

"TURNING THOSE IN CRISIS TOWARD CHRIST"

Emergency Chaplains

FEBRUARY 2024



TAKING CARE OF OUR OWN

On Saturday, April 20th, we are hosting a one-day training event called "Taking Care of Our Own," presented by NFFF—the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation. Grey Stone Church is providing the training space, and we are praying for 100 public safety agencies across North Carolina to send staff members and chaplains to Durham to learn what to do when a line of duty death (LODD) happens in their agency.

Agency leaders and survivors tell us that most public safety organizations are not prepared for a line of duty death. "Taking Care of Our Own" provides agency personnel specific information and valuable insights.

The course is designed for senior officers, chief officers, honor guard commanders, chaplains, and officials of national and state fire, law enforcement, and EMS organizations.

We invited NFFF to come to Durham for this presentation. They will provide the instructors, but EChap is responsible for all other details and associated costs. We plan to provide breakfast, lunch, snacks, and refreshments for everyone in attendance. There is some equipment that we will need to rent, and we are also responsible for printing the 50-page instructional manual for each attendee.

EChap will be paying to promote the training as well. Dylan and our volunteer staff worked diligently over the past year building databases for this type of promotional campaign. They have done a fantastic job and will be sending direct mail invitations to over 1,500 public safety agencies across North Carolina in the coming weeks. In addition, we will place ads on social media and other online vendors. The total cost for EChap to host and promote this training is expected to be \$3,500.



On December 30th, Greensboro Police Sgt. Philip Nix was shot and killed in the line of duty.

This picture shows Durham Fire, Police, Sheriff, and EMS personnel honoring Sgt. Nix as his body was transported home to Greensboro along I-40 from the Medical Examiner's Office in Raleigh.



NFFF suggests that we ask sponsors to cover these costs. Please look at the enclosed card or go to our website (www.EChap.org) for more information on our estimated costs and for being a sponsor. If you know of a business that might be interested in sponsoring or donating services, please give Chaplain Ralph a call at (919) 280-8908.

This event presents a wonderful opportunity for EChap to bring agency leaders and chaplains to Durham to receive beneficial training. At the same time, we will be able to give them more information regarding our ministry and talk about expanding our work into more counties across our state. Many agency representatives will come to Durham on April 20th looking for solutions that EChap can provide.

Join us in praying for April 20th to be a fruitful day in the ministry of EChap! Thank you for partnering with us to equip more chaplains to take the comfort of Christ to those in crisis.

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FIELD REPORTS



POLICE ACADEMY MINISTRY

Our chaplains in Durham have the distinct privilege of meeting with new recruits in each academy as they begin their journey of pursuing a career in law enforcement. Pictured above is Academy 58 as they were starting their Basic Law Enforcement Training (BLET) class on August 7, 2023. On February 16, 2024, thirteen of the sixteen recruits graduated BLET and will move on to the field training phase. We praise God for answering so many prayers for Academy 58. The Lord sent more qualified recruits for this class than the preceding classes, and this will be the highest percentage going into the field training phase in recent memory. Please continue to pray for law enforcement recruits in your area, and pray for these officers as they start in the field in late February. Chaplains in the picture with the recruits are Ralph Thompson, Scott Wilkos, Quintin Quinn, Mike White, Titus Benfield, Jim Barr, and Dylan Stone.

On January 25, several chaplains assisted as we taught our Death Notification class for Academy 58 and provided lunch afterwards.

On February 1, Chaplain Phil Wiggins and Summit Church provided a celebration dinner for the recruits and their family members.

Our chaplains met with Academy 59 on February 6 to start the relationship building process. There are eighteen recruits starting BLET right now, even more than the last class! Please remember them in your prayers.

THREE FOUND DEAD IN LOCAL MOTEL

On a Sunday morning, two of our chaplains responded to a local motel where four

individuals had been found unresponsive. Three were pronounced dead. One was transported in critical condition. This happened during a week that several fentanyl overdoses occurred in the city.

CHILD FOUND ALONE

Two chaplains responded to assist law enforcement following a welfare check. Relatives had not been able to contact the individual in two days and called 9-1-1 for assistance. An adult female was found deceased upon entry. A minor disabled

child was also in the residence but was unharmed. Chaplains assisted family members as they arrived on scene.

TRIP TO GROCERY STORE

After dinner, a 44-year-old man drove to his neighborhood grocery store to pick up a few things for his wife and young children. While shopping, he went into cardiac arrest. Resuscitation efforts were unsuccessful, and he was pronounced dead on the scene. Less than an hour after the initial 9-1-1 call, the chaplain and an officer arrived at the home of the deceased to make a death notification. The chaplain stayed at the residence until other family members arrived.

2023 MINISTRY REPORT

Last year, our chaplains responded 576 times to assist first responders on scene. 391 of those were death calls. Chaplains recorded 136 ride alongs and 557 station visits. Including telephone contacts, our chaplains reported 2,523 counseling opportunities where they gave spiritual guidance or had the opportunity to pray with individuals. Our chaplains reported that they spent 3,744 hours in the field ministering to first responders, or side-by-side assisting them on calls.

HIGH SCHOOL INTERN

Titus Benfield (left) joined EChap in August 2023, at the beginning of his senior year and will stay on until his graduation in June. This fall, he plans to move to Lynchburg, VA to attend Liberty University. Titus has assisted with office duties, responded on crisis calls, and joined the Junior Firefighter program at Lebanon Fire Department, where Chaplain Phil Sheridan is his mentor.



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