



# Emergency Chaplains

Durham, NC

SEPTEMBER 2012

## FIRST RESPONDERS TO THE FIRST RESPONDERS

Over the past few weeks our team has been discussing how to communicate better with you about the ministry of Emergency Chaplains. You already know who we are and some of the ministry we provide...but we want to communicate WHY we sacrifice ourselves to provide this ministry.

Let me share with you what we have come up with so far. Here goes...**We believe that Emergency Chaplains exists to respond first to First Responders, and those in crisis, with hope, help and encouragement.**

Our primary purpose is to provide emotional and spiritual support to First Responders.

We assign our volunteer chaplains to specific agencies where they make themselves available to the First Responders. Most often we find ourselves giving a listening ear to the Responder. Sometimes they simply need to talk about the stress of the job; other times they need to talk about a

personal issue.

Having their own chaplain close by gives the First Responder the comfort of knowing that they have someone they can call on for help. Over the years we have helped many of our First Responders by taking their prayer requests, visiting their family in the hospital, officiating weddings, conducting funerals, providing premarital counseling and marriage counseling...and several other services.

Equally important is our availability to provide logistical support for our First Responders.

Upon request, we will assist them on calls where someone is in crisis. Usually these calls involve situations where there has been a sudden and unexpected death.

Family members and friends often gather even while the First Responders are still on the scene. Our chaplains are trained to care for the people who are affected by the

tragedy. This allows the Responder to concentrate on the work at hand while knowing that the people they have been called to serve are being cared for.

In addition to caring for fellow citizens on a crisis call, this allows the chaplains to be on scene with the Responders and help them through any debriefing that may be needed after the call is over.

We care for our First Responders in order to help them stay focused, emotionally and spiritually, on the work they have been called to...protecting and caring for you and for me.

No matter what type of crisis our chaplains confront, whether it is a personal crisis that a Responder faces, or a tragedy on our streets, we respond with the hope of Jesus Christ to help and encourage those in need.

***Responding first to First Responders, and those in crisis, with hope, help and encouragement.***

## HOMETOWN HEREOS BANQUET ON NOVEMBER 4TH

On Sunday evening, November 4th, we will gather at the Family Life Center at Grey Stone Baptist Church in Durham to honor and encourage the First Responders who serve us.

At the banquet we will recognize several First Responders who have made a significant impact on the Durham community through their service.

The event begins at 6pm with dinner and the awards program will follow. There is no charge for admission but you must have a ticket to attend.

You can request tickets by contacting our office (see page 2 for contact info). We will have one of our Table Hosts contact you to insure that your tickets are reserved.

You can also help us out by becoming a Banquet Sponsor. Donations are being accepted to cover the cost of the banquet and the awards that will be presented to our First Responders.

Simply mark your check "Banquet Sponsor". All donations are tax deductible. Let us know if you would like more information about sponsorship and our Sponsor Coordinator will give you a call.

## 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**.

## OUR TEAM

### CHAPLAINS

Grant Bennett  
 Danny Bryant  
 Ricardo Correa  
 Jeff DeGrow  
 James Dodson  
 Andre Gilliard  
 Johnny Hewett  
 Mike Jobe  
 Chris O'Guin  
 Keith Kimball  
 Joe Thomas  
 Mike White  
 Phil Wiggins

### CHAPLAIN INTERNS

Craig Alexander  
 Brian Fleming  
 Art Klose  
 Bill Oakley  
 Floyd Pearce

### COUNSELOR

Carter Thompson

### COUNSELOR/INTERPRETER

Pedro Valladares

### PHOTOGRAPHER

Russell Hill

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Ralph Thompson

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Michael Perra  
 Clay Stevens  
 Jay Veasey  
 Kimberle Walker

## AGENCIES WE SERVE

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

## CONTACT US

Emergency Chaplains  
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## NEW CHAPLAINS ADDED TO ROSTER

**Mike Jobe** will be serving Emergency Chaplains as an appointed chaplain for the Durham County Sheriff's Office where he has served as a Deputy for the past five years.

Mike accepted Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior when he was a teenager but by his own admission wandered away from the Lord. He was dating a young lady named Kristen who invited him to go to church with her and soon rededicated his life to Jesus.

They were baptized together at The Summit Church and have dedicated their lives and their marriage to the Lord, seeking to serve God in a way that will bring honor and glory to His name.

Mike and Kristen are the parents of two children and they are members of The Summit. Learning from the trials of life and the ability that God has given them to weather those storms, Mike's favorite scripture is "For I can do everything through Christ who gives me strength." ~ (Philippians 4:13)



**Joe Thomas** joined Emergency Chaplains in April. He is employed by the Carrboro Police Department where he had been a K-9 officer until he was promoted to Sergeant.

In addition to serving as the appointed chaplain for Carrboro Police, Joe will also be available to assist our Crisis Response Team to help with Law Enforcement debriefings.

Prior to his career in Law Enforcement, Joe served in the United States Marine Corps. Finding himself injured while on float, Joe was confined to sick bay on the ship somewhere in the Pacific Ocean. Another Marine came to minister to him and it was through that relationship that Joe heard the gospel and came to place his faith in Jesus Christ.



Married to Samantha, they have three beautiful girls and are members of Cross Culture Church in Raleigh.

Joe looks forward to serving his fellow officers and the people of Carrboro in his new role as chaplain.

**Phil Wiggins** also joined Emergency Chaplains in April. He is the appointed chaplain for the Durham Police Department and will continue to serve in that role while serving our team as a trainer and mentor for our new chaplains.

A Durham native, Phil graduated from Southern High School, Campbell College and also completed his Master's Degree at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

He retired from the Durham Police Department as a Captain and continues to be active with the Fraternal Order of Police where he serves as both the North Carolina and National Chaplain.

Phil is married to Faye and they are members of The Summit where he also serves as Minister of Pastoral Care and Senior Adults.

