



Emergency Chaplains

Durham, NC

JUNE 2012

TWO COUNTIES CLOSER TO ONE HUNDRED

In the summer of 1977, when I was a 15 years old, my Uncle James hired me to work as a 'laborer' on one of his construction crews.

It was a pleasant June morning when I joined the crew and we reported to the site of a new home that was being built in a local subdivision. Our task that day was to 'sheet the roof', nailing 4x8 plywood sheets to the roof trusses that had been set the day before.

Enthusiastically, I started up the ladder with my brand new hammer swinging from my brand new holster. I was ready to scale the roof and punish a few nails that morning but Uncle James had a different idea.

As I neared the top of the ladder I heard a very recognizable voice. "Where you going, boy?" It was James Thompson. The boss man...not the uncle...but I hadn't figured that part out yet.

"Come on up here old man and I'll show you how to drive some nails," was the wrong answer to his question.

Back on the ground standing face to face, he asked me, "Where did you get such a smart mouth?" I remember looking at him, with a grin on my face, saying, "I got it from your side of the family."

Wrong answer again.

It was my first hour on the job and I was poised to learn a valuable life lesson. You don't smart mouth Uncle James at work.

James...the boss man...directed my attention to a stack of plywood and informed me that I would be moving those 4x8 sheets of plywood to the roof for the carpenters.

He didn't seem to like my idea of getting a forklift or a crane to hoist the sheets...so I started to face the fact that I probably needed to get busy moving some plywood. It was a monumental task, overwhelming from the start.



Up and down the ladder, sheet by sheet, I moved most of the sheets to the roof by myself. Between delivering the plywood, the tar paper, the nails and some assorted tools I probably made a hundred trips or more to the roof. By mid-afternoon the job had been completed.

That day I learned some valuable life lessons by putting a roof on a new house. I learned that you put the plywood on one sheet at a time. With more help you can put the sheets on faster...but it still goes on one sheet at a time. There is no other way to put a roof on.

I also learned that sheeting a roof is hard work and seems insurmountable...but with team work and persistence the roof will be finished.

Today, those same life lessons help me to focus on the vision that the Lord has given us for taking the ministry of Emergency

Chaplains to every county in North Carolina. Over the past two months we have added six new chaplains, three new agencies and two more counties.

On page 2 of this newsletter you can read about three of the new chaplains. We just don't have enough room in this edition to introduce everyone to you but we will get to the other three in our next edition.

We have established a chaplaincy presence now in seven counties...and there is a long way to go to reach one hundred. However, with team work, persistence and a proper understanding of our role we know that this job can be done.

Understanding that the ministry of Emergency Chaplains is kingdom work we know that our role is simply that of a 'laborer' as Jesus describes in Matthew 9:35-38. He takes care of the details while we do the work that He has set before us.

One county at a time. One agency at a time. One chaplain at a time. One person at a time.

Just a laborer in His harvest field,

Chaplain Ralph

NEW CHAPLAINS ADDED TO ROSTER

OUR TEAM

CHAPLAINS

Grant Bennett
 Danny Bryant
 Ricardo Correa
 Jeff DeGrow
 James Dodson
 Andre Gilliard
 Johnny Hewett
 Mike Jobe
 Chris O'Guin
 Keith Kimball
 Joe Thomas
 Mike White
 Phil Wiggins

CHAPLAIN INTERNS

Craig Alexander
 Brian Fleming
 Art Klose
 Bill Oakley
 Floyd Pearce

COUNSELOR

Carter Thompson

COUNSELOR/INTERPRETER

Pedro Valladares

PHOTOGRAPHER

Russell Hill

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Bill Oakley is a graduate of Gupton-Jones Mortuary College. He is a Durham native but spent most of his career working in the Atlanta, GA area as a Funeral Director. Since returning to Durham, Bill has retired from the funeral business but finds plenty of activity to keep him busy.

Bill is a member of First Baptist Church in Durham where he serves as a deacon and is a member of the Encouragement Team. He is also a volunteer member of the Pastoral Care Staff in the Emergency Department at Duke Hospital.

Since joining Emergency Chaplains in April, Bill has been assigned to serve on our Crisis Response Team in Durham. He says that he is blessed to serve during the remaining walks of life on whatever road God sends him. Bill's desire is to do any task and use any gift that God has given him to help others and the Kingdom of God.



Jeff DeGrow recently moved to the Triangle area from Charleston, SC where he served as a Law Enforcement Officer for ten years. His career in law enforcement came to a sudden end in early 2010 when he was shot six times by a burglary suspect that he was attempting to apprehend.



Three of the shots hit Jeff's head. Two of them were graze wounds but one of the shots went through his right eye and also broke his jaw. The same bullet went through his ear canal and lodged in the back of his head.

By the grace of God, Jeff survived the attack and has made a full recovery except for the permanent blindness in his right eye. Although he is no longer able to serve as an officer he believes that the Lord has uniquely prepared him to minister to law enforcement officers through the ministry of Emergency Chaplains.

Jeff is currently serving as the appointed chaplain for the Franklin County Sheriff's Department and is working to develop additional chaplaincy and ministry opportunities in the Franklin County area. He will be entering The College at Southeastern in Wake Forest this fall.

AGENCIES WE SERVE

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

When he was a teenager, **Brian Fleming** came to know Jesus Christ as his Savior after watching the movie "Time To Run" that was produced by Billy Graham Ministries.

While earning his BA in Communications from the University of Vermont he was involved with Campus Crusade for Christ and also helped start a youth ministry at a new church plant. It was during this time that the Lord confirmed His call on Brian's life to enter full time ministry.

Brian has served in a pastoral role for over twenty-five years in churches in Vermont and Virginia. Since moving to North Carolina, Brian has established an international missions ministry called Impact World. He recently took a team to Azerbaijan to equip business professionals and pastors with leadership skills and he has more international trips planned for this year.



Although Brian has a heart for the nations he also has a heart for people who are hurting and need to experience the comfort of Christ. Since joining Emergency Chaplains in May, Brian has been assigned to the Crisis Response Team in Durham.

CONTACT US

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