

"TURNING THOSE IN CRISIS TOWARD CHRIST"

Emergency Chaplains



December 18, 2021

Dear Friends,

In 2 Corinthians 9:15 the Apostle Paul wrote, *"thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!"* That's Christmas in a nutshell for me. There are no words or even thoughts that come close to describing the gift of Jesus.

The King of heaven stepped into humanity. He was the perfect, sinless Lamb of God. He died on the cross in my place. He rose from the grave. By grace, through faith, the gift became mine. I deserve nothing, yet He has given me the riches of heaven.

I especially love Christmas because of God's indescribable gift. What a way for our Savior to enter the world! My prayer for this Christmas season is that many who are far from Jesus will finally be in complete awe of Him...and surrender in true worship to the only One who is worthy of worship and praise.

Please allow me this opportunity to say "thank you" for your support for the ministry of Emergency Chaplains. It is only because of your generosity that we are able to stay on the field, sharing the hope of Christ. There is so much pain in our world right now. The need for chaplains is greater than ever. Your partnership makes a difference. Thank you for being a part.

So far in 2021, our chaplains have reported:

- **433 Crisis Team requests.**

Most of these calls involve responding to a scene where sudden or unexpected death has occurred.

- **1,721 Counseling opportunities**

As our chaplains engage the public and first responders, they give comfort, offer advice, and pray.

Pandemic restrictions have limited some access our chaplains have to first responders, but we continue to find creative ways to engage the law enforcement officers, firefighters, medics, and communicators that we serve.

Our training and certification program continues to grow, but at a much slower rate than we had anticipated. Yes, it is discouraging, and I wish that I could report otherwise. Even so, we are more committed than ever to producing God fearing, Bible believing, Jesus following chaplains. We are called to multiply the workers in His harvest field. Jesus said the work would be difficult. He was right. Please continue to pray for us.

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Looking forward to 2022, we are focusing on the following:

Training and Certification

- We will continue marketing our training and certification among churches and first responder agencies.
- Vision 100, a sustainable chaplaincy ministry in every county in North Carolina, is still our primary focus. Because our program can be completed online, we have started offering our program across the USA. We believe that God has called us to be a multiplier of chaplains.

Crisis Response Teams

- Recruiting efforts for our established teams in Durham and Person counties will continue in 2022. In Durham, we need to add 4-6 chaplains who can cover weekdays.
- We believe there is sufficient interest in starting several Crisis Teams around the Triangle and points beyond. In order to start a new team, we would need to recruit and train several chaplains in that area. Once trained, they could then offer their team to the local agencies.
- Areas of interest at this time are Orange County, Johnston County, Rockingham County, Caswell County, Western Wake County (Cary, Morrisville, Apex, Holly Springs, Fuquay Varina) and Eastern Wake County (Knightdale, Wendell, Zebulon)

There's a lot more going on but I wanted to share these two major areas of focus and ask you to pray about how the Lord may be calling you to partner with us.

Maybe 2022 is the year that you need to train with us. Our Core Training is designed to equip you to serve right where you are. In your neighborhood, workplace, or in your family. It especially teaches you how to connect with those who are in crisis.

Maybe it's not you, but someone you know that needs to train with us or join our ministry. I'm praying that you will help us make that connection in the coming year.

2022 will be a year that we need your support more than ever. Please keep praying and encouraging us. Thank you again for all that you have done so far.

May the Holy Spirit cause you to dwell in the love of God as you enjoy all the beautiful activities of these holidays. Wishing you a truly joyful Christmas and a blessed New Year!

In Jesus' Name,



Ralph Thompson
Executive Director