



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

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

Volume 4

Issue Number 3

June 2008

## CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Our spring has been one of extremes in that were subject to cool wet weather and then a record breaking heat wave. Miriam wanted to try a garden this year so I was able to get a kitchen garden spot tilled through the kindness of Joe Conner, one of our deputies from the Sheriff's Office. So we have the opportunity to enjoy some home grown produce later this summer.

The fifth of May was a beautiful day with warm weather and mostly sunny, a sure sign that spring was really here. Our tulips and lilacs were in bloom and it was a day to really enjoy after months of clouds and rain. I enjoyed my lunch time with my son, Mark, and the office work was going very well. At 2:15 in the afternoon as I was filling my vehicle with gas I heard over my emergency radio that the Communication Center was reporting a motor cycle and pickup accident at Ocean Beach and Germany Creek. I called the Communication Center and asked what color the motorcycle was and did they have a name of its rider. They hadn't receive that information as of yet. I had this knot hit my stomach and I said I have a gut feeling it is my son I would be responding to the scene.

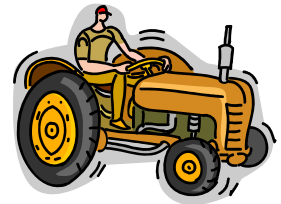
About twelve minutes later I pulled to the accident to see my boy on the pavement broken and severely in pain. I helped prepare him for his ambulance ride to St. Johns Hospital with a compound broken right leg and his hip out of place. His injuries were too great for St. John's Hospital to handle so they transported his to OHSU in Portland, OR.

There we found out he had a shattered right shin, right hip out of its socket and a shattered hip

good part of his body.

Challenges to survive and then opportunities to recover and, along the way, to search out what the future holds as far as future employment and continuing to provide for his wife and two boys.

The morning was the evidence of a wonderful day to be enjoyed and a great drive home. Who would ever think another driver would pull out in front of you from a side road and your future would be forever changed?



## ANOTHER CALL

A couple weeks ago on a Sunday afternoon I was being refreshed after a very busy morning dealing with an elderly gentleman who died and being called to support the family. After church we had a home group meeting. As I laid my head on the pillow for an afternoon snooze and was almost into the land of dreams of slumber, the Communications Center called about an accident out west of town. A gentleman was clearing some of his property on a tractor when he pushed against a tree. The tree, instead of breaking, slipped over the bucket and hit him. A young girl didn't hear the tractor moving and went to see why. She found a horrible scene. Even being shocked by what she saw, she had the presence of mind to go back to house and called 911 to report the accident. When I arrived at the scene my mission was to help her and the family to process the impact of the real life picture that they were forced to behold.

Challenges versus opportunities.... life has a way of ushering in those conditions or circumstances that we don't count on or want. However, they also give us the privilege to grow Continued from page 2.....

stronger and to mature. They give us material to be able to reach out to others to offer hope and encouragement when life isn't fair.

## **A GREAT BREAKFAST**

April we were blessed with our annual fundraiser and those who were able to come went away refreshed in the work of the Chaplaincy, Our silent auction was a success and we are encourage to expand it for next year.

They Chaplaincies Board of directors, our table captains, those who donated things for the auction, Steve and his wife Carmen, My wife Miriam and myself as a team worked together and with each one who came willing to donate to the welfare of the Chaplaincy created a wonderful successful fundraiser. We want express our thankfulness for you love and support.

It is people just like you that give. Steve, the Board of Directors and I are encouraged as we are able to meet our financial obligations each month. As we have said before because of your faithfulness we are able to respond to the calls like I have shared. Please don't forget to pray for us and your monthly donation they both are so needed.

Challenges vs. opportunities.... together we can meet conditions that arise, and we will enjoy the opportunity to share, give hope, and help with the Lord Jesus' help, as he gives us the strength and wisdom to meet the needs that lie ahead.

"I (we) can all things through Christ who gives us strength." Philippians 4:13

**HAVE YOU SEEN OUR WEB PAGE?**

**[www.cowlitzchaplaincy.org](http://www.cowlitzchaplaincy.org)**

## **GREAT YOUNG PEOPLE**

The month of May Steve and I finished helping with the 15 Minutes program for our high schools. It is a worthy alcohol awareness program to encourage our young people to make good adult choices, not to drink and drive. Again this year was like last year the participating young people were great to be around and witness their maturity. It is refreshing to talk with our next generation and see them look into the future with hopes and goals to better themselves and be an asset to themselves and society as a whole. They certainly need our support, encouragement and prayers for the complications of our future in the world we live.

