



Sierra Law Enforcement Chaplaincy

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Volunteer Reserve Chaplain of the Month

Growing up in a Jewish home with all the accompanying cultural traditions, I found the Messiah, Jesus, around the age of 32. I attended Christian churches and started in ministry at Beth Yeshua Messianic Congregation and I ministered there about 10 years.

Serving as a chaplain for law enforcement gives me a chance to get to know the officers, which I find fulfilling, and I look forward to the ministry opportunities that will come from developing relationships in this way.



Chaplain Alan Kushner

Comments from the Executive Director...

I often receive phone calls from supervisors who are very concerned about their troops. These calls can range from an officer experiencing a health issue, a pending divorce, disciplinary issues to a multitude of other situations. It is quiet common for a supervisor to ask me to come along side an officer and give him chaplain support. This is one of the reasons that SLEC chaplains make themselves visible in order to build a rapport and relationship with officers. The law enforcement culture is one in which if they don't know you, they will have a difficult time trusting you. There are many times that I spend my time doing routine activities such as a ride-alongs for 8 to 12 hours. At other times, I will do a walk-along and visit the work areas where officers work. These areas might be corrections, detectives, civil, coroners, support services, payroll, records and dispatch.

The departments have significant responsibilities and it takes a great deal of time and effort to make yourself known and build rapport with all of the employees as they go about their work. It certainly makes it easier if chaplains have been able to build a rapport with officers or employees ahead of time so that when a supervisor does call there is some recognition of us by the officer in need. I received a call from a supervisor regarding an officer having personal issues. I went to the place where this officer worked and at first he was a little hesitant to talk to me. I think there is a reason gave us two ears and one mouth. There is a lot of power in the listening ear. When I met with him I made a conscience effort to focus all my attention on him and only to listen to him but to resonate with him as well. This particular officer is facing many issues that the supervisors are not aware of. When I ended the conversation with him, he told me how much he appreciated me taking the time to seek him out and listen to his issues. He said he had tried to talk to his pastor but he didn't understand his profession or his issues. I really wasn't prepared for what came next; this officer is really big and he grabbed me in a bear hug and held me for a long time. That told me that I had really connected with him and I was able to connect and resonate with his soul.



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Chaplain Tim

PLEASE PRAY WITH ME FOR...

- ◇ *Sgt. Scott Lunger's family as they grieve the loss of this officer who was murdered*
- ◇ *For two chaplains one recovery from back surgery and the other from foot surgery*
- ◇ *The officer who is facing many issues in his health, family, and career*
- ◇ *The officer whose mother died unexpectedly*
- ◇ *The family and daughters whose mother suicided*
- ◇ *An officer recovering from broken ribs*
- ◇ *Another officer with bulging discs in his back*
- ◇ *Praise that an officer came through his surgery successfully*
- ◇ *An officer whose uncle took his own life*

Statistics for 2014

Emergency call outs	59
Ride alongs	44
Briefings attended	257
Counseling sessions	210
Weddings	44
Funerals/Memorials	34