



# Cowlitz Chaplaincy

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Website: [www.cowlitzchaplaincy.org](http://www.cowlitzchaplaincy.org)

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

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## SUMMER

Here it is, summer in its full swing and the recreation spots are finding people taking full advantage of our warm weather.



Some of our elderly are having a struggle coping with the heat and this summer time is

no exception. We have been called out on heat related calls where a grandmother and grandfather could not tolerate the heat conditions and found themselves in a medical emergency. I was called out to a drowning where a 40 year old man lost his life at Rocky Point while his two friends helplessly watched the tragedy take place before their very eyes. The two friends, a girl friend, a sister, and mother lost a loved one who was having fun at the river and became careless.

## WE ARE GRATEFUL

Our fundraising breakfast was over and Steve and I were trying to figure out what the Chaplaincy's net profit was from the event. As we were conducting our June board meeting, one of our broad members (Darryl Arrera) who is with Fire Dist #2 of Kelso, made an unexpected announcement that Fire Dist #2 Association wanted to donate a \$1,000 towards our 2007 Annual Fundraiser.

I was asked to attend the Cowlitz 2 Fire/Rescue Commissioners meeting for the presentation on the 13<sup>th</sup> of June. I attended the district meeting and received the donation on behalf the Chaplaincy.



**Chaplain Lyle with Cowlitz 2F/R Driver Darryl Arrera**

The Chaplaincy Board, Steve and I, with much gratitude, appreciate the generosity that is extended by this fine organization of our county. To all those folks that donate for the ongoing operation of Cowlitz Chaplaincy we declare with a loud voice, THANK YOU!

As we have shared before, the summer time can be a real challenge for us because some forget their donations when they go on vacations. Can I remind you please to maintain your support, as our bills, like yours, don't take vacations? The chaplaincy is so dependent on your faithfulness. Be safe this summer and early fall

Your friend

*Chaplain Lyle*

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## JUST SOME THOUGHTS

Here it is August already. Can you believe summer will be over in just a few weeks? It seems like it just started! My prayer is that all of you have (or will have) taken some time to 'get away' and "re-create" a bit. Times away can be extremely helpful in lowering your overall stress levels. (Admittedly, sometimes the 'time away' creates more stress – but hey, not always, right?)

For Carmen and I we greatly appreciated our time volunteering down at the Cannon Beach Christian Conference Center the last week of July. I really needed a break from things and God blessed us with wonderful weather, inspiring speakers, plenty of new friends... and more fruit to cut up than I ever want to see again! (We worked in the kitchen that week.) The good news is that I didn't have to wash a single dish! But the best of the best was the night I took Carmen to dinner at Mo's (south of Haystack Rock) and while eating we saw a pod of gray whales feeding just off shore. I have spent hundreds of hours looking out at the ocean (my favorite place in the world) and never saw a whale in the wild. This was so cool. I got my binoculars out and spent about an hour just enjoying the show. Trust me... it was WAYYYY COOL!

I know for me that times away like that are so important to my mental health. As I reminded some folks at a church I recently preached at, "Having a Chaplain knock on

your door is seldom (if ever) a good thing." The ministry God has called me to demands that I walk into terrible situations. Situations like the day I ministered to a father visiting from Arizona whose son had committed suicide back home. Or the day I sat with a young husband who found his wife dead (natural causes) in their brand new home they had just built. Or sharing the love of Christ with a County employee who was diagnosed with terminal cancer a couple months after her retirement. Working alongside Police and Fire personnel at the scene of a fatal house fire and having to tell the children that their mother was killed in the fire. Notifying a disabled wife that her husband had been hit by a car and killed on I-5 and then spending time trying to help her understand the next steps in her life. Being on patrol with one of my officers and called to the scene of an accidental drowning of a 9-month old infant in the bathtub and helping the officers try to make sense of this tragic death. Responding to a local Safeway where a 41-year-old man suddenly dropped dead near the check-out aisle and then notifying his bed-ridden mother. That's my "normal" day by day, week by week, month by month. (All of that, & more, happened in a 30-day period by the way.)

