

"TURNING THOSE IN CRISIS TOWARD CHRIST"

Emergency Chaplains

MAY 2024



Project 100—The Work Continues!

In the summer of 1977, when I was 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 'sheath 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 crane to hoist the sheets...so I began to accept the stark reality...the cold, hard truth...that I needed to get busy moving plywood myself. 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 plywood 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 sheathing a roof is hard work and seems insurmountable...but with teamwork 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.

We have now established a chaplaincy presence in twenty-seven counties, but there's still a long way to go to reach one hundred.

Nonetheless, with teamwork, persistence, and a clear understanding of the task the Lord has given us, we are confident that this job can be done.

Recognizing that the ministry of Emergency Chaplains is kingdom work, we understand 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 carry out the work that He has set before us.

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

Thank you for partnering with us to equip chaplains who will stand shoulder to shoulder with our first responders, ready to turn those in crisis toward Christ.

Blessings to you as we joyfully labor together in His mission field!

Chaplain Ralph

PARTNERING WITH EMERGENCY CHAPLAINS

Join the EChap Prayer Team. Pray for our First Responders, Public Safety Agencies, and our Chaplains.
EChap.org/pray

Prayerfully consider becoming a chaplain. The need is growing. We can provide the training.
EChap.org/training

Give monthly to Emergency Chaplains. Your support keeps us on the field to serve First Responders and citizens in crisis.
EChap.org/donate

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FIELD REPORTS



On April 20, we hosted the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation presentation of “Taking Care of Our Own.” (pictured above) This class was designed to assist public safety agencies in developing a plan for their department in the event of a line-of-duty-death or other serious injury. We had 70 in attendance representing agencies from all across NC. This event was made possible by our generous donors and volunteers.

a half counseling and praying, and was even able to send him several resources.

Two Chaplains responded to a scene where a pedestrian was struck and killed by an Amtrak Train. Chaplains checked in on staff/conductors while officers conducted investigation.

Chaplain Hewett gave the invocation for the “Patrolman Lawrence Canipe, Jr. Bridge” in Yancey County. NCSHP Trooper Canipe died in the line of duty in 1984.

Smithfield Police Chaplain Shambaugh had the privilege of officiating a wedding ceremony for one of his officers.

Chaplain Stone assisted sheriff’s office at a scene where a driver was not feeling well and had pulled to the side of the roadway, and went into cardiac arrest. The initial 911 call came from a passerby who realized the man did not look well. EMS worked on the patient for a half hour before declaring him deceased. Chaplain also went with deputies to deliver the death notification to next-of-kin.

Doug Mellott has been named Chaplain for the Port Royal Speedway where he also serves on the Speedway Safety Crew with other members of his fire crew from Delaware (PA) Township.

During a ride along in Orange County, NC, Chaplain Bryant responded with his officer to a domestic disturbance. He was able to pray with both parties and helped them to reach a peaceful resolution.

Yadkin County Chaplain J. McFadyen was dispatched to assist while crews searched a river for a man who had drowned. He ministered to more than 50 friends and family during the search.



(Above) Chaplains Ralph Thompson, KJ Ellington, Lenny Waters, and Dylan Stone attended two days of in-service training with the NC Highway Patrol in Raleigh. Ralph & Dylan serve Troop C-Dist. 7. KJ serves Troop A-Dist. 1, and Lenny serves Troop A-Dist. 4 & 5.

Chaplain responded to the home of retired first responder who had called 911. The individual was clearly depressed and making suicidal ideations. The chaplain, along with law enforcement, worked with the individual to develop a plan to get him the help he needed.

Eight Chaplains in Durham have received security training and are now authorized to spend time in the 9-1-1 center listening to incoming calls and radio traffic alongside communicators.

Two Chaplains responded to a working structure fire where a firefighter was injured. No fatalities were reported. The injured firefighter was transported to a local burn center and is recovering from his injuries.

EChap received a call from a law enforcement agency asking if we could provide a K-9 visit for a terminally ill child. We reached out to **Canines for Christ** for assistance and they sent Amber, her son Jackson, and their therapy dog, Titus, to Duke Hospital for the visit. (pictured to right)

A retired naval officer, experiencing a personal crisis, searched online and found the number for our on-call chaplain. Chaplain Shires was able to talk with the individual about career and personal stresses. The Chaplain spent an hour and

