



Cowlitz Chaplaincy

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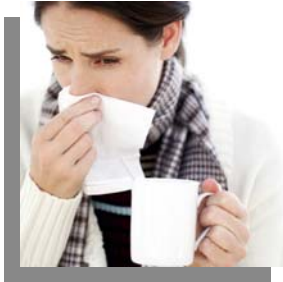
A non-profit organization serving Emergency Service Responders and Citizens since 1983

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DAYS OF COLD AND SORROW



The holidays have come and gone since our last newsletter. I enjoyed the Thanksgiving time with my children around the table with the turkey and stories of the past year. Christmas was a great time as we remembered the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus. It was so much fun to watch the grand-kids open their presents with delight in their eyes and listen to all the oooos and ahsssss.

But there was another side of the holidays that brought sadness to many in our community. Suicides! Because of a variety of reasons people chose to ruin the festivities of the season with the selfish act of taking their own lives leaving unanswered question to why. What made things so bad that such a permanent solution was chosen?

I responded to six heart attacks, families having to deal with the death of a loved one instead of rejoicing as families during the time when the house should be filled with happiness and joy. Then there were the accidents because of the ice that invaded our county. A mother and father were going to the hospital to visit their daughter who had just had surgery. They hit some ice and both mom and dad were killed.



WE GOT SMART

Steve, Larry and I attended the NW Regional

International Conference of Police Chaplains Annual Training Seminar out at Cannon Beach (OR) a couple weeks ago as part of our annual training. These sessions were very good and we all came back refreshed and enlighten with advanced training to help us better serve our community. The weather was very stormy, but beautiful and interacting with the chaplains across the region was great also. We are tuned up for the race of life that lies ahead of us this coming year.

YOU ARE GREAT

I can not thank you enough for your support of the Chaplaincy. Your prayers and financial support make it possible for us to reach out those who find themselves in times of uninvited stress. As we launch into a new year I ask you to please continue your faithfulness to the chaplaincy. Together we will touch many lives this coming year for good. You are great in your commitment to help others within our community. I so appreciate your partnership.



HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY TO ALL OF YOU!

*Chaplain
Lyle*

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JUST SOME THOUGHTS

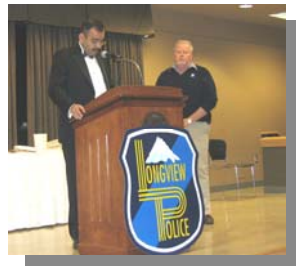
From time to time I feel terribly inadequate for the job I am called to do. It's only when I realize that God is not depending on my 'ability' – He is depending on my 'availability' that I am able to do this job. I think most of my struggle comes from not knowing when or where God will place me every day. But if one follows the theme of Scripture one realizes that most everything done in the Bible was **"spontaneous"**.

A quick read of the Gospels and especially Acts reveals just how **"spontaneous"** God's work is. The Disciples were constantly expected to *"go with the flow"* of the Spirit. Why should we expect anything different? As a Chaplain, I know all about spontaneity – every time my pager goes off!

I recently responded to four suicides involving violent acts of death by gunshot. While my officers deal with the scene, I deal with the people impacted by the event. On each of those recent events I looked into the eyes of the loved ones left behind and *"saw"* their pain and grief. I *"heard"* the wailing and groaning. I *"felt"* my heart be pierced by their grief. You can't hold a grieving father in your arms and not be touched in some way. There's no way to 'prepare' for those moments. All I can do is pray – **"spontaneously"**!

People often ask what I do to process these events in my

life. I recently had a chance to experience healing and strengthening following one of those bad calls. I went to my church (Evangel) after the call and during worship I went to the altar to pray. Suddenly I was surrounded by my church family who (without knowing details) came **"spontaneously"** to my aid and prayed for me. Later that night another group came and prayed over me. And then later the same night a visiting pastor (Darryl Bradley & others) prayed for me a third time. None of this was 'planned' or "in the order of service" – it all occurred **"spontaneously"** – directed by the Holy Spirit. I can't tell you how encouraged I am to have a church family that cares about me and will drop everything to pray for me. They also ministered to my wife, Carmen, as she watched this all happen. THANK YOU ECF Family!



