



# Cowlitz Chaplaincy

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

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## FUN IN THE SUN

October was a very busy month for us at the Chaplaincy. I was called out to a search and rescue mission for a person who went mountain bike riding and didn't come home when he was scheduled to. So the search was on and he was found about 1 p.m. the next afternoon, cold and upset that his motor bike decided to stop running. He was a very long way from where he left the mountain road.



The family's stress of wondering if he was hurt or even dead was replaced with great relief as

this story ended happily.

There were those calls that weren't really bad but did find families struggling with children who had different ideas of what proper behavioral attitudes were. It is wonderful watching children stretch from one age to another. I like what Mark Twain once said in his wisdom of raising children.

"When a child reaches 13 buy a box; when he reaches 14 put him in the box. When the child turns 15 buy a lid, and when he turns 16 put the lid on the box. When he turns 17 nail the lid to the box, and when he turns 18 bury the box. I think I know some parents who are considering this option to bring sanity to the family structure.

There are so many voices bidding for children's attention these days. The poor parents who want their children to succeed must compete for their children's attention. It is tough combating all the worldly

influence that bombard our children today.



Miriam and I went on a ten day vacation to Florida and had a great time. The weather was great with only a half of day of rain. Miriam really enjoyed Epcot in Orlando. I enjoyed the airboat ride in the Everglades and getting up close and personal with the alligators. We saw where the rich and many not so famous people have their mansions on the River in Ft.

Lauderdale. I was astounded with the sight of their Yachts priced from 3 million to 32 million dollars. Then those folks only visit their property maybe a couple weeks a year. What a waste of their riches!



It certainly didn't impress me, besides being so far beyond my life style. It was fun to see their extravagance though.

We got back in time to cast our vote and now are sitting back to see what kind of ride we will have for the next four years with the new administration. Life is interesting isn't it? This one thing I do know, God is in control I am putting my faith in Him to see us through the trials that are ahead of us. Steve and I are up to the task of meeting people in their time of struggles. We will offer words of hope and arms of support. We don't serve the powers of this world; we are ambassadors of the Most High God who is above all

situations and powers. Even in times of sorrow and stress Jesus is still the answer and the hope for this world.

In the Bible there is a story of a man named Peter who had tremendous faith in



Jesus and Jesus invited him to walk on the water to meet Him. Peter just stepped right out of the boat and for sure he walked on the water. Then he noticed the height of the troubled water and he took his eyes off Jesus. When he looked at the stormy sea around him he started to sink in despair. But Jesus reached out and took his hand and the two of them finished the walk back to the boat. The moral of this story in the Bible is to encourage us to fix our eyes and our conditions on Jesus. He is our Savior!

## THANKSGIVING

This year is the year when my children go to their spouse's side of the family and so Miriam and I were going to be alone. We decided to invite a family from the community to join us. Besides, I could show off my culinary skills preparing a superb turkey. It was a great time



sharing with a family that would have probably not had a Thanksgiving dinner this year. It was fun and a delight watching the food disappear from the table, so it must have been good. The holidays are a

neat time to let the love of Jesus blossom not only through us with family and friends, but to look to those who have less than we have.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS**

It just a few days we will again celebrate the birth of our King the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus came to give us life and life eternal. What a tremendous gift our heavenly Father gave to the world! I pray that as the 25<sup>th</sup> of December approaches you will not forget the meaning of the word: *Christmas; the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ; (Webster's New World Dictionary.)*



It is not football or skiing, or even family and parties; although there is nothing wrong with those activities. Christmas is about the Son of God who came to this earth to a lost people, you and me, and gives us hope through the gift of eternal life in heaven by receiving Him as Lord and Savior of your life. Have a wonderful and Merry Christmas.

**THANK YOU**

Steve and I want to express our deepest gratitude for your faith supporting the Chaplaincy again this past year. Let me

remind you please to have your donations for 2008 at the Chaplaincy office by December 31<sup>st</sup> so it will be record on your 2008 statement as the books will be closed that day for 2008. It is hard to believe that this year is so soon to be over and 2009 is on the horizon. Your faithful partnership with us will assure that those who find themselves hurting because of untimely circumstances will be offered hope and help. It is because of your prayers and financial support that make this help possible. May you enjoy a Happy New Year and may the Lord bless and keep you. Your grateful friend,

***Chaplain Lyle Prather***

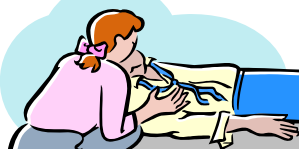
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**CERT TRAINING**

The month of November I was asked to teach the Class Psychology of a Disaster for the Citizens Emergency Response Team training that the Department of Emergency Management puts on. This is to train people from the community on how to function in cooperation with government entities during times of crisis.

