

"TURNING THOSE IN CRISIS TOWARD CHRIST"

Emergency Chaplains

OCTOBER 2024



Hurricane Helene Recovery: The Work is Just Beginning

Recovery efforts are ongoing in the areas devastated by Hurricane Helene. The death toll in North Carolina has climbed to 73, with hundreds more still unaccounted for. Sadly, the number of lives lost is expected to rise as search teams reach the most destroyed and remote areas.

While EChap itself doesn't lead disaster response efforts, some of our chaplains are on the front lines. Chaplain Phil Sheridan has already made it to Marion, NC, where he's helping out at the Baptists on Mission base camp. Other chaplains will soon be deployed to support first responders, working alongside the NC State Highway Patrol. Please keep them in your prayers as they step into these dangerous areas to offer comfort and hope.



Additionally, two of our chaplains were directly in the path of the storm. We've been in contact with Chaplain Steve Newton in Hendersonville, who has even assisted us in locating family members of one of our ministry partners. We were also able to reach Chaplain Johnny Hewett in Yancey County by text. Johnny and his wife, Connie, are safe, but they live in one of the hardest hit, more isolated areas. Their region received over 20 inches of rain and faced hurricane strength winds, resulting in extensive damage. Several roads have been washed out, and bridges destroyed.

The road to recovery will be long. Some places won't fully rebuild for months, maybe even years. One of the best ways you can help is by supporting groups that not only rush in to provide relief during the disaster but also stick around for the long haul. One of these groups is NC Baptists on Mission.

To learn more about their work and how you can help, visit their website: baptistsonmission.org.

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

*Do not be anxious about anything...
Philippians 4:6a*

Needless to say, our upcoming banquet is at the very top of my list of things to share with you. To be honest, banquet time always gives me a lot of anxiety. It feels



like planning a huge dinner party for hundreds of guests that I need to impress. And it's even more stressful when many of those guests have attended before, so I know this year's event has to be even better than the last!

I probably put more pressure on myself than I should, but the banquet is a big deal to me. It's not about impressing you with fancy food or a flashy program. I have just one goal: to help you fall in love with Emergency Chaplains. Each year, we give our banquet guests a small glimpse into the enormous and fertile mission field that God has called us to. It's a field we love deeply, and we want you to love it, too.

Since 2008, Carter, Carl, and I have poured our hearts into EChap, growing and expanding the ministry. For the first seven years, we didn't even take a salary. The Lord provided for our family while growing support for the

**Emergency Chaplains | PO Box 14762 | Durham, NC 27709
919.399.9468 | Office@EChap.org | EChap.org**

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DIRECTOR'S NOTES (CONTINUED)

ministry, allowing us to build financial reserves that enabled us to hire Dylan Stone full-time.

A lot has happened since then, but one of the most exciting things has been the creation of our own training and certification program. Today, we have 94 members and 258 people who have completed our Core Training. I mentioned these numbers in our last newsletter, along with the fact that we haven't yet reached our goals. I ended last month by talking about how this work—these numbers and our presence in 25 counties—represents “laying the foundation” for a ministry built to last, for God's glory.

But the big question is: where do we go from here? Are we satisfied with just building a strong foundation? I'm not. Foundations are meant to be built on, not to be places where we settle down and stop growing. That's what I want to communicate in this last quarter of 2024: we need your help to build on the foundation that the Lord has so graciously provided!

To move to the next level, we need to fund two part-time administrative positions. With over 90 members and 258 students, Dylan and I are spending way too much time on administrative work when we should be focused on recruiting new chaplains, building relationships with agencies, and developing training material. To make this happen, we need to raise an additional \$50,000 each year to cover the cost of these two part-time administrative roles.

I'm praying that we can fund these positions for next year through donations and pledges at our banquet on October 24th. Please pray for me—that I'll be able to clearly communicate this need in these final months of 2024—and pray for God's people to respond generously, so we can continue to grow our team of God-fearing, Bible-believing, Jesus-following chaplains in the years to come.



You can use this QR code if you want to come to the banquet, volunteer, or be a sponsor. Feel free to call me at (919) 280-8908 if you have questions or want to talk with me about partnering with us. I would love to hear from you!

16th Anniversary Banquet Thursday Evening, October 24th

In the Family Life Center/Grey Stone Church Durham, NC
Meet and Mingle 6:00 | Dinner starting at 6:30

Seating is limited—Reserve your tickets today!
Tickets: \$25 each

- 6:00pm— Meet and Mingle: come early and meet some of our chaplains from around the state
- 6:30pm— Dinner catered by Danny's BBQ
- 7:15pm— Banquet Program and Awards

Sponsor | Buy Tickets | Volunteer
EChap.org/banquet

*...but in every situation, by prayer and petition,
with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.
Philippians 4:6b*



If you aren't already a member, let me invite you to join our Prayer Team (EChap.org/pray) Prayer Team members receive an email every other week with details on how you can pray for first responders, public safety agencies and our chaplains.

When you join, be sure and let us know if you would like one of our Prayer Team stickers to put on your car. These stickers let first responders know that God's people are praying for them! For those of you that have stickers on your car, do they need to be updated with a new sticker? Let us know and we will get them in the mail to you right away.

*And the peace of God,
which transcends all understanding,
will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.
Philippians 4:7*

Chaplain Ralph

PARTNERING WITH EMERGENCY CHAPLAINS

Join the EChap Prayer Team. Pray for our First Responders, Public Safety Agencies, and our Chaplains.
EChap.org/pray

Prayerfully consider becoming a chaplain. The need is growing. We can provide the training.
EChap.org/training

Give monthly to Emergency Chaplains. Your support keeps us on the field to serve First Responders and citizens in crisis.
EChap.org/donate