



Cowlitz Chaplaincy

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

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Summer???????

Since our last newsletter there has been much activity within our county that required our services.

June was a different month than usual as the sun seemed to stay behind the cover of clouds and the temperatures were defying Al Gore's prophecies of global warming. During the coolness of those days in June Miriam and I watched our garden delay its growth cycle; however the strawberries were developing into luscious sweet berries. The rest of the garden slowly started to emerge from the soil. Life was gradually refreshing the dark days of our winter season which seemed never to end.



I was called out on some cases where folks were traveling to that land on the other side of the grave where eternity awaits us all.

The last weeks of June were some very nice days and the SUN broke loose of those entangling clouds and its warmth was a very welcome experience. I fired up the BBQ. **BBQ!**

Oh my goodness! I need to order the beef for the Beef Raffle, our fall fundraiser for

the Chaplaincy. To remind you all, remember October 5th will be our drawing for the winner of the beef. 1st prize is one half of beef approximately .300#, 2nd and 3rd prizes are a quarter of beef which is approximately 150# of hanging weight cut and wrapped to your liking from Bolar's in Castle Rock.

We have tickets to sell at the chaplaincy; one ticket for 5 dollars or 5 tickets for 20 dollars.

Sometimes we get so busy that to remember everything becomes a challenge or is that old age? I got the beef ordered, and we enjoyed BBQ'ed chicken and had Smore's with the grandkids.



The month of July started out with beautiful weather and finally we saw the sun for real. Then the fourth of July came and I was with my children at home when I was called to a drowning in Woodland at Horseshoe Lake.

Friends got together for a picnic and swimming at the lake. They weren't there 15 minutes when a 16-year-old boy and his girlfriend decided to swim out to a buoy marker and

back. About half way back to shore the boy could not make it back to shore and drowned as his girlfriend tried in vain to save him.

I was asked to notify the grandparents who could not speak English. As I was trying to figure out a plan to help me to communicate with them, a young lady appeared out of nowhere. She could speak English and was able to translate for the grandparents which got me out of a jam. For the next hour I was able to speak to the grandparents of the boy and explain the tragedy that happened just a few hours before.

I believe that again God led that young person to me as a little angel to meet the needs of the moment.

STUDY, STUDY

I advanced my certification with Homeland Security by taking a course which took two days of classroom study. I also taught a CERT Class at Kalama Fire.

OUCH!!!!

Life has a way of reminding us we're getting old. This summer I had to have a biopsy for possible prostate cancer. Praise the Lord, the results did

not indicate cancer but I did have to have an additional surgical procedure. I am so thankful for God's grace and for His healing touch. I am recovering but slower than I'd like.

Miriam and I are looking forward to a vacation starting the 16th of August which will work well for my recovery.



QUALIFICATIONS OF A CHAPLAIN

Recently, Larry Bennett, a former volunteer chaplain for the Cowlitz Chaplaincy asked me to help him identify the qualities of a chaplain in order to develop uniform criteria for chaplains for the program where he is now working. I thought our readers might be interested in what I consider to be the qualifications of a chaplain.

1. Born again experience with the Lord Jesus Christ.
2. A Call from God to the ministry of Chaplaincy.
3. A letter of approval from Licensing or ordaining organization.
4. A letter from the Pastor of the church he is a member.
5. A letter of acceptance from office or department where he is going to serve.
6. Have a personal liability insurance coverage 1 - 3 million policy
7. Willing to attend Chaplains' Academy.
8. Get certified with homeland security NIMIS 100,200, 700, 300, 800 courses.
9. CISM all courses certifications.

10. Subject to ongoing education i.e. counseling, crisis intervention, family counseling, addictions, suicide counseling. Etc...
11. Join and participate in good standing with ICPC.
12. Needs to be a problem solver.
13. Gentle spirit but live a life with convictions compatible with Kingdom Principles.
14. A person with a tenacity to be able stay with the calling.
15. A team player and not a lone kingdom builder.
16. Be willing to seek resources when beyond his ability; recognize his limitations.
17. Needs to be a person under authority and has a servant's heart.
18. Has full support of his wife and orderly minor children.
19. Needs to develop the ability to relate Godly principles in conversations with non-Christian people.
20. Don't build up himself; let the ministry lift him up; the ministry is bigger than the individual.
21. God has called him into a unique ministry. He is to do his best to maintain his trust in God, allow the Holy Spirit to equipped him and guide him in areas of service. If we do our part in preparation, study, prayer, and maintaining dependence of God then God will bless us and cause us to be successful and fruitful for His Kingdom. Joshua 1: 1-9

COWLITZ BLACK BEARS GAME

On July 8 the Chaplaincy was featured at the baseball game at Story Field and Chaplain Steve White threw the first pitch. Our sheriff and board president of the Chaplaincy, Mark Nelson, sang the National Anthem. We had many friends and family there to cheer on the Blackbears and to support the Chaplaincy by their presence. Unfortunately, the Bears lost that game but we are hoping they can make the playoffs.