We had 27 participates and it was a very good training time with interaction from those attending. There is another training class coming up in March 2009 for those who might be interested in the training.

***Chaplain Lyle***



**A TIME FOR GIVING**

At this time of the year there are a lot of demands for help in all areas of our community and there will be many more needs as our economy is in a very stressful condition. I know that the Community House could use some donations of nonperishable food items that you could spare to help meet the needs of providing meals for those who come to eat.

I know several churches are trying to prepare for the needs with food and clothing also. Please join with us to reach out especially this winter and help from our abundance. I looked in my pantry and seen I could give some food from our house.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS  
and  
HAPPY NEW YEAR**

## Just Some Thoughts...

Much of what I do is dependent on someone else's action – that is, I “react” to a given situation based on needs of others.

Occasionally I get to be the one initiating the actions and invite others to “react” to my actions. Such is the case with a couple of programs I have been involved with lately.

This past spring the Kelso PD officers held what they called “Crop a Cop” to collect food for our local community shelter. KPD Officer Volker did a super job of organizing the event and I was able to come along side and help him. It was such a success that I thought, let's do the same thing in Castle Rock. The whole idea is to get students to bring food and the winning class gets to ‘shave the head’ of one of my officers. For Castle Rock I “recruited”

Sgt Scott Neves to be the one to get his head shaved. Scott was a great sport about the whole thing

and let me put his head in danger as a class of 6<sup>th</sup> graders took the shears and went to it at a school wide assembly. There was plenty of laughter and cheering on. At one point the whole student body chanted “Shave-It-Off -- Shave-It-Off!” All the food collected by the



CRPD Sgt Scott Neves gets his hair cut by a student at CR Elementary as part of the “Crop a Cop” Food Drive

students was donated to the Castle Rock Lions Food Bank prior to Thanksgiving.

Another activity I am gearing up for is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual “**Shop with a Cop**” program which began last Christmas with the Longview PD officers. This year the program will include officers & deputies from Longview, Kelso, Castle Rock PD's and the Sheriff's office. With the assistance of Youth and Family Link in Longview and school interventionists who select the students based on family needs, my officers will shop with over

50 kids this year! (In 2007 we had 20 kids). Thanks to the generosity of many local businesses and individuals we have raised over \$5,000.00 for

this year's “**Shop with a Cop**” project (Wal-Mart donated \$2,500.00 for LPD's portion).

A new project I have been working on involves helping

students recognize that the vast majority of them are making good, healthy lifestyle

decisions. As a member of the Castle Rock Care Coalition I was asked to partner up with the School District Intervention Specialist to present the “Social Norms” program at the local high school. At this point we have concentrated on 9<sup>th</sup> graders, but in December we

will be taking the program to 7<sup>th</sup> graders at the CR Middle School. The thing I enjoy most about this smoking/drinking curriculum is that it points to ‘positive behavior patterns’ as opposed to all the “don't do this” formats. We are able to show students that the vast majority of them are making very healthy choices and then reinforce that continued



Chaplain Steve ‘rounding up the troops’ for **Shop w/a Cop** in Dec 2007.

behavior. This program also fits hand-in-glove with the “**Every-15 Minute**” program we help with each spring in our local High Schools.

These and a few other projects (like teaching Stress Mgt classes during DT Week @ LPD) make for a nice ‘break’ from my normal routine of being dependent on the actions of others to determine what I put my hand to each day. As always I have been called to numerous scenes of tragedy and chaos the last couple months. I will continue to “be there” when needed as long as I am able – thanks in most part to your prayers and support. As we enter this holiday season of giving I am so blessed to have folks like you who stand with me in this ministry. I could not do it without you – THANKS!

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!** May 2009 be a year of great blessings for us all... Shalom!

*Chap Steve*