



Cowlitz Chaplaincy

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*A non-profit organization serving Emergency Service Responders
and Citizens since 1983*

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WHO GOT THE BEEF?

Cowlitz Chaplaincy Board and Chaplain Steve and Chaplain Lyle want to express our thanks to all who participated in our annual Beef Raffle fundraiser. We know some of you gave sacrificially in your support of this very fine outreach to our County. We do have 3 winners which are as follows: Sharon Bobsinke won 1st prize of a ½ of beef. Dennis Niemi and John Maschke each won a ¼ of a side of beef. It is people like each of you who affirm that you value the Chaplaincy, along with the Lord's involvement, you strengthen Steve and me as well as our volunteers for the challenges that we face. Thank you very much.

Vacation was Great

Miriam and I had a wonderful vacation and recuperation time from my operation. We had a chance to enjoy our children in Idaho and then visit the back country of North East Washington; a place call Curlew State Park. This facility with a beautiful lake for fishing

is fantastic. We spent 12 days there and Miriam was introduced to the fine art of fishing. The places we were blessed by were



Spirit Lake, Idaho; Kettle Falls WA.; Curlew Lake State Park; Twenty-Five Mile Creek State Park at Lake Chelan, and Mid-Way RV Camp Ground at Lake Wenatchee, Then back home where we wished we could start it all over again.

GETTING BACK IN THE GROOVE

Since we returned from our vacation we have resumed the routine of life and ministry. I have had a pretty quiet half of a month at the Chaplaincy except for being called out for 4 deaths to help the families navigate through the maze of grief and loneliness. I am supportive of my friend and our Sheriff, Mark Nelson as he endeavors to maintain peace and safety in our community. We need to uphold him and our law enforcement personal as

they provide for our welfare and protection. My prayer is: *Lord Jesus I ask you to uphold our Sheriff, his deputies and the Police Chiefs and Officers of the Departments of the cities within our county to maintain clarity of purpose and to uphold the law that governs their actions. Give them strength and courage for each to stand even when it is not popular to some opinions. Lord they are your servants whom you place in positions of authority protect them, guide them and may they enjoy your victory. I pray this in the Name of Jesus our Lord. **Chaplain Lyle***

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

Board President,

Sheriff Mark Nelson

With all that has been going on lately, I find myself frequently seeking prayer, as well as being in prayer. I am constantly reminded that God put me where I am, so He must know what He's doing. Allow me to share a few thoughts on what I believe God is doing within and through all of us: God, in His infinite wisdom and grace, dwells within us. His spirit is alive and working in you and me. So, where ever we go, and whatever we do, He is there. I have to remind myself often that while I have no good in me, (fleshly man,

prone to sin) goodness dwells within me. (The Holy Spirit of God) That means that while I live in this world, I am a walking, talking witness of Christ's gospel of hope and forgiveness.

Now, I don't want to get too "spiritual" here. What all this means is that if I'm at work, the Holy Spirit is there within me. If I'm at the grocery store, the Holy Spirit is there with me. If I'm in my office, the Holy Spirit is there with me; active, alive, and bearing witness to the one who saved us all; Jesus.

I used to be the kind of person who, if I started thinking about praying with/for someone, would question whether or not it was the appropriate time or place to do that. When it came to praying for someone who needed prayer, I would tell them that I would pray for them; only to forget until the next time I saw them. Then I would feel guilty because I hadn't remembered to pray for them.

I have now grown to realize that I wouldn't even think of praying for someone if it weren't for the Holy Spirit within me. So instead, I ask them if I can pray for them right that minute. Sort of like that old saying, "A prayer on your lips, is worth two in your promise." Okay, so that's not really an old saying, but you get the picture. I have often seen our chaplains step out in prayer in the midst of chaos. Always honest, always appropriate.

The men and women of our chaplaincy; paid staff, volunteers, board members and supporters, are all there for a reason: to bring peace into a chaotic situation. Our chaplains do just that. Where

ever they go, or whatever they do, they are carrying the banner of Christ with them, speaking boldly of their faith, their hope, and their love.

With these notes comes a spoken prayer for peace upon you, and our whole community. Let there be peace upon all who read these words.

Sincerely,

Sheriff Mark Nelson

YOU CARE!

The Cowlitz Chaplaincy chaplains and volunteers are able to provide crisis intervention to our emergency personnel and to the community at large because you care. Without your prayers and financial support these services could not continue. We are so grateful to each of you. By purchasing tickets to our Beef Raffle, by attending our annual Les Nelson Memorial Breakfast, purchasing the CD's (which we still have available) and by sending in regular donations each month you touch the lives of the hurting in our county.

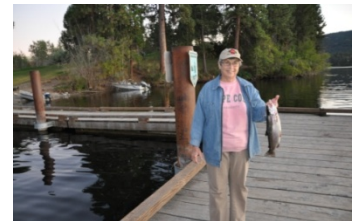
THANK YOU!

