

"TURNING THOSE IN CRISIS TOWARD CHRIST"

# Emergency Chaplains

JULY 2024



## INVESTING IN THE NEXT GENERATION OF CHAPLAINS



*Titus Benfield, speaking at Bethesda Ruritan Club after receiving the W.E. Rice Scholarship.*

For the past several years, Emergency Chaplains has proudly provided opportunities for both undergraduate and seminary students to volunteer and gain valuable field experience through our ministry.

Students from Liberty University, Campbell University, and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary have benefitted from this hands-on experience.

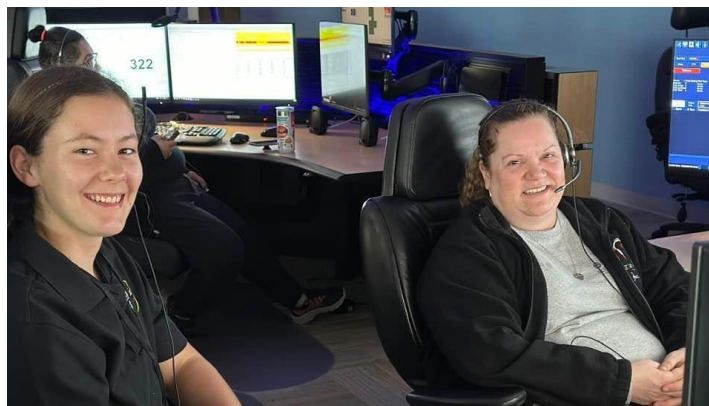
Many have participated in our intern program, earning class credit while serving our community. We are especially proud to share that three of our student volunteers are now serving as full-time military chaplains.

This past year, we expanded our intern program to include two high school seniors, Titus Benfield and Lydia Templeton. Both completed our Core Training and Fire Service Chaplaincy Training Programs, with Chaplain Phil Sheridan serving as their field mentor at Lebanon Fire Department.

In addition to their classroom work and fire training, Titus and Lydia have responded to crisis calls with Chaplain Phil, spent numerous hours in the 9-1-1 center, and participated in ride-alongs with Durham PD officers. These experiences have provided them with a comprehensive understanding of chaplaincy and emergency services.

In August, Titus will head to Liberty University in Lynchburg, VA, and Lydia will attend Spurgeon College in Kansas City, MO. We are grateful for the opportunity to invest in the lives of these remarkable high school seniors and are excited to see how God will continue to mold them for His service.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us prepare the next generation of chaplains. Your prayers and contributions make a significant impact in expanding our ministry, sending trained workers into the harvest field armed with the hope of the gospel!



*Lydia Templeton (left) spent multiple shifts in the Durham 911 center, listening in with communicators.*

## PARTNERING WITH EMERGENCY CHAPLAINS

Join the EChap Prayer Team. Pray for our First Responders, Public Safety Agencies, and our Chaplains.  
[EChap.org/pray](http://EChap.org/pray)

Prayerfully consider becoming a chaplain. The need is growing. We can provide the training.  
[EChap.org/training](http://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](http://EChap.org/donate)

SAVE THE DATE!

## 2024 CALL TO CARE BANQUET

Thursday, October 24, 2024



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# FIELD REPORTS

A Crisis Team Chaplain was called to assist officers with an out-of-town death notification. Upon arrival, the chaplain found that the officers had already informed the resident that her husband had been found dead several hundred miles away from a self-inflicted gunshot wound. The chaplain's primary duty at that point was to calm the hysterical widow and offer her immediate emotional support.

Our chaplain quickly established rapport and gained the trust of the grieving woman. During their conversation, it was revealed that the couple were practicing Muslims experiencing severe marital difficulties and had argued fiercely that morning. The husband left their home in anger and drove for several hours before taking his own life. The situation was further complicated by the discovery of a suicide note at their house, in which the

husband invited his wife to "join him in death."

The chaplain remained on scene until other family members arrived.

Please keep this chaplain in your prayers as she continues to reach out to the widow, offering her the hope and salvation found in Jesus Christ.



Pray for Chaplain John Thompson, who is establishing connections in Northampton County. John is the pastor of Rich Square Baptist Church and serves Rich Square Fire Dept. as Chaplain. He is also serving Northampton County as an EMT & chaplain. Pray for John as he continues to establish connections in Northampton and the surrounding area!

Two chaplains responded to Duke Hospital to minister to first responders who had transported a two-year-old child suffering from a gunshot wound to the head. Another chaplain responded to the 911 Center to debrief communicators. Tragically, the child died at the hospital.

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During heavy rains, chaplains were called to stand by during recovery efforts where a vehicle had crashed into floodwaters. Chaplains assisted with the death notification.

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Two chaplains responded to assist officers at a home where an elderly couple had been found dead during a welfare check. Chaplains ministered to multiple family members as they arrived on scene. Investigators determined that both the husband and wife died of natural causes.



Chaplain Bill McCumbee serves Kings Mountain Police Department. Pray for him as he serves there and with the Cleveland County Sheriff's Office. He is praying for the next generation of chaplains to join him and other chaplains already serving in Cleveland and Gaston Counties.

## DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Earlier in July, I had the opportunity to visit Chaplain Richard Brown, one of our members, at the Billy Graham Rapid Response Team (BG-RRT) in Charlotte.

In response to the growing need for emotional and spiritual care to law enforcement officers, the BG-RRT has developed the Law Enforcement Chaplain Training Program (LECTP), taught by former law enforcement

officers. This Biblically-based training has no prerequisites, and is free of charge. It is open to active-duty/retired law enforcement officers, chaplains, pastors, and anyone interested in serving regardless of their experience in law enforcement.

This training is being offered in Elizabeth City, NC in October in case you are interested.

Another training opportunity I recently learned about is the Duke Caregiver Community Event, offered by Duke Health on September 5th.

This all-day event will take place at the Sheraton Imperial and is designed specifically for family caregivers caring for individuals facing chronic or serious illness.

Various educational opportunities, activities, and resources will be provided.

The cost is \$25 per person, and it is open to the public. This is an excellent opportunity for chaplains to learn more about this important subject.



I will post direct links to both of these training opportunities on our website for your convenience.

*Chaplain Ralph*

