



# Cowlitz Chaplaincy

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

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## SUMMER!!!

My flowers, especially the roses are in bloom and the temperature is rising, which brings out the BBQ's and moments at the parks, graduations and party's. Then the let's hit the road, for our vacations though many will probably be very short ones as our fuel prices are off the chart.

### BE CAREFUL

As we enter the summer months, please be careful and really enjoy your families and friends. Each year we seem to have to respond to calls involving tragic situations of carelessness. We have so many options for fun, traveling, fishing and boating, picnics with the family however, each comes with areas of caution. Oh, yes remember the sunscreen.

### Remember "SMOKEY"?

He's now 18 weeks old and 24 pounds of energy. Things are going just great at my house. He has me sitting and house broke and walking comfortably on a loose leash. Since he is a herding type dog, our next traning experience will be to herd fish to my lures. We are doing quite well speaking the same language or at least we have the same understanding.



### MY PAGER BROKE SILENCE

I had just finished mowing the lawn and got the lawn mower put away. My eyes were slowly drifting off in the land of slumber, when my blissful moment was interrupted by the sound of my pager. With my heart trying to beat it's self through my chest from being startled, I dialed the Comm. Center to receive instructions that an elderly gentleman in North County was not breathing. As I arrived at the scene

the family members had gathered to try to come to grips with the death of the family leader of so many years. "What are we going to do?" was being repeated over and over again. The evening slipped into a couple of hours as I was able to help bring direction and offer help and hope.

I know many of you are praying for the Chaplaincy and us chaplains who are responding to situations just like this one. I want you to know, it is your supportive prayers that help us do our job. Please believe me, when I say thank you. I mean it from the bottom of my heart, because of you, we chaplains together with you; do make a difference as we reach out to meet people in their hour of need.

### MONTHLY SUPPORT

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Summer is a time when historically we struggle at the Chaplaincy, with people going on vacations and school graduations and the, "what not's." May I ask you to please remember us in your financial support. Crisis hasn't for at least the last twenty-five years taken a vacation, and we still must respond to give help when called upon. Your prayers and dollars are so important for our success. Steve and I THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

Have a wonderful beginning summer time, be careful and have fun. May you be blessed by the Lord Jesus to an over filling abundance.

### Chaplain Lyle

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## JUST SOME THOUGHTS

Have you ever had one of those “*déjà-vu*” times that you ‘step back in time’ like it was yesterday?

I’ve been in one of those times the last few weeks. Thanks to some help from Tim and Mike (a couple of my cop friends) I located a buddy of mine that I hadn’t seen or talked to in over 36 years. This “buddy” of mine was no ordinary buddy – Pat and I served together in Vietnam.

When I was given what we believed to be correct information as to the whereabouts of Pat, a rush of emotions went through me. A part of me was really excited (Pat is the only guy I served with that I ever really wanted to maintain contact with), and a part of me was afraid to make the contact. I mean, what if this was not the right Pat, what if my buddy was dead, what if it was him, but he didn’t want to have contact with me? All those questions and more raced through my mind.

In fact, I sat on the information for about 48 hours before I took the leap of faith and placed the call (my buddy now lives in Florida). As the phone began to ring I almost hung up. All I got was an answering machine, but I left a message something like this: *“This is Cisco. If this is Poncho who served in Vietnam with the OSI in 1970 please give me a call.”* (NOTE: “Poncho” and “Cisco” were our nicknames in the ‘Nam.)



“Poncho” in Phu Hoa Dong, S. Vietnam c. 1970

About an hour later my phone rang and “Poncho” was on the end of the line. What a rush of emotions now! I mean, 36+ years of not hearing his voice but many times

thinking about him. I even nicknamed our daughter Jessica “Poncho”. I suppose that was my way of holding on to my buddy. Like I said, he and I were close. We talked and reminisced for over an hour – we laughed – we cried – we “touched” once again and it was wonderful! One of the first things I did after he and I hung up was call Jessica and tell her I had just talked to her namesake.

Since then “Poncho” and I have emailed regularly – sent pictures back and forth and talked about getting together as soon as possible. Carmen and I are tentatively planning a trip to Florida sometime in October. (Just in time for my annual sun fix). We are both anxious for our wives to meet each other as well.

