

"TURNING THOSE IN CRISIS TOWARD CHRIST"

Emergency Chaplains

SEPTEMBER 2024



16TH ANNIVERSARY BANQUET | THURSDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 24TH

In the Family Life Center/Grey Stone Church Durham, NC | Meet and Mingle 6:00 | Dinner starting at 6:30

Seating is limited—Reserve your tickets today!
Tickets: \$25 each

6:00pm— Meet and Mingle: come early and meet some of our chaplains from around the state
6:30pm— Dinner catered by Danny's BBQ
7:15pm— Banquet Program and Awards

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EChap.org/banquet

FOLLOWING IS A SAMPLE OF SOME OF THE CALLS FOR SERVICE OUR CRISIS CHAPLAINS HAVE ANSWERED RECENTLY

Chaplains responded to a home where an invalid couple lived. What was thought to be a natural death scene turned into a homicide investigation when a family member admitted to administering non-prescribed morphine to the deceased. Grief Team will follow up as able.

Chaplains were requested to respond to a suicide scene. Before their arrival, the Haz-Mat Team and the Bomb Squad were both dispatched to the scene and the area was closed off. The Chaplains were able to speak with First Responders but never given clearance to talk to the family.

A man was found dead of a suspected heroin overdose in his home. One of the two children in the home at the time found his body. Chaplains assisted by helping move the children to a neighbor's house to spend the night. Chaplains also delivered the death notification to the man's wife when she arrived on scene.

One Chaplain responded to a call where a couple had overdosed. One was pronounced dead on scene; the other was transported to a local hospital. Chaplain stayed on scene for over 2 hours with the couple's teenage child until other family members arrived.

Three Chaplains assisted on the scene of a pediatric cardiac arrest. Unfortunately, the child was pronounced dead on scene by medics. Two Chaplains were at the home with family and friends for over 3 hours while police and the medical examiner investigated. An additional Chaplain responded to the EMS station to check on crews that were first on scene.

Two Chaplains responded to a homicide scene where a man had been shot and killed in the street, near his mother's house. Family members heard the gunshots and expressed concern that the murderer will return for them.

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DIRECTOR'S NOTES

For the past twenty-three years, it has been my profound joy and privilege to serve as a public safety chaplain. My journey began with the Bethesda Fire Department, who invited me to be their chaplain shortly after the events of 9/11. The Lord used those formative years at BVFD to nurture my heart for chaplaincy, revealing to me the vast, underserved mission field among first responders and in crisis response ministry.

Then in 2008, Carter and I stepped out in faith to establish Emergency Chaplains. From the outset, we answered God's call to multiply chaplains who will work with one focus in mind: to turn those in crisis toward Christ. What began as a ministry in Durham County soon grew into a statewide initiative, which we named **Vision 100**. We firmly believe that the Lord has called us to establish sustainable chaplain ministries in every county of North Carolina.

As part of **Vision 100**, we set an ambitious goal: to train 500 chaplains within five years. To support this, we developed our own training curriculum and established a certification program. Now, five years in, how are we progressing? We have chaplains serving in twenty-five counties, leaving seventy-five to go. As of our last count, 258 individuals have enrolled in our training.

I must admit, I've agonized over our unmet goals as I prepared this report for you, leading up to our banquet. I had hoped to share that we had surpassed both goals by now, but we haven't. To be honest, it feels like I've failed.

This morning, as I poured my heart out to the Lord, a friend and mentor sent me an email that included a devotional on leading a ministry and being a visionary. It contained these words:

The vision we pursue must be worthy. It must make the effort seem like a good investment. Those asked to do the work must say, "What I am doing is worth

the cost." A strong visionary sees beyond the odds. They must be able to see how they can change the odds. If not, failure is on the horizon.

Goals may not be reached in one lifetime. Sometimes we leaders have to realize we are laying foundations. We can't get dissatisfied with the slow work. It requires a certain patience. In effective leadership our ego must be subservient to the vision.

A friend once told me about praying over a financial need and then finding a check in the mailbox that covered the full amount. Today, I have a similar story. I was praying over an emotional need, and when I checked my inbox, that need was met.

The vision of 100 counties and 500 chaplains is worthy. It's a good investment. It's worth the cost.

I also understand that these goals may not be achieved in my lifetime. But I am committed to laying the foundation for those who will come after me, working not for my glory, but for God's.

I am deeply thankful for each of you who have helped build the foundation for Emergency Chaplains. I pray that you will continue to strive side-by-side with me, building something that will reach the vast, underserved mission field of first responders and crisis ministry—a work that will outlive us all.

*Whatever you do, work heartily,
as for the Lord and not for men,*
Colossians 3:23 (ESV)

Blessings to you....and see you at the banquet on October 24th!

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