MANY THANKS

The Chaplaincy Board and all of us serving as Chaplains are so grateful for the prayer and financial support you provide. You enable us to be there for those in crisis. Your donations are so appreciated. Thank you!

Chaplain Lyle Prather

BEEF RAFFLE TICKETS ARE STILL AVAILABLE, BUT DON'T WAIT TOO LONG. CALL CHAPLAIN STEVE AT 431-8735. HE'LL BE GLAD TO PROVIDE YOU WITH THE POSSIBLE WINNING TICKET.

Here we are the first of August already – I can't believe how this year is flying by so fast. Maybe for you things have moved slower, but for me it seems like just yesterday was January. Of course I'm not complaining about the great summer weather we're finally getting! Sure beats my aunt in Dallas where they've been over 100° each day for the past 32 days and no relief in sight. No thanks – I'll take the Pacific NW anytime.

My life has been filled with a variety of activity lately – let me share some. In mid-July I was able to attend some training with a couple of my Castle Rock PD guys in Montana. This training was in conjunction with a special program we do at CR High School each year called "Social Norms." The training was good, but time spent the guys and one of their families was GREAT! Relationships only grow out of spending quality time with others and this was definitely 'quality time.' Another nice thing about this was that Carmen got to go with me. This gave her the chance to get to know some of the folks I work with better too. Oh yea – did I mention we spent 2 days visiting Yellowstone Park? Nice trip for sure!

In late June/early July I helped coordinate a couple softball games between local law enforcement agencies. These games were played at Story Field prior to regular Cowlitz Black Bears games. The first game saw Kelso PD face off against Longview PD. It was close until the end when

LPD pulled out a win. The second game saw the County Sheriff's Office go up against the Washington State Patrol. CCSO deputies put up a good



fight, but in the end WSP soundly defeated them. We have a "playoff" set for August 20th when winners and losers will play for final bragging rights. These games provide great opportunities to build relationships between agencies. Oh yea – did I mention that I umpired these games? Not wise on my part!

Carmen and I made our 'annual trek' to Cannon Beach Christian Conference Center (in Oregon) in late July for a week



of volunteering again. Once again we worked in the kitchen. This was our 5th year of volunteering and was the best ever. Four of the days I got to be outside BBQing

for folks attending the conference. In the evening we were able to enjoy the Guest Speaker, Bill Ferrell. The weather was superb, the fellowship with friends was terrific, and the work was refreshing (it's so different from what I do as a Chaplain). Oh yea – did I mention I got sunburned? It was worth it!

This may sound like all I've done this summer is play and have fun – truth is I have had some fun this summer. But like all summers this one has had its share of tragedy as well. My 'reality' is that, each time I 'escape' I come back to things like suicides and overdoses and domestic disputes and violent events – and yes, challenges within my departments. The need for Chaplain Services has never been greater. I am more convinced than ever that this "ministry of presence" is vital to the health and welfare of our community. I count it a privilege to be part of this ministry and thankful for each opportunity to walk alongside someone in their time of great need. As supporters YOU make that possible. From the bottom of my heart, thank you!!! (Special 'shout-out' to the LV 1st Baptist Church Men's SS Class for yard work @ our office -- THANKS!)

Shalom!

Chap Steve



Car Seat Clinic
August 18, 2011
2:00 – 5:00pm

Hi-School Pharmacy
1365 Lewis River Rd.
Woodland

Things to Bring with You:

- ✓ Car Seat You're Currently Using (we can't help you without a seat)
- ✓ Child or Children* (unless you're pregnant**)
- ✓ Picture ID (driver's license, ID card, military id, etc.)
- ✓ Proof of Low Income (Medical Coupon, WIC Book, Food Stamp Card, etc.) if new seat is determined to be needed by Car Seat Clinic Staff
- ✓ Cash or Check (Fee varies from \$20 and up per seat) Payment MUST be made when you get your seat

Have Questions or Need More Information? Contact Brandi Ballinger with Cowlitz 2 Fire & Rescue at 360.575.6280 or brandi.ballinger@c2fr.org