all about himself. “I am a husband, father, and business owner. My wife and I live in Medical Lake Washington and we both serve on staff at The Heights Church in Airway Heights, a Foursquare church that we helped plant about 8 years ago. Our family has been long-time supporters of the law enforcement community. We have a number of friends and family members in law enforcement and I am proud and honored to be called by God to serve the Deputies, Officers, and the residents of Spokane County through the chaplaincy.” -Ch Ryan.

Here is a portion of the devotional Chaplain Ryan delivered at the most recent Chaplain Training Meeting while he was also attending the National Chaplain Academy;

2 Corinthians 12: 9-10 - Each time he said, “My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness.” So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me. 10 That’s why I take pleasure in my weaknesses, and in the insults, hardships, persecutions, and troubles that I suffer for Christ. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

One of the things that was shared in the academy this week is that every time that a Chaplain walks on a scene they bring light to the darkness. Another strong theme of the week has been how we cannot allow our ego to get in the way of our being. We need God and God does not want us to stand on our own strength. We must humble ourselves. We need to rely on Him alone in life and in the chaplaincy. This verse hit me hard this morning. It reminded me of Gideon depriving his troops over human victory and instead allowing God to win the battle. God will win the battle for us if we allow Him. God will help guide us every step of the way if we get out of the way and allow Him to work through us! The scenes we enter are not our scenes, they’re God’s scenes. As Chaplains we need to remember it is not about us and our glory but instead about God and His glory. No matter what challenges or hardships we face along the way, we can rest assured that God is with us and the power of Christ will work through us!

Prayer: Lord, thank You for your grace. Your grace is all we need. Please be with each of us as we proceed in this ministry of chaplaincy! Help us remember that You called us and that You are the One that is in charge each and every time we serve You in this role. Help us submit ourselves to You and allow Your power to work through us!

Thank you Chaplain Ryan for these encouraging words, and for joining our Team! Blessings from Above, Chaplain Robert Kinnune