

Emergency Chaplains

One Year and Counting

April 1st marked our first complete year of doing ministry as Emergency Chaplains. Over the past year we have assisted on scenes where many citizens were being faced with the most trying time of their life. In these crucial times our goal is to simply bring the presence of the Lord to those who are in trouble.

All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is our merciful Father and the source of all comfort. He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us. (2 Corinthians 1:3-4 NLT)

In addition to bringing comfort and help to those in trouble, many hours were spent serving the First Responders. We had our share of weddings, funerals, hospital visits, new babies and counseling sessions over the past year. We praise the Lord for every opportunity to minister to our First Responders as they face the daunting task of serving the public.

Our Board has added Michael Perra as a new member effective April 1st, 2009. Michael is a good friend that loves the Lord with all of his heart and desires to see Emergency Chaplains make an impact in Durham and points beyond. Michael is married to Edie and they have two daughters. They operate Bug Man Exterminators on Hillsborough Road in Durham. We are honored to have Michael serving on the board this year.

2009 BHAG—Counseling Center

Everyone needs a BHAG—a Big, Hairy, Audacious Goal. A BHAG is something that is bigger than you are and beyond your current means. Our BHAG for 2009 is to open a Counseling Center for First Responders in Durham.

The goal for the center is to provide counseling services for First Responders and their families in Durham and Central NC. Confidential counseling will be available for persons seeking advice regarding work or personal issues.

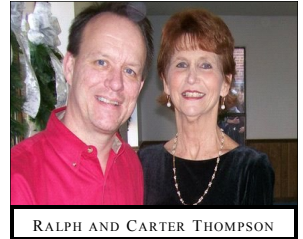
Both Group and Individual Crisis Intervention will be offered along with counseling on issues such as: Finances, Job and Career, Drugs/Alcohol, Stress, Relationships, Family, Children, Marriage, Divorce, and Pregnancy. Our desire is to offer these services at little or no cost to the people that we serve.

In order to establish this dream, we will need office space and funding. That's all!

Please pray for us as we seek to find the right office space to host this counseling ministry, for funding to pay the expenses of this ministry, and for funds to promote these services across Durham and Central NC.

Our First Responders often face tremendous stress on the job, they work crazy schedules and they seldom get paid enough for what they do. These factors can cause problems at work and at home. Our desire is to help these friends of ours—those who are called to be public servants—find ways to not only cope—but to experience abundant life while serving you and me. Pray for Emergency Chaplains and pray for your First Responders when you can.

APRIL 2009
DURHAM, NC



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National Public Safety Telecommunications Week April 12-18, 2009

Although the week of April 12-18 will have passed by the time you receive this newsletter, please know that the second full week in April each year is set aside by the US Congress as **National Public Safety Telecommunications Week**.

Emergency Chaplains would like to say thank you to our telecommunications personnel at the Durham Emergency Communications Center and NC State Highway Patrol Troop C Communications Center in Raleigh plus other Telecommunicators in the public safety community for your continued efforts to preserve the public's safety.

We make an effort to honor our call takers, dispatchers and other 9-1-1 employees throughout the year, but we want to bring special attention to them right now so everyone can be made more aware of their hard work and dedication, which provide a vital link to the public safety services on which we have come to rely every day.

Thank you, again, for all the sacrifices you make to create a better and safer world for the public. Your commitment to your profession is appreciated by Emergency Chaplains, the public safety community, and the citizens you serve.

Memorial Month for Public Safety

NC Fallen Firefighters Foundation

On **May 2nd**, Firefighters from across NC will gather in Raleigh for a parade and memorial service to remember those who have died in the line of duty. The parade begins at 10am and the NCFFF Memorial Service starts at 1pm at the NC Fallen Firefighters Memorial. Go to www.NCFFF.org for more info.

Police Week

Since 1962, **May 15th** is Peace Officers Memorial Day. Every year since then, tens of thousands of law enforcement officers from around the world converge on Washington, DC to participate in a number of planned events which honor those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice. Go to www.POLICEWEEK.org for more info.

National EMS Memorial Service

In Roanoke, VA, EMS personnel will gather on **May 23rd** for their 17th annual National Memorial Service to remember their fallen comrades. You can learn more about the events by visiting www.NEMSMS.org.

Monthly Ministry Support

Thank you to everyone who faithfully supports this ministry month after month. Because of your gifts, we are able to minister to people who are in the middle of the greatest crisis of their life. At the same time, we are offering our services to First Responders who may be in the middle of a crisis of their own.

Please consider making a regular monthly donation to Emergency Chaplains to assist us in this ministry and to help establish a counseling center for those who faithfully serve us in communications, law enforcement, EMS and the fire service.

Your regular monthly gifts of \$10, \$25, \$50, \$100 and more go toward the operation of our ministry today and helps to assure that the ministry of Emergency Chaplains is around for years to come.

Each gift, no matter how large or small, is greatly appreciated. It is because of the prayers and support of people just like you that we are able to continue taking the love and the Good News of Jesus Christ to those who give so freely of themselves to serve us.

Subscribe to E-News from Emergency Chaplains

Twice a month, Emergency Chaplains publishes an E-News report that provides regular updates on our ministry and brings focus to issues that affect First Responders. In addition to this, you will find a regular devotion written by Pat Patterson that brings application from God's Word using examples from EMS calls.

On a regular basis we will highlight a Hometown Hero—someone who has made the world a better place to live because of their dedication to the people they serve. Other news and topics will be shared, all in a brief and easy to read format.

If you would like to subscribe to our E-News, go to Chaplain Ralph's blog (www.thomp86.blogspot.com) and sign up. If you prefer, you can get there from our website (www.echap.org) or you can either call Chaplain Ralph (919-280-8908) or send him an e-mail (Ralph@echap.org) If you don't like our E-News, you can easily unsubscribe at any time!