

# Emergency Chaplains Newsletter

Serving The Public Safety Community Of Durham County, NC

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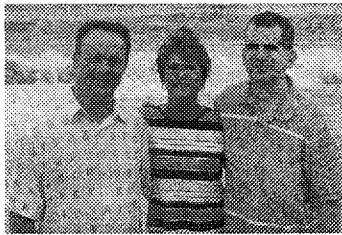
[www.thomp86.blogspot.com](http://www.thomp86.blogspot.com)

## New Ministry Begins

Just when you get comfortable doing the job that the Lord has called you to do, He calls you out of your comfort zone and asks you to do something new, something greater... something scary. That is what we have experienced as a family over the past few months.

Following the Lord's leading, we knew that He was calling us to provide a full-time chaplaincy ministry for the Public Safety community in Durham County. In January 2008, Ralph re-

signed from Bethesda Baptist Church so that we could focus our efforts on starting this new



work.

Things have moved quickly since then. We filed incorporation papers with the NC Secretary of State to register a non-profit corporation named, "Emergency

Chaplains, Inc." Our Board of Directors was formed, adopted our by-laws and set April 1, 2008 as the day that Emergency Chaplains would begin operations.

We also filed the necessary paperwork with the IRS to establish Emergency Chaplains as a 501-c-3 corporation so that all donations are tax deductible and we can apply for non-profit grants to supplement the operating income of the ministry.

## Agencies Served

**Bethesda**  
Fire and Rescue

**Durham County**  
EMS

**NC**  
State Highway Patrol  
(C-7)

**Redwood**  
Fire and Rescue

**Durham**  
Regional Hospital.

Although he has not been officially appointed as a chaplain for the Durham Emergency Communications Center, Ralph visits the 9-1-1 center on a regular basis and provides care for them when requested.

Ralph also serves as a volunteer chaplain at Durham Regional Hospital.



## Ministry Opportunity

Enclosed you will find a copy of a tract titled, "A Police Officer's Courage". Let me encourage you to use this powerful brochure as a reminder to pray for our men and women who bravely protect us on a daily basis. Consider giving your copy to the next Law Enforcement Officer that you see. Let me know if you need more copies.

## Donations

Emergency Chaplains is a faith-based ministry that is funded by individual and corporate donations.

You can support this ministry by sending your donations to:

**Emergency Chaplains**  
PO Box 14762  
Durham, NC 27709

Checks should be made payable to "Emergency Chaplains".

All gifts are tax-deductible.

# Carter's Graduation



Carter graduated from Louisiana Baptist University in May of 2008 with a BA in Psychology/Christian Counseling. She is already working in the chaplaincy ministry by providing counsel for women, especially the wives of Law Enforcement Officers, Fire Fighters and EMTs.

She is a trained Divorce Care counselor and has gained valuable experience as a volunteer for Pregnancy Support Services in Durham. She is currently pursuing her Master's degree in Christian Counseling through Louisiana Baptist.

## Goals and Dreams

Public Safety workers (Law Enforcement, Fire Fighters, EMTs and 911 Communicators) are the primary reason that Emergency Chaplains exists. Our goal is to provide pastoral care and biblical counseling for these public servants who willingly give up their lives for the sake of the citizens of Durham.

We will minister to the workers and their family members by getting to know them on a personal basis and discovering their needs. We will provide stress debriefing, job counseling, marriage and family counseling and offer spiritual guidance to those who desire it.

In addition to providing emotional and spiritual care for those who work in Public Safety, we will intervene in times of crisis for the general public of Durham County by providing on-the-scene pastoral care and crisis intervention in conjunction with local Fire, EMS, Law Enforcement and other emergency response agencies. This will be accomplished by responding to crisis scenes, ministering to victims and families, following the scene as it transitions to the hospital or other locations and providing for the spiritual and emotional needs for victims, families and emergency personnel.

Our goal is to provide 24/7 coverage and response by the end of 2008. That will be accomplished by recruiting and training a group of dedicated volunteer chaplains who will commit to this ministry.

When we wrote our ministry plan back in February, our BHAG (Big Hairy Audacious Goal) was to provide training and assistance to every county in NC to begin a county-wide chaplaincy program. Since then we have added another one. Carter and I believe that the Lord is calling us to establish a regional counseling center for Public Safety Workers and their families. This dream calls for office space, paid and volunteer counselors and cooperation from individuals, local churches and businesses. We will tell you more about what we do and the vision that God has given us in later issues. Please remember to pray for us when you can.