MY BIG CATCH

When I moved west from Ohio Lyle introduced me to some of the exciting activities that I had not had the pleasure of enjoying back east. While he will never convince me to hunt, I said I would learn to fish but if I caught one I would throw the fish back. So Lyle bought me a fishing pole and I got a fishing license and I was ready to join him in this sport.

The first day on the dock at Curlew Lake I joined a group of seasoned fishermen. I was nervous and every time I cast my line it would tangle and I'd spend several minutes untangling it. Finally I was ready to fish. I sat in the canvas chair with my hat pulled over my eyes. I tried to imitate the relaxed posture of the others who were fishing. I decided this was kind of nice. It was a beautiful day and I was sharing it with my husband.....and a bunch of other guys. All of a sudden my pole jerked. Lyle yelled, "Jerk your pole!" I did. I had a fighter. The water churned, the guys on the dock starting yelling encouragement as I held on to that pole for dear life. At one point I thought I was going to lose my fish to the big tiger Muskie that hid under the dock and had already snatched a few fish off people's line. With folks cheering me on I finally was able to get him close enough to the dock to land. Wow!

He was a big one! Before I had a chance to



protest, Lyle had the hook out and plopped him into the bucket. My fish measured about 15 inches and was one of the bigger fish caught that afternoon.

No, I didn't throw the fish back as you can see from this picture.

Miriam Prather

Be alert for Trick-or-Treaters this Halloween. Drive with care.

Just Some Thoughts...

Fall seems to have 'fallen' as I sit here and write this month's newsletter. Of course I should have had a clue when I did some shopping this weekend and saw Christmas decorations on the shelves already. Does that bother you too, or is it just me? OK, I'm "over that" now.

One of the fun things I did the last couple months was



pulling off a surprise birthday party for my wife, Carmen – what a great day it was!

We had all of our kids and grandkids here as well as many of her friends. She was totally surprised. At the party I told her her present was a trip to Hawaii – another total surprise. We celebrated her 70th birthday on Kauai at a luau – she deserved it – she's put up with me all these years! If you see her have her tell you how I got her to the Senior Center for her surprise party. Let's just say it was "Chaplain related" and I'll leave it at that.

If you live in this area (or watch news) you are aware that we have had an on-going major labor dispute between EGT and the ILWU local the past few months. To say that it created an enormous amount of stress for our emergency responders is an understatement. Truth is, our entire community came under

heavy stress. Spending time with my law enforcement folks was high on my list of priorities. I can't tell you how many times I heard one of them say they were glad to see me there with them. I didn't necessarily 'do' anything – I was just "there." As I've said so many times before, it's all about what we call the "**Ministry of Presence.**" Please keep everyone in your prayers as the issue is not yet settled. Things are 'in the court' now.

Unfortunately I've recently been called to minister to several families who had a loved one complete suicide. Even on vacation in Hawaii God gave me opportunity to minister to a local mom whose 16-year-old daughter committed suicide a few months ago. I've lost count of how many of these I've dealt with over the years but each time the pain is fresh and deep. There are always far more questions than answers. I do know this – it's not about dying so much as it is about solving a problem. And I believe every 'problem' in life is temporary – all of them! The tragedy is this; *suicide is a permanent solution to a temporary problem.* If you are among those who endure the pain of suicide my heart breaks for you. Know that you are not alone in your pain and God is waiting to walk with you through your pain. Take His hand – you'll be glad you did.

By the time you get this I will have spent time with our local firefighters during National Fire Prevention Week. We had open houses at our fire halls and hundreds of kids

(and adults) spent time enjoying "their" fire stations. Chief Lafave reminded me years ago the stations belong to citizens and firefighters are 'caretakers' of the people's fire houses. I was also honored to be asked to pray at the powerful ceremony of remembrance on the 10th Anniversary of "9-11" hosted by Cowlitz 2 Fire and Rescue – thanks guys!!!

That's a little bit of an idea of what I've been up to lately. I am so thankful for the privilege of serving alongside the men and women of law enforcement and fire. They are all heroes in my book. Thank **YOU** for your prayers and support making that possible. Shalom!

Chap Steve

Car Seat Clinic

October 20, 2011

2:00 – 5:30pm

Cowlitz 2 Fire/Rescue

701 Vine St.

Kelso

Things to Bring with You:

- ✓ Car Seat You're Currently Using (we can't help you without a seat)
- ✓ Child or Children* (unless you're pregnant**)
- ✓ Picture ID (driver's license, ID card, military id, etc.)
- ✓ Proof of Low Income (Medical Coupon, WIC Book, Food Stamp Card, etc.) if new seat is determined to be needed by Car Seat Clinic Staff
- ✓ Cash or Check (Fee varies from \$20 and up per seat) Payment MUST be made when you get your seat

Have Questions or Need More Information? Contact Brandi Ballinger with Cowlitz 2 Fire & Rescue at 360.575.6280 or brandi.ballinger@c2fr.org