



Emergency Chaplains

Durham, NC

MAY 2014

HERO DAY AT FBC

Trooper Michael Potts (NCSHP) was honored by Fellowship Baptist Church in Durham on May 4, 2014. Trooper Potts was wounded in the line of duty directly in front of the church on February 18, 2013. He recently returned to work. Following are remarks made by Chaplain Ralph during the recognition service.



Left to right: Chaplain Ralph Thompson, Trooper Michael Potts, Pastor Rick Finley

Many of you may be familiar with the term "Thin Blue Line". The "Thin Blue Line" is a nickname for Law Enforcement. You may have seen the window decals or license plates....it's a black rectangle with a horizontal blue line across the middle. The blue is the color that represents law enforcement. The line is thin, because there are only a few who stand on that line. That thin line is all that stands between a community that operates in an orderly fashion and a community that is in utter chaos.

I believe that every officer who has ever put on the uniform is a hero. Thank you for forming that "Thin Blue Line" to keep order and make our community a safe place to live.

On May 15th thousands of Law Enforcement Officers (LEOs) and family members will gather on the front steps of the Capital Building in Washington, DC. They will be there to remember the 105 LEOs who died in the line of duty in 2013.

During the annual memorial service, each name is read, one at time, all 105 of them. Each name will be chiseled into the granite wall of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington as a permanent reminder of the ultimate sacrifice those 105 men and women made in their service to us.

As I read those numbers earlier this week a sobering thought hit me. If our adversary, the enemy, Satan....the devil himself had his way, there would be 106 names going on that wall this year. If the devil had had his way I would be preparing to go

to Washington in just a few days to escort Trooper Potts family and take part in this somber service.

But God had other plans.

On that February night, directly in front of this building, Trooper Potts was ambushed by a man with an automatic weapon and shot several times at close range. There is no logical explanation for him surviving the attack...EXCEPT... God protected him.

I believe that God spared Trooper Potts life that night for reasons that are greater than we can begin to understand.

Mike, you were already my hero before last February. You were my hero because you were one of the most passionate officers that I have ever met when it comes to finding drunk drivers and getting them off the road.

But I believe your best days are yet to come. I believe that the Lord is going to use your experience...the good and the bad...to be a teacher and a leader for our next generation that will stand on that "Thin Blue Line".

My friend, thank you for putting on the uniform again. My prayer for you is this....that you will fully submit your life to the plan that the Lord has purposed for you...and that you will allow Him to work through you to be an inspiration to those who will look to you for guidance as they form the "Thin Blue Line" that keeps God's order in our community.

OUR TEAM**CHAPLAINS**

Grant Bennett
 Richard Brown
 Danny Bryant
 Rodney Bunch
 Robert Chalnack
 Todd Cole
 Ricardo Correa
 Jeff DeGrow
 James Dodson
 Andre Gilliard
 Jason Harris
 Johnny Hewett
 Mike Jobe
 Dan Johnson
 Steve Jordan
 Chris O'Guin
 Keith Kimball
 Chad Revelle
 Matt Rice
 Don Sharp
 Greg Templin
 Joe Thomas
 Mike White
 Phil Wiggins

CHAPLAIN INTERNS

Ebenezer Addae
 Craig Alexander
 Jason Harris
 Bert Haywood
 Art Klose
 Bill Oakley
 Floyd Pearce
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CONTACT US

Emergency Chaplains
 PO Box 14762
 Durham, NC 27709
 www.echap.org
 office@echap.org
 (919) 280-8908

National EMS Week — May 18-24, 2014

National Emergency Medical Services Week is a week of celebration dedicated to the achievements of the men and women who respond daily to people in need within our community. These are the folks you will see at all hours of the day or night, in all kinds of weather, whenever someone calls 9-1-1 for a health problem or an injury. EMS Week brings together local communities and medical personnel to publicize safety and to honor the dedication of those who provide the day-to-day lifesaving services of medicine's "front line." This annual recognition began in 1974 and has continued for the past 40 years. This year's theme is "**EMS: Dedicated. For Life.**"

Over the past 40 years, EMS has become more and more important to the coordinated treatment of trauma and getting patients to pre-designated trauma centers quickly. EMS is especially critical to the chain of survival for sudden cardiac arrest. These days our medics have more resources, a wider variety of medications, and increasingly better training. By providing definitive patient care in the field, EMS improves the ability of our local hospital emergency departments to extend care to where it is needed.

Anytime you see one of the medic trucks going down the road, stop and think for a moment about the people involved. Of course, there are the people in crisis to whom the truck is going, but also think about the medics in the truck too. They have an awesome responsibility. They move through traffic as quickly as they can to reach their destination as soon as possible. Then, they often have to make split second decisions which could determine whether or not their patient lives to see another day. The stress is tremendous! Most of us would not want to experience that level of stress every day. And yet, our EMS personnel leave their own families at home and go out at all hours of the day or night to serve our families.

The next time you see a medic truck going down the road with the siren blaring and the lights flashing, instead of being frustrated that you have to pull over to the side to let them by, stop and offer up a prayer for them—and for the family they are rushing to meet. Remember that the folks in the truck as well as the folks at their destination are real human beings who are really no different than you or I.

MINISTRY PARTNERS NEEDED

Over the past couple of months we have interviewed several chaplains and talked with more agencies about providing chaplain services for them. In our next newsletter we hope to have some new chaplains to introduce to you and an agency or two to add to our coverage roster.

We need your help more than ever to help us fund the work of the chaplaincy.

Our budget this year calls for us to add a part-time Assistant Director and a part-time Office Manager. These positions are needed to provide administrative support for our growing volunteer chaplaincy staff and our growing number of counties and agencies served.

In addition to administrative support for our current chaplaincy, these positions need to be filled in order for us to start the Grief Ministry that we have been planning for the last couple of years.

The Grief Ministry will operate in Durham and take a proactive approach to reaching out to people who have recently lost a loved one. We envision the ministry utilizing dozens of volunteers and touching hundreds of lives every year with the comfort and hope of Jesus Christ.

Would you please consider becoming a "Monthly Comforter"...one who gives to the ministry of Emergency Chaplains every month so that we can continue to taking the comfort of Christ to those in crisis?

All we need is 100 new comforters to give \$30 per month. This will provide the \$36,000 annually that we need to fund these positions.

Your small monthly gift can make a big difference in reaching our First Responders and those they serve with the hope and comfort of Jesus Christ!

Check out our website!

www.echap.org