

# Emergency Chaplains

## Counseling Center

In our last issue we mentioned a goal for 2009 was to establish a counseling center that would serve First Responders and their families. Carter and I have been praying about this for several months now.

Specifically, we have prayed for a place to meet with people that was safe and secure, centrally located and affordable for our ministry. God answered our prayers above and beyond our expectations...as usual...but more about that in a minute.

Grey Stone Baptist Church in Durham has graciously agreed to allow Emergency Chaplains to use space on their campus for counseling individuals, couples and families. We want to thank the staff at Grey Stone for their kindness and understanding and especially for their commitment to Biblical Counseling and our local First Responders.

Our counseling services are offered to all area First Responders and their family members by appointment. Simply give us a call at 919-280-8908 or send us an e-mail at [ralph@echap.org](mailto:ralph@echap.org) and we can set up a time to meet with you.

About the answered prayer that was mentioned above, Psalm 37:4 says, "Delight yourself in the LORD and He will give you the desires of your heart." We can honestly tell you that one desire of our heart has been to offer counseling to First Responders as part of our ministry.

We can now see that prayer has been answered through our partnership with Grey Stone and further confirmed by those of you who have already made appointments to speak with us. Our hearts are truly blessed.

### **Counseling Services**

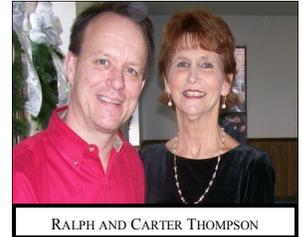
*Crisis Counseling  
Family and Personal Counseling  
Pre-martial Counseling  
Financial Counseling  
Addictions*

## Emergency Responders Block Party

On **Saturday, July 11**, The Summit Church will be hosting a FREE Block Party for area First Responders. There will be free food, games and some of those inflatable bouncy things and slides for the kids. Actually there will be lots of stuff for kids and for grown ups there.

The event is scheduled for **10am until noon** and will be on the athletic field at the corner of Hillandale Road and Carver Street in Durham.

This event is specifically for First Responders and their guests as a way of showing our gratitude for their service to our community.....so help us spread the word to them.



## Counselors

### **Ralph Thompson**

Member, IABC and AACC  
ICISF Certified

MMin, Biblical Counseling,  
Master's Divinity School,  
Evansville, IN

### **Carter Thompson**

BA, Psychology/Christian  
Counseling, Louisiana  
Baptist University,  
Shreveport, LA

Pregnancy Support  
Services, Counselor

Divorce Care, Counselor



### HOW TO REACH US

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## The Work of the Chaplain

By: Ralph Thompson

You may be familiar with the Green Berets of the US Army. They are highly skilled and trained for special operations. They spend much of their time practicing and a lot of time doing 'routine' duties....then the call comes in and they spring into action. Green Berets take care of the jobs that no one else can.

Emergency Chaplains are the 'Green Berets' of the pastoral army. We may not be in the physical shape as our military counterparts, but we are highly skilled and trained for special operations. We spend time practicing our skills and taking care of routine tasks...and then the call comes in. Emergency Chaplains spring into action and take care of the jobs that no one else can.

Calls can come anytime...day or night. Sometimes they come in two at a time. Some days there are no calls at all. No matter how often or when the calls come, we seek to go and help those who are in trouble.

Our estimated cost for providing chaplaincy is about \$25 per hour and we are able to offer counseling, comfort and crisis response because of your generous gifts. Let me share a few examples of what your donations allow us to do:

- **A monthly gift of \$25, (One hour) provided a counseling session for an individual.**
- **A monthly gift of \$50, (Two hours) provided care for family members waiting in the Emergency Room while a loved one was being treated for critical injuries sustained in an automobile accident.**
- **A monthly gift of \$75, (Three hours) provided ministry care for the family of a 33 year old man who died in his sleep.**
- **A monthly gift of \$100, (Four hours) provided two pre-marital counseling sessions for a young, newly engaged couple.**

The call regarding the 33 year old man found dead came in early one morning. Although I have attended countless families during similar circumstances, the time that I spent on that scene stretched every area of training that I had under my belt.

That morning found me face-to-face with a young widow and a fatherless child who went to bed just a few hours earlier with no thought of waking up a widow or not having a daddy.

Our paramedics had discontinued CPR just prior to my arrival and were waiting for me. They gave me a briefing and took me into the next room and we delivered the death notification to the man's wife.

For the next three hours I rode the emotional roller coaster with this family. Denial...anger...bargaining...acceptance...back to denial and through the cycle again...and again...and again. If you have ever been through anything like this, you understand. If not, you don't.

I made phone calls. I greeted neighbors. I took phone messages. I gave family members directions over the phone while they drove. I held her while she cried. I listened to her when she asked how God could let this happen. I stood there while she pounded on my chest and demanded that I call the paramedics back to help her husband.

God gave me a special privilege to minister to this Christian family in Jesus' Name during the greatest crisis they have ever experienced.

In my follow up with the young widow, she remembered the raw moments of that morning but she wanted to thank me for being there with her. She believes that God sent me there that morning to take care of her. I believe that God sent me there, too.

Thank you for being a part of this important work that the Lord has given us to do.