

**Workplace
Chaplains U.S.**
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Our Mission:

Partnering with client companies to provide care, counsel and crisis management services to their employees from a Christian perspective.

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CHAPLAINS @ WORK

Workplace Chaplains U.S.

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Lunch with the President

Maybe it was an indication of how tired I was of the recent national election process or how glad I was that it was over. The other night I dreamed I was living in our first home (a small, older bungalow in Grand Rapids, MI) when four men, including President Bush and his brother Jeb, stopped over for lunch. They were staying (oddly enough) in a home a few doors down and just dropped by to be neighborly.

It seemed I was home alone and simply sat them down at the kitchen table,

served them something (I have no idea what — apparently it wasn't important) and proceeded to leave the room. I was impressed with how casual and pleasant and "normal" these men were, but still felt a bit inadequate in their presence, and for that or other unknown reasons I left the room.

I found myself next in the basement of that home, which was all neat and polished — much larger and more attractive than the real thing. Walking across the open space,



admiring the polished floors and woodwork,

I discovered at the far end a banjo which I plucked a few times before returning upstairs to find my guests already leaving.

They were polite, appreciative of the meal, and as they walked away through the back yard even invited me to their place for supper. I responded that I would have to discuss this with my wife when she returned, but "thanks for the invitation."

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Advancing the Mission

"Back home for the holidays?"

One measure of the effectiveness of a service is whether it is missed when removed. We were recently encouraged by the fact that a former client contacted us to reconsider our service.

We were recently con-

tacted by Lake City Manufacturing's Lake City Forge Division. They wanted to reconsider our service.

As new senior management evaluated their situation recently they determined that even though business could be better (and whose couldn't); there was not a better time to have the caring, friendly and knowl-

edgeable Workplace Chaplain's presence in their facilities again.

Beginning December 1, 2008 Chaplain James Martin will begin serving "the forge" as we resume service there.

Located just North of Lake City on M-66 this com-

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(Continued from "Lunch With The President")

I woke thinking what a strange dream this was, then immediately realized it was maybe a metaphor for how we often relate to a much more important guest — Christ himself. (I assure you that neither this President or any other deserves this comparison — metaphors don't imply correlation.)

God invites himself into our lives by Christ entering this world and we often acknowledge and receive him briefly, only to busy ourselves with our homes

and our toys instead of focusing on him. We feel inadequate to deserve a personal relationship with him, self sufficient without him, or just get distracted by other things, thus failing to spend any real focused time until it is too late.

As in the dream, God is still forgiving and extends a further invitation for connection.

May we not become so busy in this holiday season (or any other season) to simply dwell in his presence and delight in his love.

Ron Klimp

(Cont'd from "Advancing...")

pany was a client from 2001 to 2006 and then ended the program due to financial constraints.

We look forward to entering the new year with this client back on board. Welcome back!

Rich Langton

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We appreciate your support!

Some of you have supported us occasionally. Some of you have made a regular contribution to this ongoing and growing ministry.

Whether large or small, every gift helps us cover the cost of spreading the word that such a ministry exists to serve the business world.

Thanks and God Bless!!!

Cost Cutting Efforts in the New Year

With the current economy we are all being forced to re-examine our budgets and minimize our expenditures. Though it appears that we will be blessed with a positive balance on the books at this year's end (unlike some previous years and with humble thanks to many of you who have contributed to this ministry), we are still looking carefully at every expenditure budgeted for the coming year.

One of the cost cutting changes that we are considering is to reduce the number of newsletter mailings we make each year from four to two. Another way to reduce this cost would be to collect more email addresses and save the printing and postage costs by emailing this newsletter.

We would appreciate your response to this by noting your email address and/or your preference for number of mailings on the enclosed response sheet.

Notes from our Chaplains

~ We had a patient in severe physical condition and depression and grief issues. I was asked to see her by the staff. This was a long visit where God intervened and the person started to trust me. There was noticeable relief by the end of my visit. During my time with her she admitted to being suicidal with a plan. I was able to deal with this using the training from my work with the suicide coalition and was able to bring the doctor and specialist in to help her. She did not have spiritual support and let me call a church close to her house to come and meet her and provide support upon discharge. Once again, walking into the room filled with FEAR and leaving with SMILES and prayer was a great experience.

(Ed Gilbert - serving Mercy Hosp.)

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~ A family member of a gentleman I had known from the workplace, but hadn't seen for over two years called me when he was diagnosed with cancer. I had the chance to visit with him twice in the hospital before he was sent home and connected with the services of hospice. I visited with him and his family for another three weeks at home before he died, at peace with the Lord and confident of heaven. His family was so appreciative that they asked what church I was associated with and all (2 brothers, 6 kids and 4 of their spouses) showed up at our church the following Sunday.

(Ron Klimp)

*Merry Christmas to all and to all a most blessed New Year!*



*Wesołych Świąt Bożego Narodzenia*