

Dear Brothers in Christ:

Thank you for coming up and supporting the Oso Chapel ministry. You are an encouragement to me. I thought I was pretty good at multi-tasking, but last week was a true challenge.

Listed below is an update on Camano, and Oso ministries:

CAMANO ISLAND MINISTRY UPDATE:

We will launch on Easter Sunday

I have connected with Roy Swihart...brother of Norm, Pastor at the Commons in Arlington. Norm has been supporting a small church-support ministry in the Mt. Vernon the last few years. It looks like he may come alongside and provide some support for the Camano ministry. My prayer is that his team will work with us for a few months, and then some of our folks will work with him to begin the process of planting a new church in the Mt. Vernon area. At this point, I do not know what specific plans he has regarding planting a church. I have encouraged him to work through John H. and your office. But I do like his heart and am glad that he and a few folks will be helping with some of the renovation work at Camano.

We have addressed a number of facility maintenance projects at Camano...but it seems like every project we start reveals several more that need to be done. Perhaps you could see if help could be garnered to address the following priority projects: 1) *We could use a tech/sound guy to help us set up the sound and presentation-related gear* 2) *We could use help with interior painting* 3) *We need an industrial-strength carpet cleaner to clean the badly stained sanctuary carpet* 4) *We need help with several exterior (and rather high—25' or so) painting projects (we want to paint the eaves, steeple and entrance area)* 5) *We need help with powerwashing the eaves and walkways (very mossy)* 6) *We need help with general landscape (planting flowers, trimming bushes, bringing-in bark and dirt, etc).* 7) *We need help repairing several lights (minor electrical issue)* 8) *We need help mounting pictures and sanctuary area monitors (several pictures are large and will require anchor bolts)* 9) *We need to replace/match light bulbs in the church* 10) *We need to run phone line cable in a newly dug ditch (from the facility to Smith Road) and cover with dirt* 11) *We need to remove the holly bushes in front of the harvest/healing/worship stones* 12) *We need to level-out the bricks on the walkways around the church (trip hazard) Decide on a paint color and paint doors / door trim in class rooms* 13) *We need to install some sound dampening pads in strategic locations in the Sanctuary* 14) *We need to remove the childcare number board above stage.* **Let me know if you have anyone who could assist with any of the above so that the church is ready for the Easter launch by APRIL 15**

** Roy Swihart's team will likely assist with some of the above*

o My son Ryan will be the point/contact person on this. His phone number is (425)314-3223

We are also looking for: 1) *4 round tables* 2) *1 quality video camera (so that the service can be shown in a baby/cry room* 3) *two cribs*

We have done a good amount of door-to-door canvassing (need to do more and volunteers can help with that), and put up temp. signage announcing our launch on Easter Sunday. We have cancelled our April 6th Open House program (in light of project delays and the situation in Oso), but will host a community Easter-Egg Hunt and BBQ at the church on April 19th. I would like to have a BBQ as well (but have not secured the support items to make this happen yet). We would like the Associational Block Party Trailer to be there. This is the day before Easter and will be a good time to connect with the community.

We need many (more than 1000) plastic eggs and child-safe, individually wrapped candy to be put in the eggs. As are residents are now asking Oso to lead a comfort activity for children in Oso on that day, it looks like we could use some volunteer help (serving, greeting, distributing literature, chaperoning, etc.).

I arranged for a feature article to run in the Stanwood-Camano newspaper, and a small article ran in the Everett/Arlington Herald. The Herald will do a follow-up article next weekend....I am working with the Stanwood-Camano paper to run an article next week as well.

We will send a direct mailer next week...10,000 homes...and as funds allow, follow-up with a mailer just before Easter.

We continue to grow our contact list, and meet new people. Two new contacts from Camano came to the service in Oso last Sunday

OSO MINISTRY UPDATE

1) Oso Chapel is mobilizing volunteers to minister to First Responders and the hurting in the area. We have prayed with many, received reports of two salvation decisions, assisted with temporary housing, food, gas, boarding of animals, and more.

2) Oso Chapel is committed to have volunteers at the church, Monday—Saturday, 9:00—5:00pm. Caring individuals are available to pray, counsel, receive material donations and respond to urgent needs.

3) Oso Chapel has established a response team. This team is tasked with coordinating volunteers, organizing/storing donations and responding to the many requests being made of us from area residents

4) Oso Chapel has brought in a 20' POD/storage unit, a box truck, and is utilizing the Trafton School as a storage facility for non-perishable food and household items (our desire is to have resources available for the needs that will arise months from now when individuals begin the process of moving back and rebuilding.

5) Oso Chapel has networked with churches, ministry groups, businesses and individuals to be able to assist area residents with the following: *Legal issues, funeral-related expenses, transitional housing, food and gas assistance, business impact, tutoring, physical therapy, acupuncture, massage, counseling, storage, animal boarding, replacing household items, flood-related clean-up, transportation assistance and more.*

6) We continue to receive about 100 contacts per day. One of the biggest (and perhaps unexpected) need pertains to the closure of SR 530. Businesses are terribly disrupted...individuals are moving out of the area and all are hurting. Extra expenses pertaining to the detour and longer commute is much more than I anticipated. We have received requests for thousands in transportation/gas support---and that is just for April. I have a meeting tomorrow with some government officials—hoping they can help

7) FYI: Individuals wishing to assist First Responders and/or be a part of ground zero recovery work should check the new facebook page: www.facebook.com/530slide.

8) A new website is (OsoChapel.com) is now active. This new website will provide information on our ministry and the Slide.

9) Our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/osochapel) is a few years old and was not utilized very much. I see that activity on our page is up 10,000%

10) A new internet service is available downstairs (Mon-Sat). This will allow first responders and area residents to have quick and easy access to e-mail, face book, etc., and keep in contact with family and friends during this difficult time.

11) We are working to be available....this is a fluid situation and needs change day by day. Memorial services begin this Saturday and will likely run 3 weeks. This is a very difficult time, but a real opportunity for ministry.

12) THANK YOU for the wonderful support. The prayers, helping hands, calls and financial support has been amazing. In regard to what is needed and what material items people should donate: *“boot grease”, leather or heavy rubber gloves, towels/soap, bedding (blankets, sheets, sleeping bags, etc.), flashlights, batteries, **gas cards (Safeway, Shell or Chevron), grocery gift cards (Walmart or Safeway is best), and bottled water.** We want to be a part of helping people rebuild and come back—that will require bathroom, bedroom and misc. household items. Due to our storage limitations, we prefer to wait on receiving those kind of items for a month or so.*

Thanks for the prayers and wonderful support,

- Gary R