



# Sierra Law Enforcement Chaplaincy

May 2017

[www.sierrachaplaincy.com](http://www.sierrachaplaincy.com)

Vol. 27, Issue 5

## COMMENTS FROM SENIOR CHAPLAIN STEVE WRIGHT

We are participating in the Big Day of Giving; perhaps you've heard of it or seen social media posts. The Big Day of Giving is all about helping nonprofits in our region make a huge impact in our community. Since 2013, Big Day of Giving has united our community raising more than \$16 million for local nonprofits from over 36,000 donors from all over the region, the state, the country, and the world. This year the Big Day of Giving comes at a very special time for us because we have a very special need -- expanding our Chaplaincy to care for all of the first responders in our community. With the expansion of services as well as attrition, we anticipate the immediate need for 10 new chaplains and perhaps another 10 within the next two years, just to maintain the same level of professional care that you have come to expect from our chaplains. This is a daunting task because it takes about \$1,000 to recruit and train each one of those chaplains.



By giving to the Big Day of Giving you will be an invaluable part of the work of SLEC, and you will be doubling your efforts! We have several donors who believe so much in the work we are doing that they have provided a total of \$4,000 in matching funds. That means for every dollar you give, two dollars will be donated to Sierra Law Enforcement Chaplaincy.

*Chaplain Steve Wright*

## COMMENTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

We minister a lot behind the scenes to our veterans. I was appointed by the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors to serve on the El Dorado County Veterans Commission which meets monthly to discuss the needs of our veterans. We discuss how to fund veterans who are attending local colleges and help them with tuition, books, tutors, and job training. I am also the chaplain for the El Dorado County Veterans Memorial that recognizes our veterans through services every Memorial Day and Veterans Day. Our chaplains also support our veterans when they have been placed in hospice care and experience other life-threatening events, and I personally visit at least four to five veterans in the hospital every week.

Chaplain Chuck Brasiel (an Air Force veteran) had the opportunity to respond and minister to one of our local veterans recently. Chuck was called out by dispatch at 8:30 AM one morning to meet with a veteran who had gotten up to fix breakfast for his wife, and when he returned to the bedroom, he realized she had died. Chaplain Chuck stayed with this man and provided him with spiritual support. The following day, Chuck went to the mortuary to help the man make funeral plans. Later, he took him to the veterans office to help him secure his veteran benefits. They have asked Chaplain Chuck to officiate the service. Chuck has had many opportunities to comfort this man and his children with the love of God. Please continue to pray for this man as he grieves the loss of his wife.

I also provide ministry to many of our retired law enforcement personnel who live in the area. I have a personal friend who retired as a narcotics officer, and I have been visiting him since his wife was diagnosed as terminally ill. His wife died a few days after I visited him, so I returned to his house to give him support. I can't explain it, but there is something powerful about providing a ministry of presence to someone you care about and they care about you. There aren't a lot of words exchanged, but there is a love, support, care, and concern that are shared as you sit there with them. Please pray for my dear friend as he makes a huge adjustment to facing life without his mate at his side anymore.

*Chaplain Tim Thompson*

### **Please pray with me for...**

the veteran who found his wife had died during the night and is grieving  
the retired narcotics officer who is also grieving because he lost his wife  
a retired police officer who has been diagnosed with terminal brain cancer  
a good friend who had a toe amputated and needs better circulation to his foot  
the parents whom our chaplains notified that their adult son had committed suicide  
praise for a board member who is healing well from an infection from his back surgery  
a husband (a former sheriff's employee) and the family whose loved one was murdered  
a deputy's step-mother who is terminally ill  
our chaplains as they minister to two families who had family members killed in a head-on collision  
the grieving spouses and family members from those accidents