



Sierra Law Enforcement Chaplaincy

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COMMENTS FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR STEVE WRIGHT

For nearly 30 years, the Sierra Law Enforcement Chaplaincy has been providing support and revealing hope to public safety professionals and citizens in Folsom and El Dorado County when they are in crisis. Our chaplains make themselves available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to respond anywhere within the over 1800 square miles that make up the communities we serve. Whenever and wherever someone is in crisis, our chaplains will be there. While no one expects to be in the situation to use our services, any of the 260,000 people who call Folsom and El Dorado County their home might need a chaplain at some point. That includes the men and women who help to keep our communities safe.

“As a former cop's wife, I'm so grateful our community has a chaplaincy dedicated to the mental health and spiritual well-being of our officers and their families. Thank you, Sierra Law Enforcement Chaplaincy!!”

From the family experiencing the sudden death of a loved one to the officer struggling to deal with recurring stresses of a law enforcement career, your support allows us to give them the care they need and to recruit and train more chaplains equipped to continue this care for our community. We are deeply grateful for your continuing financial support!

Christmas blessings, *Chaplain Steve*

COMMENTS FROM CHAPLAIN TIM

The holidays don't offer a break from human suffering, and our chaplains don't take a break either. It is always more complicated to minister to a family when a tragedy happens at the Christmas season. This past month, our chaplains were called to a horrific incident in which a man was killed, and they were there to minister to the family. As they helped the family, I spent time with a nurse who witnessed the event and was suffering from Acute Post-Traumatic Stress. When we focus on all the evil and tragedy in the world, it is tempting for us to lose hope. Even as chaplains, we are vulnerable during this kind of incident that might cause us to experience a vicarious trauma and feel overwhelmed with the suffering of others. That is one reason Christmas is so special as it helps us to focus on the Light that God brought into the midst of a dark world that is still dark today. God promised that He would send His son who would be the Prince of Peace. Isaiah promised **“The people who walk in darkness will see a great light; Those who live in a dark land, The light will shine on them.”** Then Isaiah prophesied: **“For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.**

At the end of his life on earth, this Son of God promised to be the Prince of Peace; just before He went to the cross to die. He told his disciples (and us as well), **“Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you...Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”**

This Christmas season gives us the opportunity to focus on Him — on His conspiracy of love for the world and on the blessings He has brought into our lives. What would life be like if He weren't part of it? I liked what my Pastor said one Sunday, “My worst day with Jesus is better than my best day without Him.” Let this Christmas be one where you and I focus on the **Prince-of-Peace** who came to bring personal transcendent tranquility in a dark, dark, world—let us rest in His peace in the midst of it all.

May your Christmas celebration be happy and bright in the Light of His presence! *Chaplain Tim*