

"TURNING THOSE IN CRISIS TOWARD CHRIST"

Emergency Chaplains

DECEMBER 2022



PRAYING FOR OUR FIRST RESPONDERS

Since Emergency Chaplains began ministry 15 years ago, we have continually urged you to pray for our first responders. Many of you, our ministry partners, have faithfully done so. Thank you for praying for the men and women who have dedicated their lives to serving and protecting all of us.

Through the years we have reminded you of the stress that our first responders live under. It can be dangerous work. The schedules can be brutal. The things they see can't be erased from their memories. Stress often piles up and can come out in a negative way...both on the job and in their personal lives.

So, we prayed for our law enforcement officers, firefighters, medics, and communicators. We prayed for their safety. We prayed for the Lord to guard their hearts and minds. We prayed for more chaplains to serve in the trenches with them, for the sake of the gospel. Let's continue to pray that way, but let's add this: pray for staffing. Pray for first responders to stay on the job. Pray for others to hear and answer the call to serve.

Law enforcement retirements and resignations have been on the increase since 2015. At the same time, recruiting classes have gotten smaller and smaller. Many law enforcement agencies are operating with 30-40% less officers available to patrol the streets. Unless God Himself intervenes, this problem is only going to get worse. We need to pray for law enforcement staffing.

But the problem of staffing is not limited to law enforcement. EMS, Fire, and 9-1-1 are all facing issues with keeping enough people on the schedule to provide adequate coverage. This is not a local issue....it is a nationwide problem.

Staffing shortages have a domino effect. The responder will have to answer more calls per shift. There might be mandatory overtime or extra shifts required. Exhaustion and burn out will happen. Many will leave the profession due to this.

Please pray for our first responders. Pray for those who lead those agencies. Pray for the government leaders responsible for those agencies. Pray for the Lord to provide more men and women to serve as law enforcement officers, firefighters, medics, and communicators.



Partner with Emergency Chaplains to minister to first responders and to people in crisis:

- Join the EChap Prayer Team. We pray every month for our First Responders, the Public Safety Agencies they serve, and our Chaplains. Visit EChap.org/pray if you are interested to find out more.
- Prayerfully consider becoming a Public Safety Chaplain? The need is only growing and we can provide the training. Visit EChap.org/training to learn more about becoming a Chaplain.
- Consider making an end of year donation to Emergency Chaplains to help us continue to be there for the First Responders and those they serve? To donate, visit EChap.org/donate

Whatever you do this Christmas, please remember our First Responders in your prayers. Many will be serving our communities and missing precious time with their families to take care of us. Let's make sure we are there for them.

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

Emergency Chaplains is a 501(c)(3) Charitable Organization | Federal EIN: 26-2121418 | NC Solicitation License Number: SL009161

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

By: Ralph Thompson, Executive Director

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.

I recently spent some time reviewing chaplain reports from our Crisis Teams. In a one week period, our team in Durham answered ten calls where we assisted first responders on death scenes. Drugs were involved in five of those deaths.

In each case there were two or more people partying together. The ages of those who died were: 25, 33, 41, 44, and 56. The five reports all read in a similar way: “He had smoked some crack and I saw him take some pills. When I woke up, he wasn’t breathing. I called 911 and they told me to move him to the floor and start CPR...”

Eight of our chaplains have completed the certification process so far in 2022:

- **Paul Shambaugh** serves as a chaplain in Johnston County and is assigned to the Smithfield Police Department where he also works part-time.
- **Danny Ricker** is the Executive Director of Emergency Chaplains of East Tennessee, based in Greeneville, TN. Danny and his team provide chaplains for all public safety agencies in Greene County.
- **Danny Bryant** has served with Emergency Chaplains since 2010 and is assigned to the Durham Police Department, District 3.
- **Brandon Lindsey** is a Lieutenant and the appointed chaplain for Knightdale Fire Department in Wake County.
- **Jim Barr** is a retired Durham police officer and is assigned to the Orange County Sheriff’s Office.
- **Debbie Barber** previously served as Vice-President of Angel Cops, an outreach that assisted Greenville, NC PD working with the unsheltered homeless.
- **Jimmy Barber** is the retired Assistant Chief for Pactolus VFD. He is assigned to the Pitt County Fire Association along with his wife, Debbie.
- **Daryl Anderson** is assigned to the Durham Police Department, District 4 and to our Homicide Response Team.

Join the EChap Prayer Team

go to: EChap.org/pray

EChap Core Training

Do you sense God’s call on your life to minister to those in your neighborhood, at work, or other places you go? Take the next step with EChap Core Training!

- Learn at your own pace—All Online
- 12 Courses in Program—Total Cost: \$120
- Get more information at: EChap.org/training

Call or email with questions
Office@EChap.org—(919) 399-9468

Core Training will give you the skills and the confidence you need to build caring relationships with the hope of gaining permission to share the life changing Good News of Jesus in a non-threatening manner.

Free Seminar for Churches/Small Groups

Intentional Neighboring

Responding to Everyday Crisis, Everyday

Prepare those in your group to engage friends, relatives, neighbors, co-workers, acquaintances, and even strangers with the love and comfort of Christ in difficult times.

We will provide this training event exclusively for your church or small group.

Contact Chaplain Ralph for info: (919) 280-8908