## **GRADUATION VISITS THE PRATHER CLAN**

May 29<sup>th</sup> Miriam and I journeyed to Coeur d' Alene, Idaho for Bonnie's graduation. She is my Daughter Glori's oldest daughter. My, has she grown up to be a fine young lady leaving High School and headed to the frontiers of tomorrow. The first Sunday of June we will be traveling to Federal Way to see another granddaughter, LaVena graduate. Where has the time gone? It seems just yesterday I held them in my arms at the hospital and in the home when they were born. Today they are young women I found my eyes leaking with a



substance called tears, as I watched them receive their diplomas. From diapers to high heels and prom dresses... how time has a way of slipping by! We have so few years to instill sound doctrine and standards to govern

one's life by. Yes, the stage is the same only the actors change from one generation to the other, and yet each generation invests its values and wisdom to prepare the way for the next. May we as parents and grandparents lend our talents to help in the process so good will follow our heritage.

*Chaplain Lyle*

## JUST SOME THOUGHTS

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A few years ago Carmen and I visited Washington, DC. There are two “walls” there that I especially wanted to see --- the Vietnam Memorial and the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial. I will never forget the saying written there; ***“It’s not how they died that makes them heroes, it’s how they lived.”***

Each May these past few years I’ve ‘made the rounds’ to our local city councils and County Commissioner’s with a proclamation for National Police Week. In 1962, President Kennedy set aside the week of May 15<sup>th</sup> each year as a time of recognition of those who serve and protect us here at home. A special part of that recognition is honoring the men and women who died in the line of duty.

This year, 181 of those heroes who died in 2007, along with 177 other officers who died in yesteryear but until now had been lost in history, were remembered. Those 358 names joined 17,917 names previously etched on the Memorial Wall in Washington, D.C. Real names, of real men and real women, who made the ultimate sacrifice to protect and serve the citizens of this great land. I count it a privilege to remind local government officials and citizens of this important week each year.



Names being etched on the Police Memorial Wall in Washington, D.C.

Among the fun things I get to do every so often as a Chaplain was to organize **“Dodge the Cops”** night at Castle Rock Middle School on May 27<sup>th</sup>. Students, parents and faculty from CR Schools got to play dodge ball with CRPD



officers, enjoy some refreshments and interact with officers in a more informal setting. Besides having fun, this event helped break down walls between the officers and citizens – especially middle and high school students.

Doing some fun things helps offset the stresses of responding to scenes of tragedy – like the night a woman awoke at 3:30am only to find her 42 year-old husband dead – the house fire where a young couple and 2-yr-old baby lost all their possessions – notifying two teenage sons that their father had committed suicide – notifying parents (vacationing in Idaho) that their 48 yr-old son had been found dead in their home -- ministering to the wife whose husband of 67 years had just died at home – walking alongside a woman recently terrorized during a bank robbery. These are just a few of the recent tragedies I’ve been called upon to bring hope to the hopeless, help to the hurting, and grace to the grieving.

Your on-going prayers and financial support make it possible for me to *‘be there’* when the call comes. Just knowing you are there with me gives me strength and hope whether I’m dodging balls with my cops or sharing God’s love in people’s darkest of moments. Thank you for being on the team!

Shalom!  
*Steve*

### CRIME HITS FIBRE FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

The month of May ushered in a time of trauma for the bank personal of Fibre Federal Credit Union in west Kelso, where I do my banking. I responded to the credit union the next morning to see how my friends were after their nerve wrenching time the evening before. Feelings of fear, guilt and rattled nerves met me as I talked with the staff.

Being violated and your life threaten has a way of un-nering the best of us.

You never know what the day holds, but we can take courage that there is a wonderful God who protected our tellers from being harmed beyond pepper spray. I pray that our Lord Jesus would protect those who serve us, be it Law, Fire personnel, or those help us in our daily needs.

Next time you deposit your check, why don’t you express your appreciation to the teller?

*Chaplain Lyle*

