

# Emergency Chaplains

DURHAM, NC

DECEMBER 2008



Carter and I want to take this opportunity to wish you a Merry Christmas!

In the middle of all the hustle and hurry that too often surrounds Christmas, we pray that you will find time to remember the reason that we celebrate.

We pray that you will find time to remember that blessed holy night that Jesus came into the world. Find time to worship the Savior who stepped out of heaven because of His great love for you.

*"For God so loved the world, that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him."* **John 3:16-17 NIV**

We pray that during the coming days you will sense just how much God loves you and that you will experience the true peace and blessings of Christmas that only can be found in Jesus Christ.

**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!**

*Ralph and Carter*

## Support For Emergency Chaplains

Many thanks to all of you who have supported Emergency Chaplains since our start back in April. Because of your donations, we have been able to minister to the Public Safety Community on a daily basis and to the general public in times of crisis.

As you plan your year-end giving, please remember that contributions postmarked by December 31st will be credited to your giving for 2008. Annual donation statements will be mailed to you in January.

In 2009, we are praying that we will be able to raise enough money to begin paying us a nominal salary so that we can continue to minister on a full-time basis.

As you plan for next year, please consider supporting Emergency Chaplains on a monthly basis. Each gift, no matter the amount, is a great blessing to us. Contact us and we will forward you a supply of pre-addressed envelopes to be used in 2009.

Our financial reports for 2008 will be available for your review in January. If you would like a copy of our 2008 and a copy of our 2009 budget, just let us know.

### HOW TO REACH US

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## On The Streets—*Dealing With Sorrows*

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial was dedicated in 1982. In the first 15 years, 54,000 items were left at the Wall. It still takes almost an hour every night, and much longer on Memorial Day, to collect the mementos—a teddy bear, a photo of a soldier's grandchild, a letter from a daughter who never knew her dad.

The Wall reminds us that sorrow comes to us all. We often carry our grief around for years—struggling with our emotions. While the Wall provides a place to leave mementos—is there a place where we can truly lay down our sorrows?

The holidays bring out the best and the worst in some people. As Emergency Responders, we know about the worst all too well.

All of us will have to deal with folks during the holiday season that are at their worst. People have pain and grief in their lives that has gone unresolved and for some reason—the holidays seem to magnify the pain.

Our “customers” often try to handle the pain in ways that are neither healthy nor productive. Those who choose to use alcohol and drugs to ease their pain will use too much. The 911 center will get calls about fights, car wrecks and other bad decisions caused by too much “medication”. Some of the sights that we see over the holidays are too heart breaking to talk about.

As we take calls from hysterical people, respond to domestic situations, arrest DWI drivers and transport sick, injured and depressed patients to the hospital—we do our best to distance ourselves from the situation. We can't get too personally involved—but do we understand that many of the people that we come in contact with are dealing with their sorrows and grief in ways that are “not good?”

While most of us that respond to these emergencies know that this happens to the public—do we keep a check on ourselves? Do we deal with our life struggles in a way that is productive and healthy? We know that the difficulties of life come to us all, but is there a place where we can leave our sorrows and find healing for the wounds of life?

The Old Testament book of Isaiah tells the prophecy of the coming Christ. If you go to a Christmas program you will probably hear from **Isaiah 7:14**—“*Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.*” You may also hear **Isaiah 9:6**—“*For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*”

Immanuel means “God with us”. Another name that Isaiah tells us that Jesus will be known by is “Prince of Peace”. We always talk about peace at Christmas...but where is the peace that I need when I am dealing with the great struggles that I face?

Keep reading in Isaiah and you will come to Chapter 53. Here the prophet speaks of the Messiah as the One who came to be with us and “has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows...By His stripes we are healed” (vv4-5). When we receive Jesus Christ as our Savior from sin, we also come to know Him as the One who can lift the weight of sadness from our shoulders—he truly becomes our “Prince of Peace”.

We can bring our grief to the Man of sorrows. There is help and healing and closure at the cross for the deepest pain of our hearts.

## “Praying With Boldness”

**Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace.—Hebrews 4:16**

Have you ever found it tough to pray? That can happen when we're reluctant to tell God how we're really feeling. We might abruptly stop in mid-sentence, fearful of being disrespectful of our heavenly Father.

A trip through the book of Psalms can help us pray more openly. There we can overhear David's conversations with God and realize that he was not afraid to be completely open and honest with the Lord. David cried out: “O LORD, do not rebuke me in Your anger” (Psalm 6:1). “Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I am weak” (6:2). “Why do You stand afar off, O LORD?” (10:1). “Do not be silent to me” (28:1). “Plead my cause, O LORD” (35:1). “Hear my prayer, O God” (54:2). “I am restless in my complaint, and moan noisily” (55:2).

Think about David's approach. He was saying to God: “Help me!” “Listen to me!” “Don't be mad at me!” “Where are You?” David boldly went to God and told Him what was on his mind. Yes, God expects us to come to Him with a clean heart, and we need to approach Him with reverence—but we don't have to be afraid to tell God what we're thinking and feeling.

Next time you talk with your heavenly Father—tell it straight. He'll listen, and He'll understand.

*By: Dave Branon in **Our Daily Bread** You can find **Our Daily Bread** online at [www.rbc.org](http://www.rbc.org)*

*“To catch the reader's  
attention, place an interesting  
sentence or quote from the  
story here.”*

## **Inside Story Headline**



*Caption describing picture or graphic.*

Serving the public safety community

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## *Chaplain's Report From Durham*

**We're on the Web!**  
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**Organization**

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*Caption describing picture or graphic.*

