

"TURNING THOSE IN CRISIS TOWARD CHRIST"

Emergency Chaplains

OCTOBER 2023



WE NEED YOU!

15TH ANNIVERSARY BANQUET | THURSDAY EVENING, NOVEMBER 2ND

In the Family Life Center/Grey Stone Church Durham, NC | Doors open 6:30 | Dinner starting at 7:00

Sponsor | Get Tickets | Volunteer

EChap.org/banquet

"And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others."
2 Timothy 2:2

The Apostle Paul wrote these words to Timothy, a young pastor, as a reminder that the gospel ministry never rests. Paul invested in Timothy and expected Timothy to invest in others...who would invest in others. It is an amazing concept. Discipling disciple making disciples.

Our annual banquet puts me on an emotional roller coaster. I am giddy with anticipation because it's a great time of celebration and getting together with friends. At the same time, I'm a little cranky because the planning is stressful and it is a ton of work.

Here's the primary stressor...I'm afraid that I am going to fail at getting the main message across. The main message is this: Dylan and I are investing everything that we have into investing this gospel ministry into others...who will make the same investment. The Lord has clearly called us to multiply the workers in His harvest field by training chaplains, who will train chaplains.



That's why we need you. We need you to invest in the work by giving and serving. A good place to start is at our banquet. Use the enclosed card (or QR code) to sponsor the banquet, attend, or volunteer to serve.



I want to invite you to join our Prayer Team as well. (go to EChap.org for info) However, you need to be aware that as you pray, the Lord just might impress upon your heart to do more.... like give more...or even become a chaplain.

Plan to join us at the banquet on November 2nd. It is going to be a great event. Danny's BBQ never disappoints. Jonathan Lotz is going to bless you with his message. In addition, we are hosting a Ministry Fair again this year to give you an opportunity to consider partnering with others instead of us. That's OK. It's all about Jesus and building His kingdom. See you at the banquet!



**Emergency Chaplains | PO Box 14762 | Durham, NC 27709
919.399.9468 | Office@EChap.org | EChap.org**

Emergency Chaplains is a 501(c)(3) Charitable Organization | Federal EIN: 26-2121418 | NC Solicitation License Number: SL009161

WHY EVERY FIRST RESPONDER DEPARTMENT SHOULD HAVE A CHAPLAIN

The following article was written by Peter Keady, an FFC Chaplain in Pennsylvania.

The behavioral health concerns for fire, police, EMS, dispatch, and correctional personnel have been significantly discussed and addressed over the years among scholars and practitioners alike.

Peer support, as well as mental health referrals, are readily available. These are good and necessary resources, yet the rates of divorce, suicide, and substance abuse for first responders continue to rise. Among the missing pieces in the complex puzzle of wellness and career longevity for first responders is the chaplain. But chaplaincy is more than a set of duties and not just any chaplain will do.

Role of a Chaplain to Provide Effective Support to First Responders

Traditionally, chaplains' roles have been ceremonial; They are called upon for banquets, funerals, blessings, and weddings. They are well-meaning and primarily volunteer people of faith, having a heart and hand in assisting first responders and their local agencies.

But the days of the ceremonial chaplain are over if we genuinely want operational effectiveness. First responders need support in very specific ways. The unique and habitual stressors placed on them, along with critical incidents like officer-involved shootings, must be approached by properly trained chaplains because most first responders are hesitant about discussing personal concerns with so-called "outsiders."

With the significant and ever-changing environment facing first responders, a new model of chaplaincy is essential. First responders need and deserve properly trained chaplains embedded in their departments, going beyond merely

enthusiastic or sympathetic clergy occasionally appearing here and there.

Some departments have been blessed with such men and women. In understanding the holistic nature of people and the unique culture of first responders, these chaplains have taken the time to intentionally and properly be trained while connecting with agency personnel on an ongoing basis. They have truly become part of the life and culture of the department. This is an essential aspect of an effective chaplaincy program that cannot be over-emphasized.

Chaplains Focus on Relationships

The role of a chaplain is grounded in forming strong relationships with personnel. Chaplains must be preemptive and proactive, engaging with department personnel prior to critical incidents and providing first responders with empathetic support regarding their day-to-day stress. Creating a healthy relationship takes time and purpose.

Forming a relationship is key to gaining trust from first responders. Chaplains must make frequent visits to departments before first responders trust them enough to share stresses and strains. Weekly visits and ride-alongs are extremely valuable in building rapport and learning departmental culture. I haven't met a responder who doesn't like coffee, snacks or ice cream. I've spent time washing fire trucks, loading gear, and even purchasing bottled water for first responders.

Chaplains must always give far more than they receive. They must get his or her hands dirty serving first responders in order to gain trust.

Chaplains Must Be Properly Trained

No amount of "good will" or enthusiasm can substitute for a properly trained chaplain. They offer a Ministry of Presence, building familiarity and camaraderie with administration, command staff, and personnel. One of the unique and great strengths of a chaplain is resiliency before a critical incident occurs.

Chaplains, strategically trained and tactically placed, can be keys to improving wellness, work effectiveness, positive morale, and budgetary efficiency. Properly trained chaplains have an acute understanding of the culture of each branch of first responders; language, habits, needs, and stresses vary significantly among agencies. For example, dispatchers face an entirely different set of strain than a police officer so it's essential to understand these differences.

Chaplains must be trained in Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM), suicide prevention and engagement, stress-reduction techniques, and Psychological First Aid. These training modules help bring continuity to chaplaincy as well as the insightful and empathic skills needed in working with first responders.

Chaplains are present in the heat of battle or for a cup of coffee at a local diner. They are available 24/7. The need for properly trained, embedded chaplains is greater than ever and should be considered as an addition to every department, fostering the greatest supportive environment for all first responders.

SOURCE: <https://amuedge.com/why-every-first-responder-department-should-have-a-chaplain/>

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

EChap.org