



# Cowlitz Chaplaincy

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

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## WINTER IS HERE

*Boy did winter introduce itself with a vengeance in December. We can be thankful as a county at large, outside of a few people, that our dikes held and there wasn't major flooding. If any of you suffered from our high water and lost possessions be sure to contact the Red Cross. At this writing I know our Department of Emergency Management is working with our Governor for our county to be declared a State of disaster.*



I was able to help three families to prepare themselves in case they had to leave their homes. The water did come close to their doors, but then receded just as they were about to seek higher ground. My son Mark had 27 inches of snow at his house and could not get out of their drive way for a couple days. As a family they had a good time cuddling by the heater and sliding down the hill on their property.

Miriam and I enjoyed evenings of hot chocolate cuddling close by our gas fire place watching the snow pile up in our back yard. Smokey, our two year old Blue Heeler, would go outside and did his best to herd the falling snow flakes. As we watched his excitement and futility in his ability to catch them we would laugh at the playful sight we beheld.

## HELLO CLEVELAND

*BURRRRRR!!!!!!!!!!* The morning of December 27<sup>th</sup> at 4a.m. the temperature was 23<sup>o</sup>. With our teeth chattering we ventured out in the shivering cold and headed for the Portland Airport. The ride was done with much caution as the freeway was slippery. Our flight was an interesting one as we saw our county covered with snow from Portland to Las Vegas to Cleveland, Ohio. It was about six in the evening when we landed in Cleveland with a temperature of 70<sup>o</sup>. That's spring planting weather! However, at 3 in the morning it was 23<sup>o</sup>. So much for planting.

## WHY????

The month of January was a month filled with variety. Steve and I with our wives attended a four day conference with ICPC which was very good. When we returned Steve and I were confronted with folks who found themselves in tremendous pain and suffering. I was called out on three suicides that brought unbelievable pain and confusion to the surviving family members. Over and over were the words "WHY? Why did she or he do this unbelievable thing to us? What did we do to deserve this?" The tears were very intense and heart aches were very deep. My heart hurt as I was consoling each family member.

## Things are tight!

The month of January has brought a noticeable drop in our income. Steve and I know the economy is struggling; our bills like yours need to be met. May I encourage you to please keep us in your

prayers and financial support that we may continue to respond to the needs of those who desperately find themselves in an uninvited crisis? The month of January donations were \$1250 short of November income and over \$3000 under December intake.

By this you can see we are in an interesting dilemma, so may I ask you to pray for us that folks will remember the Chaplaincy in their giving.

## ANNUAL BREAKFAST

April 25, 2009 at 8:00 AM will be our fourth annual fundraising breakfast. The breakfast is twenty-five dollars a person, and this year we are adding for your enjoyment not only a silent auction, but also a live auction. The live auction ought to be exciting and full of fun.

I could use your help to make this a great success. I am going brain dead with ideas for things to auction off. Suggestion or help in getting things donated would be a great help and much appreciated. You can contact me by my e-mail address which is: [chaplainlyle@comcast.net](mailto:chaplainlyle@comcast.net) or by phone 360-431-7699. Together we could make this an outstanding fundraiser for the chaplain's program. Would you help Steve and me?

## **FOURTH ANNUAL FUNDRAISING BREAKFAST**

**Tickets on sale now for \$25 per person. Contact the Chaplaincy if you would like to host a table for eight.**

## Training in the Sun

January 12<sup>th</sup> Steve, Carman, Miriam, and I were greeted by blue skies and moderate temperatures for winter time as we headed for Cannon Beach to attend the International Conference of Police Chaplains (ICPC) for ongoing training. As Miriam and I entered Cannon Beach it was sunny and the surf was beautiful as the waves with their foaming curls crashed against the sandy beach. Haystack



Rock was there in its grandeur encased by the blues sky;

I love the beach with its ever-changing features don't you?

The days and evening were filled with classes that dovetailed together to help us chaplains to be better equipped to serve our communities. It was also great to be able to reconnect with other chaplains who serve our Northwest Region. One of the classes which was on grief and recovery presented by Phyllis Rogers was outstanding and very practical. Ms. Rogers presented insights that were welcomed as we drank in the information.

In the evenings after class there was a time of fellowshiping with other



chaplains and their wives, trading war stories and concerns. Miriam and



I enjoyed some time alone without the concern of the pager or being called out to a crisis. We enjoyed

talking, listening to sound of the ocean parading up and down the beach plus the sparkle of the night's stars glistening on the water and, far off in the night, watching a lonely crab boat setting her pots hoping for a great haul of fresh Dungeness crabs. What a way to drift off in the land of dreams!

In closing, please remember us in your prayers and in your donations. With all of our hearts, thank you for being our partners.

*Chaplain Lyle*



**DON'T FORGET TO MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE FUNDRAISER ON APRIL 25<sup>TH</sup> AT 8 A.M. AT THE EXPO CENTER.**

**TICKETS ON SALE NOW. CONTACT THE CHAPLAINCY IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HOST A TABLE FOR EIGHT. COST IS \$25 PER PERSON.**

## **RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS**

In our country we are experiencing some tough times with a high jobless rate and a floundering economy. Rather than allowing the negative circumstances to overwhelm you, here are some suggestions for random acts of kindness. You'll be surprised how helping others can lift your spirits.

- Knit hats for the homeless people
- Donate non-perishable foods to a food bank
- Visit the homebound
- Provide a ride for an elderly person
- Bake a cake for your neighbor
- Give up a Saturday to help others
- Volunteer at your local school
- Make a meal for the homeless
- Donate gently used clothing and blankets to the homeless
- Write a note to someone who is lonely
- Collect toys for children in foster care
- Donate baby items to Caring Pregnancy Center

Can you think of some other random acts of kindness?