



Cowlitz Chaplaincy

PO Box 2578, Longview, WA. 98632

Phone: 360.425.7222

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

Volume 4

Issue Number 5

October 2008

AUTUMN IS HERE!



October!!!! Where has the time gone? The children have been in school for a month now and we are seeing Christmas articles in the stores already. I don't know but it seems the older I become the

faster that time goes by. I can remember when it was a very long year from December to December, can't you?

September found Steve and me responding to a very large number of calls and other civic programs that are important to the health of our community. I was invited to participate with the Veterans of our military on what was called "The Stand Down." After a month of planning it was launched September 12th at the Expo Center. I was surprised at the number of veterans that showed up, some to see what it was about and others with some real needs. With both Steve and me being Vets we found it rewarding to be able to offer help in a variety of ways during the event.

WE WITNESS A MIRACLE THIS MONTH

I was called to respond to a drowning of a child on the Toutle River on a Sunday afternoon.

As I was responding, I was diverted to meet the Fire crews at exit 46 which is just south from the castle Rock and Spirit Lake Highway exit and I was to meet with the family of little boy. The little boy was recovered for the river by his father. Life flight was at the exit when I pull in and I met with the family as the aide crews were transferring the lad to the Helicopter. I received the message that it didn't look good for the boy yet they were able to regain a heart-beat and breathing with difficulty. I was able To pray for the boy and family members as they Were transporting him to SW Medical just north of

Vancouver. At the hospital the doctors were able to stabilize him and in two days he was up playing with no signs of any brain damage.

I would like to record praise to the following: First, to Our Lord Jesus for restoring the life of the lad; second, to the rapid clear thinking response of the boy's father; third, the quick and professional response of Toutle Fire and Castle Rock Fire, Life Flight; and finally, the medical staff at the hospital.

A little four year boy's life depended on each doing his or her part. Folks, there really is a wonderful miracle-working God who loves each of us and desires to show his awesome power that His Name might be glorified. He is worthy of our praise.



WOW !!! I AM GETTING OLD!

In August I attended my, uh..uh..50th high school graduation reunion, I was absolutely shocked when I entered the banquet hall I was greeted by a bunch of OLD people. I didn't remember but a few, a very few of them; they changed so much! It wasn't my fault they didn't look like our graduation pictures. I tell you I am so fortunate that I haven't changed a bit. I still recognize myself in the mirror each morning. Those poor folks must not have taken good care of themselves. It really was fun to reconnect with them

we spent the majority lives with each other. twenty seven of us twenty seven had died eighty-five attend the



though. After all of our young One hundred and graduated, and we had reunion.

Lives have a way of changing, some for the better and because of unwise choices some were lacking in their potential. Then there were a couple classmates who were still on the ragged edge just like they were fifty years ago.

AN OVERWHELMING NEED

The last couple weeks of September it was brought to my attention that a grandmother who, through the bad choices of her daughter, had three little grandchildren placed with her to raise. The daughter had become involved with the sub-culture where drugs and alcohol rule the day and nights. She rented a small apartment in Kelso but had no electricity, food, clothes for the children, furniture or beds for the children to sleep in. This was her plight. The grand- mother had only enough money to rent the apartment in Kelso. All other basic needs were in want. I thank the Lord that Columbia Heights Assembly of God came along side and very generously blessed this family so that the needs for survival were met.

This is how we become God's hands, extended to meet people where they hurt. In addition, Jesus sees this as ministering to Him.

Matthew 25:35-40 For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat: I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you took me in: I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.

Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'

The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'

These pass two months since our last letter to you has seen the Chaplaincy reaching lives; people who have found themselves in a variety of situations and each one was an overwhelming case for those living through their crisis. However God, working through you, enabled Steve and me to reach out with the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ and provide answers and hope. What a ministry together with you have we for this county. We might be getting older but, praise God, Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever and he never tires of meeting people in their hour of need. Isn't God good?



