



**Cowlitz Chaplaincy** PO Box 2578, Longview, WA. 98632

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

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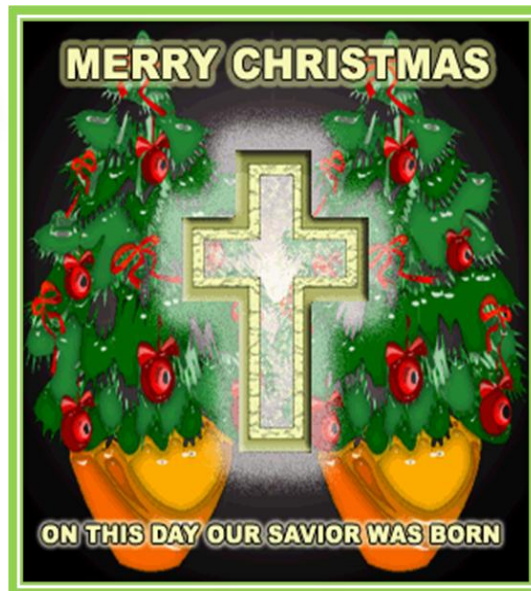
December 2007



**Chaplain Lyle Prather**



**Chaplain Steve White**



**Chaplain Larry Bennett**



**Chaplain Finis Johnson**

*We give thanks for your prayers and  
support of our Chaplains and this  
ministry in 2007...*

*Chaplaincy Board of Directors*

## MERRY CHRISTMAS



It is with gratitude and loyalty to our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, that I wish you a very Merry Christmas.

Where has the time gone? It seems like just a news letter or two ago I, along with you, was celebrating the holidays. I know I haven't lost the gain in my weight from last Christmas yet.

This year certainly was filled with a variety of events and emotions. Each month was marred by a tragedy from fires, suicides, auto accidents, domestic violence, murder, rapes, tree cutting accidents, deaths, and people just giving up on life in general. There were times where I responded to a call to come sit with family members as their elderly parent made that last journey to the place where they step into that land called eternity. Sometimes moments like these make you feel helpless and yet the Lord comes on the scene and the transfer of Glory goes to him because he came with the answer comfort and peace. Both Steve I and were called separately to situations where the family members were so dysfunctional that it is going to take years to recover from hurts and bitterness that they are harboring. Oh, if we could learn the art of forgiveness so we could live in peace and love for one another

On the other, hand the year was filled with moments of delight and an over abundance of joy. Last January through March I invited Miriam to come out west and live in Longview to see if she would really like this area. We got her an apartment on 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Longview. She fell in love with the area, and in March together we got a new friend called Smokey (a Blue Heeler). Miriam went back to Ohio while Smokey and I started down a path of obedience training which, I must say, I train quiet easily! We had a great time running on the beach, that is, he ran and I walked but it was fun.

Then in August I took a journey with my granddaughter, LaVena, across country traversing through Washington, Idaho, Utah, Colorado, Wyoming, Nebraska, Iowa, Indiana, Illinois, and Ohio. On this trip I was able to visit my oldest son in Nebraska, attend a conference in Indiana, and

participate in a wedding in Ohio. Oh! That was Miriam's wedding to me. On the way back to Washington we went through North Dakota, Montana, and Idaho to see my daughter, Gloria and her family. It was a wonderful wedding and the trip was great. We got to see some of our country that we hadn't very seen except on television.

September was filled with helping a young single mom of three girls replace a bathroom floor. The oldest girl fell through the bottom of the bath tub. Thirty-nine hours of repairing the floor and foundation! Miriam and I purchased a bathtub and shower wrap-around and finished the job so they could use their bathroom once again. Searing Plumbing donated a vanity for them and this completed the bathroom. The girls only had cardboard covering broken window panes, so we got new windows, reframed the openings, and replaced the old windows so they could conserve heat this winter. I did the labor and Columbia Heights Assembly of God purchased the windows for the project.

This year was filled with a variety of involvements in people and families lives, each one was blessed and encouraged to plod on with renewed hope. It is amazing to see people respond from kindness and words of encouragement.

I want to thank you for all your kindness that you have shown throughout this year towards the Chaplaincy in your prayers and financial giving. We are so humbled by you allowing us to be your hands extended to people who find themselves in a state of crisis. With your help, and God's grace, may we do even greater things this coming year.

Your Friend,

*Chaplain Lyle Prather*



## Just Some Thoughts

For some reason I just cannot get the word “PEACE” out of my mind the past few days. The word is used so much during this season and yet it has so many different images. I mean, what does “PEACE” really look like? The dictionary defines it this way: *“freedom from war... freedom from public disturbance or disorder... freedom from disagreement or quarrels... an absence of mental conflict... calm, quiet, tranquility.”*

Then there are those statements about “PEACE” – things like; *“Peace at all costs is too high a price to pay,”* and *“Peace be with you,”* and the Beetle’s sang *“Give peace a chance,”* and Santa from his sleigh, *“Peace and to all a good night.”* And then there is the *“if at all possible, live at peace with one another”* in scripture. Still, PEACE seems to be an elusive thing, doesn’t it? It seems even more unattainable during this season we call Christmas.

I remember, while serving in the ‘Nam one year, there was a ‘cease-fire’ declared during Christmas. That always seemed kind of silly to me – I mean if you can declare peace for a few days, why not forever? (the ‘cease-fire’ didn’t work by the way!) Then I think of all the domestic violence that occurs during this season -- senseless acts of violence, dysfunctional families fighting and arguing, general mayhem that seems to increase this time of year. Maybe it doesn’t increase, maybe it just ‘seems to increase’ because this is supposed to be a season of peace and goodwill to all?

In a perfect world we would not need police and fire personnel and dispatchers and medics and soldiers and sailors (and chaplains!) -- but we don’t live in that ‘perfect world’, do we? Please pray for all those who do their level best to “keep the peace” in our world – especially during this season.

I guess “PEACE” is pretty hard to grasp, huh? Maybe that’s why scriptures talk about *“seeking the peace of God that transcends all understanding...”* (Phil. 4:7). Amidst all the chaos, join me in seeking God’s “PEACE” this Christmas. Shalom!

*Chap Steve*

## REASON FOR THE SEASON

Just a few days from the time you receive this news letter we will be celebrating the birth of Jesus. This season is the time of the year when we are reminded of the gift of love God bestowed upon this planet when he sent His Only Son on that Christmas so long ago to bring peace and Goodwill to mankind. *“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whosoever believe in him should not perished, but have everlasting life.”* (John 3:16)

May we all be like the shepherds that evening a little over 2000 years ago, and be attentive to the birth of the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords. The Bible tells us that just a few hundred feet away, in the town of Bethlehem, the birth of Jesus went unnoticed by so many even though the skies were lit with angels singing songs of heaven proclaiming the birth of Jesus as Savior – God’s greatest gift made available to all mankind. As recipients of that love may we be kind and loving toward each other, this Christmas season like never before.

As an act of thanks to God for His gift of love, please consider giving a special financial ‘gift’ to the Chaplaincy this Christmas. Thanks!

## 2007 TAX INFORMATION

**IT’S NOT TOO LATE FOR YOU TO GET A TAX DEDUCTION FOR 2007!! AS A “501-C3” ORGANIZATION, CONTRIBUTIONS TO COWLITZ CHAPLAINCY ARE FULLY TAX DEDUCTIBLE. HOWEVER, YOUR CONTRIBUTION MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 31, 2007.**

**CONTRIBUTION RECIEPTS FOR 2007 WILL BE MAILED BY JANUARY 31, 2008.**