

Emergency Chaplains

DECEMBER 2025



BEHIND THE SCENES: THE WEIGHT OF THE HOLIDAYS

December is often painted in silver and gold—a joyful season of gathering, gratitude, and celebration. But for many, the holidays are marked instead by flashing red and blue lights.

For first responders and chaplains, the calls do not stop for Christmas. In fact, they often grow heavier in a world fractured and groaning under the curse of sin. They see this reality up close, standing in the gap where festive cheer meets deep human brokenness.

One call from a few years ago captured this contrast with painful clarity. A 19-year-old had overdosed while sitting on the floor in front of the family Christmas tree. The lights were glowing, the presents were wrapped, and the family had just come downstairs to open gifts when they found him. Responders worked tirelessly—CPR, Narcan, everything possible—while the family stood frozen in shock. A chaplain stayed beside the parents as they cried and waited for the final word. Later, a medic said under his breath, *"Man... this is just heartbreaking. Not on Christmas."*

Another holiday response revealed a different side of the season's heartache. A chaplain responded with deputies to a family fight fueled by alcohol and years of deep family brokenness. By the time law enforcement arrived, the house was



chaotic. While deputies worked to calm the adults, the chaplain sat in the patrol car with the children, keeping them safe and shielded from the turmoil inside. After the call, a deputy glanced at the Christmas lights and quietly said softly, *"This shouldn't be happening at Christmas."*

Sometimes the calls are even harder. Several years ago on Christmas Day, a chaplain rode with a State Trooper to deliver a death notification. A father had been killed in a motor vehicle accident on his way home from work. The chaplain walked up the driveway with the trooper, knowing that inside, two little girls—ages five and seven—were waiting to open Christmas gifts with their dad. Instead, they received news that would change their lives forever.

These scenes are not isolated. They are the December reality for first responders—and for the chaplains

who step into these moments with them.

- They witness the raw heartbreak that comes from living in a world shattered by sin.
- They watch brave men and women shoulder that pain, carrying it home long after the call is over.

This is why chaplaincy matters—especially when the weight grows heavier. Chaplains cannot undo tragedy, but they can sit with a grieving family so no one faces the darkness alone. They can talk with a weary officer before he heads home. And they can be the steady, compassionate voice a dispatcher needs after a heartbreaking shift.

As we close out this year, we want to be ready for the calls that are sure to come. If you are able, would you consider a year-end gift to help us continue this work? Your giving allows us to:

- Care for first responders carrying trauma
- Sit with families in their worst moments
- Bring calm and spiritual grounding to chaotic scenes
- Equip and deploy new chaplains across our region

Your support makes this ministry possible. Thank you for standing with us as we stand with those who serve.

BECOME A CHAPLAIN

The need is growing.
We can provide the training.
Sign up today!
Echap.org/training

GIVE MONTHLY TO ECHAP

Your support keeps us on the field to serve First Responders and citizens in crisis.
Echap.org/donate

JOIN THE ECHAP PRAYER TEAM

Pray for our
First Responders, Public Safety Agencies,
and our Chaplains.
Echap.org/pray

HOST AN *INTENTIONAL NEIGHBORING* SEMINAR IN YOUR COUNTY

Emergency Chaplains is moving forward with **Vision 100**—our commitment to build durable, gospel-centered chaplain ministry in all 100 counties of North Carolina. To do that, we are praying for **one host church in every county** to partner with us in offering an *Intentional Neighboring* seminar in 2025.

Vision 100 is simple: Every county. Every community. Every crisis. A team of chaplains ready to respond.

But we cannot do this alone. We need local churches that want to reach their neighbors by helping build a chaplaincy presence where they live.

What Is *Intentional Neighboring*?

It is a practical, biblical, three-hour training seminar that equips ordinary believers to respond to everyday crisis with the love and comfort of Christ. The seminar helps church members:

- Recognize ministry opportunities all around them
- Approach hurting people with confidence and compassion
- Understand Jesus' model for crisis ministry (Matthew 9:35–38)
- Lean on the Holy Spirit when they feel unqualified (John 14:15–17)
- See crisis as an open door for gospel conversations
- Begin building simple, meaningful relationships in their community

Why Host a Seminar?

Hosting an *Intentional Neighboring* seminar is one of the most practical ways your church can help bring Vision 100 to your county. A host church helps:

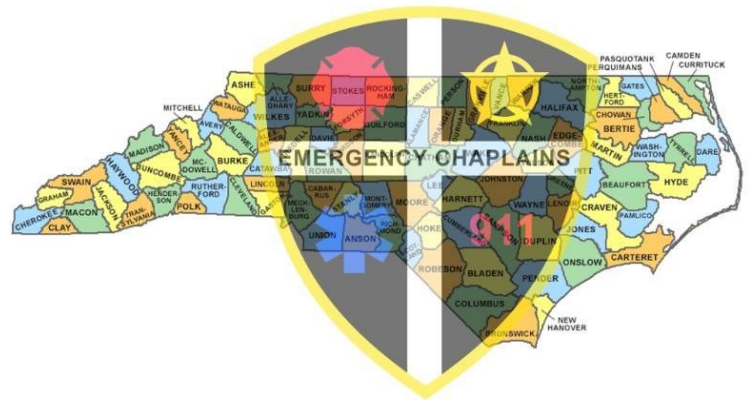
- Equip believers across multiple churches
- Strengthen outreach in the local community
- Build a network of Christians ready to respond to crisis and lay the groundwork for county-wide chaplain ministry

This seminar becomes a launchpad for churches that want to reach hurting people but need a simple place to start.

What We Ask From a Host Church

We are praying for one host church per county that will:

- Provide space for a Saturday morning seminar
- Invite and promote the event among nearby churches
- Cover trainer travel expenses
- Provide the financial support required to bring this training to your county



Your church does **not** need to be large—only willing to care for neighbors in crisis and ready to help build something meaningful in your county.

What You Receive

Every host church receives:

- The full 3-hour *Intentional Neighboring* seminar
- All participant materials
- A resource packet for continued small-group training
- Support and guidance from Emergency Chaplains
- A clear pathway to begin chaplain response ministry in your county

Hosting this training positions your church as a strategic partner in bringing Vision 100 to your county.

Chaplain Ministry is Needed in Your County

Your neighbors are facing crisis, loss, addiction, family strain, and loneliness. Vision 100 exists to ensure no family faces those moments without the **faithful presence** of God's people equipped with the **hope of Christ**.

Throughout His earthly ministry, Jesus showed us that the gospel moves *toward* those in need. Hosting an *Intentional Neighboring* seminar positions your church to bring that same gospel presence into real moments of crisis—right where your community needs it most.

Your church can help make that possible.

Interested in Hosting in 2025?

Contact: Ralph Thompson

- call or text: (919) 280-8908
- email: Ralph@EChap.org

Let's put your county on the Vision 100 map!

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