Perhaps you can begin to see why I needed a 'break' for a while. Carmen and I are taking another week at the end of August to go to Ocean Shores for a few days – like I said, the ocean is my favorite place in all the world --

besides – they have great go-carts there!!

Something I've missed since I left the full-time pastorate in a church is the chance to baptize folks. That "need" was filled a few weeks ago when I baptized a former Kelso PD officer I have been working with the last 4 years. That need will be met again in a couple weeks when I get to baptize the county employee who has terminal cancer.

Like the old gospel song goes, "God has been so good to me." He knows when I need a break and He provides for my every need. Every so often He even goes "above and beyond" like letting me see those whales in the ocean... by the way, did I tell you how cool that was? It was WAYYYY COOL!

Enjoy the rest of your summer, and if you think about it, say a prayer that God will refresh and renew me along the way. Those prayers are more important than anything else you can do for this ministry. Thanks!!

*Chap Steve*



Chaplain Steve receives a Les Schaub gift certificate from Longview Firefighters Association President Brett Venneri.

# A DAY IN THE OFFICE...

(by Chaplain Lyle)

FORGIVENESS IS



The Sunday School Class in the church I attend, we were studying the early Church as recorded in the Book of Acts of the holy men during that period of time. Through research we found that God's priest s and those who were the priests were exacting money from the people to have their sins forgiven. Some were charging as high as 1000 dollars a week in our monetary value. Each of us in the class expressed our distain for such action by the leaders of the church because it is nothing more than fraud. That was the setting about 2000 years ago.

It was about 2PM on a Thursday in June when heard someone come in our office. He was a dark, good looking man from the country of India. After our greeting one another he asked: "Sir are you a man of God?" I was taken back for a moment, and then answered, "Yes I am, I am an ordained Assembly of God Minister." "O good, I am glad for that, I want to pay you 100 dollars each Monday to forgive me my sins."



I sat there in my chair for a moment stunned by what I just heard. "Sir, what are you talking about?" The man said, "I have to pay a man of God 100 dollars a week to have my sins forgiven. There are no Shiites here so I am asking you to forgive me and I have to pay." "Sir," I said, "I can forgive you your sins, and take your money; however, that won't make you right before God. Is this what you have been taught in India to satisfy the god of Hindu?" He responded, "Yes, I have to pay to have my sins forgiven."

"Sir, if there is really a God who sent His Son Jesus to this earth and he died at a place called Calvary for the sins of the world, then payment for sin has already been paid. All you have to do is ask Jesus to forgive you your sins and receive him into your heart and you are free from them, and your guilt is taken away." I went on, "Would you do me a favor, would you read the Book of John in the New Testament of the Holy Bible of the Christian faith? After you read that book and you decide that you would like to be introduced to this wonderful God of heaven who loves you come back to my office July 25<sup>th</sup> and I will introduce you to him, because he is a very good friend of mine and I know him very well, and his forgiveness is totally free for the asking."

Can you believe history of 2000 years ago visited me in my office June 2007? How sad, that the love of our wonderful heavenly Father has been hidden from so many. (by Chaplain Lyle)

## 2007 Fundraiser Update

The final tally is in and counting the special donations from C2F/R (see pg. 1) and one from the LV Firefighters Assoc. (see pg. 2), we raised \$12,527.80 at our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Fundraiser Breakfast! These funds provide much needed equipment as well as get us through the lean months each fiscal year.

Next year Cowlitz Chaplaincy celebrates our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with another breakfast fundraiser on **Saturday, April 26, 2008** at the Cowlitz County Regional Expo Center.

Take time now to mark that date on your calendar – you won't want to miss this historic occasion in the life of our county. We will be able to accommodate a larger number of guests as the Expo

is much larger. Watch for updates in future newsletters.



Check us out on the web...

[www.cowlitzchaplaincy.org](http://www.cowlitzchaplaincy.org)

(Go to "news" link and you can see this newsletter and past issues in color)