There has always been a sense for me that ‘timing is everything’. The Bible says it this way; *“There is a time and season for everything under heaven...”* In 2002 I finally made the trek to Washington, DC to the Vietnam Memorial Wall and that was a big step in my “coming home.” Connecting back up with “Poncho” is (I believe) the final step in that process. For me, this all just seems to be the right time and season in my life.

As I minister to families in times of crisis I often hear words like, “I wish I had done/said this or that before it was too late.” I feel so blessed that it wasn’t “too late” for Poncho & Cisco to ride again – even if it is just through email. There are a lot of things in my past that I am not real proud of, but having served alongside Pat is not one of those. God gave me a friend even when I didn’t know He was doing it (I found Jesus after I came back from the ‘Nam – but that’s another story). I thank God for Pat, and I thank God

for friends like Tim and Mike that I have close beside me today – encouraging me along the way.



“Cisco” @ Phu Hoa Dong, S. Vietnam c. 1970

Maybe there’s someone from

your past that came to mind as you read this. Maybe you’re thinking I should contact so-and-so. Let me encourage you – go ahead – take the risk. And maybe you have a friend close by right now that you haven’t said “thanks” to for a while. Trust me, there’s no better season than right now to do that.

Finally, although I don’t know many of you personally, I do know you are a “friend of the Chaplaincy” and for that I am thankful. May God bless your summer season with great days of joy and bounty.

Thanks friends...

*Chap “Cisco” Steve*

# 2007 FUNDRAISER REPORT



Senior Chaplain Lyle Prather had the pleasure of presenting a plaque to Rev. Dave Minor (one of the original twelve chaplains), to honor him for his vision and inspiration in starting the chaplain's program with Retired Sheriff Les Nelson back in the twentieth century, March 3, 1983. Dave shared some memorable stories of those early years with the Deputies. Lyle said, "I believe we could write a book on our beginnings, recapping our victories, disappointments, the laughter, and tears of being involved with people."

Nearly 200 people attended this year's event on May 19<sup>th</sup>, at the Monticello Hotel. The food was good, the fellowship was great, and all our speaker's did a wonderful job of telling the Chaplaincy story. Special thanks goes out to Police Chief Ken Johnson (Fairview, OR) who was our key-note speaker. Through everyone's generosity, we were able to raise \$11,527.89 for the Chaplaincy. This support will help us get through the lean months that come every year and enable us to purchase some much needed equipment (i.e. new tires for the truck).

The excitement and enthusiasm for the work of this ministry was extremely high and we are looking forward already to next year's 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Fundraiser Breakfast to be held on Saturday, April 26, 2008 @ the Regional Convention Center. That event will mark our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary! See more pictures below...

## MEN'S RETREAT

Lyle recently was invited to be a guest speaker at a Men's Retreat at Cannon Beach.

Twelve men from Pacific County Church gathered for a great experience with the subject matter being on Missions.

During the sessions some issues came up that hinder reaching others with the awesome power of the Living Savior Jesus, who was sent by our heavenly Father, to reconcile fallen mankind back to himself. It is amazing how many people try everything but what God has placed into motion to come into relationship with Him. Man fights to convince himself that there are other ways to Heaven than what God has said. The Bible is clear if there's no relationship with The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, no heaven is available. *John 14:6 "I am the Way, and The Truth, and The life, no man comes to the Father except by me."* These are the



Lyle leading Men's Retreat

words of Jesus himself, the author and finisher of our faith and fate. God so love man, and all he commands is that we love him back with obedience to him and his Word.

## Fundraiser Pic's



CCSO Capt. Mark Nelson



LFD F/F Dan Rennells



LFD Assoc. Pres. Brett V. presents Gift Certificate for new tires



Key Note Speaker Chief Ken Johnson (Fairview (OR) PD)

## LOCAL CHURCHES SPONSOR B-FAST!

Special thanks to Pastor Dahlke, & the 11 churches who covered the cost of our fundraiser! (North Gate City Church, New Life Fellowship, Kelso Abundant Life Nazarene, Northlake Baptist, Cowlitz Valley Christian, Columbia Height Assembly, Faith Family CC, Father's House, Shekinah, Calvary Chapel, & Abernathy Assembly)!!

**MORE FUNDRAISER B-FAST PICTURES**



**“The Crowd”**



**CRPD Sgt. Scott Neves**



**More of “The Crowd”**



**LPD Capt. Jim Duscha**



**Pastor Jeff Hoover**



**Pastor Kent Doehne**