Chap Steve receives award from LPD Chief Perez.

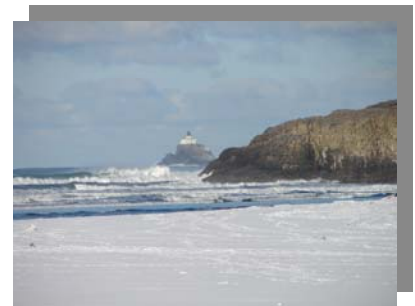
Something else that helps me process these events is when someone

takes time to earnestly

thank me for a job well done. It's the old "Atta-Boy" principle that works every time. It may be one of my officers/firefighters, one of my supporters, someone who knows me from some place I spoke at, or it may be one of the folks I've been sent to help. Regardless where they come from, **"spontaneous"** words of encouragement go a long ways in healing the hurts of this job. Please, I'm not

complaining about how tough I've got it... I love what I do and do what I love... but we all need a pat on the back once in a while.

Another 'battery recharge' came when I was able to attend this year's annual training along with 100+ other chaplains from the NW. The classes were terrific, the guest speaker was superb (Pastor Stu Weber, from Aloha, OR), the food and facilities were wonderful (Cannon Beach Christian Conference Center)... but the fellowship and camaraderie with others was the best of the best! Besides that, I got to take Carmen with me and that went way beyond "best." All of that was 'planned', but there was a **"spontaneous"** thing that occurred – God gave us 3"- 4" of snow one of the days...check out the snow & the lighthouse at Cannon Beach... WOW!



You are God's 'hands & feet' to me with your prayers and support. Please accept my heartfelt thanks! **Chap Steve**



2007 Chaplaincy
Fundraiser Breakfast
May 19, 2007
{ Watch for details }

GEORGE WASHINGTON & CHAPLAINCY



When George Washington assumed command of the Continental Army in Cambridge, Massachusetts, chaplains were already present for duty.

Washington could count fifteen chaplains serving with twenty-three regiments gathered around Boston. The Continental Congress gave the chaplains its official recognition on 29 July 1775, when it voted pay for various officers and enlisted personnel in the Continental Army not previously covered in its resolution of 16 July 1775. The reference is to dollars per month, and it reads: “*Chaplain 20.*” This was the sum paid Captains and Judge Advocates, and it was the first official recognition of chaplains by an American government. As such it is considered the birth date of the Chaplaincy. Nearly a year later General George Washington issued the following General Order:

New York, July 9th, 1776

The Honorable Continental Congress having been pleased to allow a Chaplain to each Regiment with the pay of Thirty-Three Dollars and one third dollars per month – The Colonels or commanding officers of each regiment are directed to procure Chaplains accordingly; persons of good Characters and exemplary lives – To see that all inferior officers and soldiers pay them a suitable respect and attend carefully upon religious exercises. The blessing and protection of Heaven are at all times necessary but especially so in times of public distress and danger – The General hopes and trusts, that every officer and man, will endeavor so to live, and act as becomes a Christian Soldier defending the dearest Rights and Liberties of his country.

George Washington

EVERY 15 MINUTES

Late March through early May we will again be involved with the *Every 15 Minute* program for our local high schools. This is the annual program that the Sheriff’s Office with the help of the local Police and Fire Departments put on each year as a deterrent for drinking and driving for the seniors and some juniors. This year we will be at Toutle, Woodland, Castle Rock, and Kelso High Schools

This is our thirteenth year doing the *Every 15 Minute* program, and so far there

have been NO deaths in alcohol related accidents, from the classes that have gone through the program in our county.



Notice we aren’t doing the Longview School District as the administrators don’t believe that they have a problem with their children drinking and driving, although I gave two teen

death notifications last May, from the alcohol-related accident on 32nd Avenue in LV. However because of their perceived lack of a problem the administrators can’t justify the time for the program. (Chaplain Lyle)



Check us out on the web...

www.cowlitzchaplaincy.org