As you can see by this update your donations are working to deliver hope, help, and solutions to those that find themselves in need in our county.

It is a privilege to be able to work in concert with our men and women in the emergency services of our county.

Thank you for faithfulness and to count us worthy of your financial gifts and your prayers, so that we can continue to be your hands extended in our community.

"Never underestimate what a simple gesture can do. It is the little things that you do that make a big difference in other people's lives."
Catherine Pulsifer



~ HALLOWEEN ~

Just a word of caution -- If you are going to allow your children or grandchildren to participate in candy collection for Halloween be sure to use caution and check the fruit and candy to make sure it hasn't been tampered with.

As an alternative, you might consider the programs offered by local churches.

Keep your children safe and warm this Halloween.

Chaplain Lyle Prather

Just Some Thoughts...

© 1996 Randy Glasbergen. E-mail: glasbergen@aol.com



"My husband passed away eight months ago, but we still keep in touch. His e-mail address is WalterZ@Heaven.com"

Wouldn't it be great if we could still communicate with our loved ones who have died that easily? If we could, those in heaven would certainly tell us to "press on to the mark of Christ Jesus" so we can 'meet them in the air' one day. In the mean time, we live one day at a time. My advice... "Don't let the troubles of yesterday rob you of the joys of today!"

The past couple months have had more than their share of "troubles" but also provided all sorts of opportunities to minister the love of God in times of crisis and death. Most of the time it's not about what I do or say – it's just "being there" that makes the difference. A particularly bad call for me in late August was the one involving the death of a neighbor of mine. When I was called to the scene in Castle Rock I had no idea that I would be knocking on the door of my neighbor to tell the wife her husband had been found dead downtown. The hardest part of all was telling the victims 10-year-old daughter that her daddy had died. This young girl has been part of Carmen's "Back-Yard Bible Club" the last few years and we see her playing on the street all the time. I continue doing follow-up with the family. A few days after that

call, I responded to Longview to assist police with a family whose 12-year-old son had died. This particular call required all the patience and people skills I have – along with a boat-load of God's grace!

Another tough part of this month was "sending off" a couple of my officers to the Middle East when they were called up as reserves. The LPD officer is a USN reserve and is deployed to Iraq. My KPD officer is a USAF Reserve and will be stationed in Saudi Arabia. These deployments 'hit home' as I remember the day I left for Vietnam nearly 40 years ago. Please keep them and their families in your prayers.

A highlight of the month was the **First Annual Golf Tournament Fundraiser**, sponsored by C2F/R Firefighters. The day was perfect – great weather – great sponsors – plenty of participants and lots of fun activities. Unfortunately I was called out and not able to attend the awards ceremony -- rumor has it one of our Board members won the "Ugly Moustache Contest!" Special thanks to Mike Zainfield and his crew for all their hard work. They raised \$2,600 for the Chaplaincy. PTL!

I look forward to a very busy October with plenty of special activities.

Among those are our second "Dodge-Ball Night" with CRPD (Oct 14th), the "Bobby Smith" seminar (Oct. 16th), Fire Prevention Week activities (Oct 5 - 11), Law Enforcement Ball (Oct 11th), and Academy Graduation (Oct 21st). I am on the agenda to give the invocation at the Fraud Investigators Conference (Oct 9th) and speak at this year's Domestic Violence Candlelight Vigil (Oct 21st). I've also begun work on this year's "Shop-with-a Cop" program and look forward to a great December with that.

I am extremely thankful for the opportunity to attend the NW CISM Network training conference in Yakima. The course I took, "Families and CISM", provided some of the best training I have had in a long time. I believe family members of our emergency responders are often overlooked when it comes to critical incident stress and I look forward to implementing some of this training in the coming months.

Only with your faithful support am I able to "be there" when the call comes in. I know these are

hard times for us all, but trust me; your donations are needed more than ever. Thanks for "being there" for me.
Shalom!

Chap Steve



C2F/R Fireman Mike Zainfield presents \$2600.00 check to Chaplain Steve