



# Emergency Chaplains

Durham, NC

MARCH 2012

## NO NEWS IS GOOD NEWS?



I need to apologize for being mostly silent over these past three months. On December 12<sup>th</sup> I entered UNC Hospital in Chapel Hill for surgery. I thought that I would be able to send our regular newsletter in January. I was wrong.

I didn't get to write one in February, either. You probably know this...your body doesn't heal as fast as it used to and it never heals as fast as you want it to. I know that myself but figured that I would be an exception to the rule.

The surgery in December was scheduled but it wasn't elective. Over the past 25 years I have suffered with a chronic condition known as Crohn's Disease. Almost twelve years ago I went through a similar surgical procedure that I had hoped would cure me from ever having GI surgery again. I was wrong about that, too.

Dr. Tim Sadiq performed the surgery and all went well with the procedure. The problem has been the recovery. I should have known that it was going to be a long recovery when a planned five or six day hospital stay turned into twelve days.

My recovery since then has been much slower than I anticipated. Here it is 3 months later and I am just getting back to my regular duties. So now you know my reason for 'no news'.

The 'good news' is that the surgery was successful and I am healthier today than I have been in the past three years. 2010 was a difficult year for me health wise and 2011 saw me sick more than well... some days even incapacitated because of the disease. Carter and I rejoice at God's handiwork and the miraculous healing that He has brought to my body.

Even better news is the future for Emergency Chaplains. As I reflect on the last couple of years I can see how the Lord has grown our ministry in spite of my illness. We have accomplished more than I ever imagined we could...even if I had been in good health.

On page 2 of this newsletter are some statistics from 2011. We are currently serving 10 different agencies with 17 volunteers. Our volunteer chaplains are in direct contact with the First Responders we serve each week for an average of 51 hours.

Our focus is to continue seeking agencies in need of chaplains and chaplains in need of agencies. It is through the relationships that our chaplains are building that we are making a difference in the lives of the people we serve. The evidence is seen in the 447 counseling encounters that our chaplains provided last year.

So many of you can clearly see the great need for having our chaplains working alongside our First Responders and you responded in a great way with your financial partnership in December. Thank you for helping us.

Although we did not make our goal for 2011 we were able to fund 77% of our \$70,000 budget. Every project planned for the year was completed and paid for. At this time, the only items in our budget not fully funded is the salary for our Executive Director.

Our volunteers and staff believe that the Lord has great things in store for the ministry of Emergency Chaplains in 2012 and the years beyond. I am extremely grateful to them for their service and to each of you who pray for us and partner with us to take the comfort of Christ to those in crisis.

Many Blessings!

*Chaplain Ralph*

## RECENT GIFTS

### GIVEN IN HONOR OF:

The men and women of Durham EMS  
Pastor Jacob Green  
Patrick, Susanne and Zane Pearson  
Ralph, Carter and Carl Thompson  
Pastor Clay Waters

### GIVEN IN MEMORY OF:

Helen Ball  
Claiborne L. Hudson  
Destiny Ledwell  
Brantley Pearce

**OUR TEAM**

CHAPLAINS

Grant Bennett  
 Danny Bryant  
 Ricardo Correa  
 James Dodson  
 Andre Gilliard  
 Johnny Hewett  
 Chris O'Guin  
 Keith Kimball  
 Mike White

CHAPLAIN INTERNS

Craig Alexander  
 Art Klose  
 Floyd Pearce  
 Clinton Stokes

COUNSELOR

Carter Thompson

COUNSELOR/INTERPRETER

Pedro Valladares

PHOTOGRAPHER

Russell Hill

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Ralph Thompson

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Michael Perra  
 Mike Smith  
 Clay Stevens  
 Jay Veasey  
 Kimberle Walker

AGENCIES WE SERVE

BETHESDA FIRE DEPT.  
 DURHAM COUNTY EMS  
 DURHAM 911 CENTER  
 DURHAM POLICE DEPT.  
 KANNAPOLIS FIRE DEPT.  
 LEBANON FIRE DEPT.  
 NC HIGHWAY PATROL  
 PERSON COUNTY EMS  
 REDWOOD FIRE DEPT.  
 ROXBORO POLICE DEPT.

CONTACT US

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**2012 BANQUET RESCHEDULED**

Our annual Anniversary and Fundraising Banquet that is usually held in April has always been a fun and informative event that many of you look forward to. Because of Chaplain Ralph's medical leave we have rescheduled the banquet for later this year.

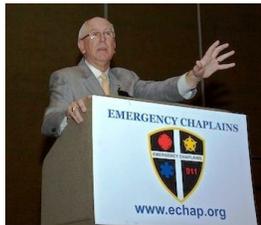


The new date is Sunday, November 3rd, 2012 at 6:00pm. The plans are being made right now and we will let you know more about the banquet as details become available.

Because the banquet is such an important event when it comes to funding the ministry of Emergency Chaplains, please consider partnering with us by making a donation today.

The ministry of Emergency Chaplains is made possible because of the prayers and donations of people just like you. Your gifts enable us to minister to First Responders and to the general public as they encounter life changing events. Please know that we appreciate your generosity and we thank you for joining us in making an eternal difference.

*Emergency Chaplains is a 501c3 non-profit ministry incorporated in the state of North Carolina. All donations are tax-deductible.*



**2011 RECAP**

In 2011 our chaplains served 2,690 hours in direct service to the agencies we cover. This does not count hours spent in training classes or in administrative duties. These are direct contact hours with First Responders, giving us an average of 51 hours of direct contact each week.

Some of the highlights from 2011 are:

- Two new agencies were added to our service list in 2011. Roxboro Police Department is served by Rev. Keith Kimball. Kannapolis Fire Department is served by Rev. Chris O'Guin.
- Six new chaplains were added to our roster, giving us a total of 15 volunteers.
- Our **Chaplains and Counselors** provided 447 counseling sessions.
- Our **Crisis Response Team** responded to 141 calls for assistance from the agencies we serve.

**GOALS FOR 2012**

**Work** to establish a Chaplaincy presence in neighboring counties as we seek to carry out our vision of taking the ministry of **Emergency Chaplains** to all 100 counties of North Carolina by 2018.

**Seek** a mutual aid agreement with other chaplains who currently serve in **Durham, Granville, Person, Orange and Wake** counties to increase our capability to provide a **Regional Crisis Response Team** on a 24-hour basis.

**Add** six more chaplains in **Durham** to serve on the **Crisis Response Team**.

**Provide** continued training for our chaplains through **Community Chaplains of America** and the **Assemblies of God Theological Seminary** Continuing Education Department/Chaplain Training Courses.