



# Emergency Chaplains

Durham, NC

September 2011

## COURAGEOUS OPENS SEPTEMBER 30th

You need to go see the movie "Courageous" on its opening weekend of September 30th. You can go to [www.courageousthemovie.com](http://www.courageousthemovie.com) to find theater and ticket information plus you can watch the riveting opening scene of the movie there.



Carter and I were able to preview "Courageous" back in March and we were greatly moved by the film. It is a story about five men, four of them Law Enforcement Officers and it has a lot to do with family relationships. That's all I'm going to tell you about the movie itself because I don't want to spoil it for you.

If you saw "Fireproof" you already know the impact that

it has made. Believe me when I tell you that "Courageous" is even better...much more professional and it is going to impact even more people than "Fireproof" has.

Because "Courageous" is a movie made by an independent production company, it was made on a small budget and has limited opportunity for wide release and acceptance. That is why it is important to see the movie on opening weekend. The larger the opening weekend, the longer theaters will keep it running. If the movie stays in the theater for an extended period of time that means that more people will be able to see it.

So let me encourage you to make plans now to see "Courageous" on the weekend of September 30th. Be prepared to laugh, cry and think. It's a great movie that is going to change some lives, maybe even yours.

See You @ The Movies!

*Chaplain Ralph*

## UNITED WAY PLEDGES

We are pleased to announce again this year that you can designate a pledge to Emergency Chaplains through the United Way of the Greater Triangle.

Just write in "Emergency Chaplains/Durham" on your pledge sheet. Our United Way code is **60000731**.

### CHAPLAINS

Grant Bennett  
Danny Bryant  
James Dodson  
Andre Gilliard  
Johnny Hewett  
Keith Kimball  
Mike White

### CHAPLAIN INTERNS

Craig Alexander  
Art Klose  
Floyd Pearce  
Clinton Stokes

### COUNSELOR

Carter Thompson

### COUNSELOR/INTERPRETER

Pedro Valladares

### PHOTOGRAPHER

Russell Hill

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Ralph Thompson

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Michael Perra  
Mike Smith  
Clay Stevens  
Jay Veasey  
Kimberle Walker

### AGENCIES WE SERVE

BETHESDA FIRE DEPT.  
DURHAM COUNTY EMS  
DURHAM 911 CENTER  
DURHAM POLICE DEPT.  
LEBANON FIRE DEPT.  
NC HIGHWAY PATROL  
PERSON COUNTY EMS  
REDWOOD FIRE DEPT.  
ROXBORO POLICE DEPT.

### CONTACT US

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## NEW CHAPLAINS ADDED TO STAFF

### ANDRE GILLIARD



Rev. Andre Gilliard is now associated with Emergency Chaplains. Born and raised in Baltimore, MD, Gilliard lived there until relocating to the Triangle area last year. He transferred here with Procter and Gamble, where he has worked for the last 15 years.

Gilliard accepted Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior when he was 12 years old and has served in Christian ministry since he was a teenager. Ordained in 2004, he has served as an Assistant Pastor in the Baltimore area and also served as a volunteer chaplain with the Baltimore County Police and Fire Departments.

Currently pursuing a Doctorate of Ministry at Duke School of Divinity, Chaplain Gilliard is married to Veronica and they are the parents of Andrea, Amari and Reina.

Chaplain Gilliard will be serving the Durham Police Department.

### MIKE WHITE



Effective June 22, 2011, Rev. Mike White joined Emergency Chaplains and has been assigned to serve the Durham Police Department in District 2.

Mike was born in Orlando, FL. He spent his early years in the St. Petersburg area before moving with his family to Durham when he was a teenager.

Raised in church, Mike continued to live what he called a 'religious' life even as an adult. One day in 1980 he finally surrendered his life to Jesus and became a true follower of Christ.

Chaplain White trained for ministry through Grace Presbytery School of Ministry and was ordained into the Christian Ministry in August of 2000.

Diane is Mike's wife and they have been married since 1978. Mike and Diane are members of Christian Assembly in Durham and make their home in the northern Durham area.

### PAIN, DESPAIR AND MINISTRY

*"Most of us are in some way or another unsound physically."* Charles Spurgeon

19th century Pastor and Theologian Charles Spurgeon suffered terribly with a joint disorder that was diagnosed as gout. He was forced to stay in bed, sometimes for weeks at a time in excruciating pain.

"I have been brought very low," he wrote to his congregation during one long bout, "My flesh has been tortured with pain and my spirit has been prostrate with depression. . . . With some difficulty I write these lines in my bed, mingling them with the groans of pain and the songs of hope."

With characteristic balance, Spurgeon understood that physical pain and natural temperament contribute to depression, but did not allow his students to use them as an excuse for despair.

*"These infirmities may be no detriment to a man's career of special usefulness," he said. "They may even have been imposed upon him by divine wisdom as necessary qualifications for his peculiar course of service. Some plants owe their medicinal qualities to the marsh in which they grow; others to the shades in which alone they flourish."* Charles Spurgeon

**"[God] comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others.  
When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us."**

**2 Corinthians 1:4 NLT**