

"TURNING THOSE IN CRISIS TOWARD CHRIST"

Emergency Chaplains

MARCH 2026



CHAPLAIN FIELD REPORTS

Emergency Chaplains is honored to serve alongside the North Carolina State Highway Patrol through four of our certified chaplains who also volunteer directly with NCSHP.

Chaplain K.J. Ellington serves in Dare County. Chaplain Lenny Waters serves in Craven and Pamlico counties. Chaplains Dylan Stone and Ralph Thompson serve in Durham and Granville counties.

Through these relationships, chaplains provide consistent presence and care to troopers and their families across multiple regions of the state.

On March 1, 2026, Master Trooper Steven J. Perry (Badge C730), age 30, was killed when his patrol vehicle was struck head-on by a wrong-way driver on NC-147 near the Swift Avenue exit at approximately 3:00 a.m. The other driver was also killed. Trooper Perry had served with the Highway Patrol for nearly seven years and is survived by his fiancée and their nine-month-old daughter.

That Sunday morning, chaplains responded alongside troopers to assist with death notifications and immediate care. One chaplain accompanied troopers to notify Trooper Perry's fiancée, while another went with troopers to notify his mother. In the hours that followed,

chaplains remained with troopers and other responders connected to the call—providing presence, prayer, and support. In total, more than ten hours were spent that morning walking with those affected by the loss.

On another recent response, troopers were working a fatal motorcycle crash on a rural road. The rider had died in a single-vehicle accident. The road was closed, and there were no spectators—no family on scene at first.

Still, a chaplain responded simply to check on the troopers and see if they needed anything.

As he arrived, the rider's girlfriend pulled up. She had been tracking his phone and saw he had stopped moving. Soon, other family members began arriving. What began as a quiet scene quickly became one of grief and confusion.

The chaplain was already there—ready to care for the family and support the troopers. At one point, a supervising sergeant said, "Am I glad you showed up."

This is the nature of chaplaincy with the Highway Patrol. Calls come at all hours. Situations change quickly. Families often arrive before anyone is prepared.

Chaplains are there when it matters most.

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Emergency Chaplains is a 501(c)(3) Charitable Organization | Federal EIN: 26-2121418 | NC Solicitation License Number: SL009161

Answered Prayer



Over the past several years, we have asked many of you to pray for first responder agencies across North Carolina—especially the Durham Police Department and the staffing shortages they have faced.

A few years ago, we invited the Durham Police Chief, along with EMS and 9-1-1 leadership, to speak at our banquet. They shared the need plainly and asked God’s people to pray—that He would send men and women, especially young people, willing to serve. And many of you prayed.

God answers prayer.

Recently, we met with two police

academies currently in session with the Durham Police Department.

Academy 62 will begin field training in April with 31 new officers. Academy 63 (pictured above with our chaplains), which started this month, brings another 35 recruits into training.

Just a few years ago, one graduating class included only five officers.

The Lord is sending people.

We are seeing similar signs in other areas. Durham County EMS currently has its largest academy in several years, though the need for EMTs and paramedics remains. The 9-1-1 Center

continues to face challenges, but their most recent hiring classes have also been larger than we have seen in some time.

These are not coincidences. They are answers to prayer. At the same time, the need has not disappeared.

Please continue to pray—that God would strengthen those who are serving, continue to send new recruits, and raise up men and women of character, wisdom, and courage.

Your prayers matter. And we are seeing the evidence of that in real and measurable ways.

Honoring Those Who Serve

In the weeks ahead, our nation will pause to recognize those who serve in public safety. During **National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week (April 12–18)**, we honor the 9-1-1 professionals who answer calls in moments of chaos and stay on the line when others cannot be there in person. During **National Police Week (May 10–16)**, we remember law enforcement officers who have given their lives in the line of duty and support those who continue to serve with courage and sacrifice. And during **National EMS Week (May 17–23)**, we recognize the men and women who provide critical care in some of life’s most urgent moments. These weeks remind us of the weight these roles carry—and the importance of being present to care for those who serve and to point them to the hope found in Christ. Please join us in praying for strength, protection, and encouragement for each of them and their families.

BECOME A CHAPLAIN

The need is growing.
We can provide the training.
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JOIN THE ECHAP PRAYER TEAM

Pray for our
First Responders, Public Safety Agencies,
and our Chaplains.
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