



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

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

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## **NEWS FLASH...FUNDRAISER, APRIL 25<sup>TH</sup>**

### **REALLY!! SPRING IS HERE!**

April showers are supposed to bring May flowers, so the song says. It is refreshing though to see signs of life with the



budding of the trees and flowers

blooming. When I came to the office March 23<sup>rd</sup> I found some daffodils at the south west corner of the building in full bloom. New life! What a refreshing thought. As we journey into spring and summer I believe we can move forward with hope and confidence that God will bless us with encouragement and new goals regardless of our current financial crisis in this country. I believed that the Lord Jesus will pour out his blessing, and we will be the recipients of those blessings.

Keep looking up to the one true God who cares for

each of us and is concerned about our well-being. During the months of February and March we were baffled by the number of deaths that we responded to, and they occurred through a variety of ways; accidents, suicides, drug overdoses, and natural causes. One stands out in my mind where, I believe; we saw the protective hand of a guardian angel. An elderly couple was on their way home with their grandson on Westside Highway when the gentleman had a stroke and lost control of the vehicle. His foot had floored the throttle. His wife took hold of the steering wheel and steered the car across the on-coming lane of traffic without hitting an oncoming car. Being unable to apply the brakes she hit a parked railroad car. Her husband died, however she and her grandson lived. Our hearts go out to the family with

mixed emotions of sadness for the loss of a husband, father, and grandfather, but joy for the life of grandmother and grandson.

### **NO, YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU!**

Another call I responded to affirmed what I have always been told. An elderly gentleman was concerned about his money and wanted a friend to be with him as he counted his savings. He was sitting in his chair counting his paper cash when he stopped counting. His friend looked over at him, and there, in his presence his friend of many years, just died. When I arrived at the scene I asked the Deputy what he wanted me to do and was told the deceased gentleman's friend had already left. I asked the deputy one question, "Where is the money?"



He answered, "It is still in his hand." It's true!  
You can't take it with you so give it to the Chaplaincy.

### **Chaplaincy Breakfast Fundraiser**

Wow! Can you believe that April 25<sup>th</sup> is approaching? This is a reminder that at 8:15 AM at the EXPO center we'll start serving breakfast. We would love to have you join us for a time of reflecting on the chaplain's program and to enjoy fun with our auction. The cost of the breakfast is \$25.00 a plate. Because we have to give an account of how many will be coming please contact us at 360-425-7222 by the 10<sup>th</sup> of April if you plan on attending.

#### **15 MINUTES**

We are participating in the 15 Minute Programs in the High Schools again this year. This year we will be presenting the Alcohol Awareness Program to Toutle, Castle Rock, Kelso, and Woodland High Schools. Steve will participate with Castle Rock and Kelso and I will be doing Toutle and

Woodland. March 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> I was at Toutle High and Miriam and I chaperoned with four other adults. The kids were great. Like last year we have been blessed with well-behaved children. It is such an uplifting experience to be with young people who are entering young adulthood.



**Students from Toutle High**

The young people from Toutle had their futures planned out and I believe each of them will prove to be a great asset to our communities.

#### **The Bills Are Being Paid**

Steve and I want to express our gratitude to you folks for your kindness as you continue to support the chaplaincy through your donations.

We have seen a drop in the income; however we know things are tightening up every here. We understand this, and I want you to know that we are praying that God will bless

you for your faithfulness. We continue to trust in you because we know you care. We stand together in reaching out to those who, through no fault of their own, find themselves in a state of crisis. As partners we offer hope and guidance for recovery to a norm.

Again, with much thanksgiving from our hearts for your kindness, we will continue to answer the calls.

*Chaplain Lyle*

**APRIL 11<sup>TH</sup> IS  
THE  
DEADLINE  
FOR  
PURCHASING  
TICKETS FOR  
THE  
CHAPLAINCY  
FUNDRAISER  
BREAKFAST.**



It just doesn't seem possible that ¼ of 2009 is already behind us... please say it ain't so! There's nothing any of us can do about it – it's gone. The question we can ask is, "Did I accomplish anything these past 3 months?" As I look back over my Day-Timer (yes, I still do everything longhand!), I find that this year has already been full of activity – some fun and some,



Steve with CR Fire Chief Eric Koreis

well, not so fun.

One of the fun things I got to do recently was to attend the Annual Awards Dinner for Castle Rock Fire District 6. Much to my surprise I received the "Chief's Commendation" Award for the work I've done with them. It means a great deal to have these dedicated men and women recognize the contribution I make to our community.

There are always the "Calls for Service" each month, but some of them stand out for me as I reflect back on my "First 100 Days" of 2009. In January I was called to a scene of the death of an 80-yr-old aunt of one of our County Records Clerks. Whenever I personally 'know' someone on scene it always hits a little harder. That's the thing about what I do though – I seldom (if ever) know who is on scene until I get there. I simply have to step

back, pray, and do what God has called me to do – whoever happens to be on scene. I am glad I was able to walk with her family through the initial stages of their loved ones death.

February I was called on to make a death notification to the family of a man who had been missing for several days. This 25-yr-old man was so distraught

about his situation that he made the decision to take his own life. These calls always create a measure of pain for me too. Having to tell his mother and his sisters that he had completed

suicide is never an easy task. I am thankful that

God opened doors for me to minister His love and grace to this man's family and friends on several occasions over the following couple of weeks.

Another call in February came when a 17-yr-old boy found his 48-yr-old mother dead in their backyard. I also was called upon to minister to a family of 3 who lost everything they owned in a terrible house fire.

Thankfully they all got out in time, but their 3 dogs were killed in the fire.

Then came March – the month that's supposed to "come in like a lion and go out like a lamb" – remember? I don't know about you, but I never saw the 'lamb!' Last month began with my being called to assist deputies with a 15-yr-old girl who was threatening suicide. Again, how can life get so bad that suicide seems to be a viable option? I tell people, "suicide is not about dying – it

is all about solving a problem." Thanks to God's grace, we were able to get this girl some help and avert another tragedy. Another call involved a 50-yr-old man who died early one morning in his home. One son and grandkids also lived in the home. After the man was removed by a funeral home I was able to sit and talk with his 11 & 15-yr-old granddaughters about all that had happened. Like I said, "I never saw the lamb..."

Those are just a few of the many scenes I've been called to so far in 2009. Years ago I heard Paul Yonggi Cho (from Korea) answer the question of



how he had grown the largest church in the world. He simply said, "I pray and I obey." That's always been wise advice to me and I've tried to apply it to my life each day. I pray and tell God I will do whatever/go wherever He asks me that day. I'm thankful I have God on my side in this ministry. Without His love, grace and guidance I could never help folks like these I mentioned here. Those of you who pray for and support this ministry financially have no idea how many lives you have touched along the way. I may be on the 'front-line' of this "Ministry of Presence" but it cannot happen without folks like you "being there" for me. Thank you so much for your faithfulness – especially in these times we now live in!!

Shalom! Chap Steve