



Sierra Law Enforcement Chaplaincy

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Comments From Staff Chaplain, Eric Myers

Throughout the month of April, several opportunities were presented to me to connect and serve with local law enforcement agencies responding to calls in the community. One incident involved responding to a call where a young officer was on scene of his first traffic fatality. This incident has allowed me to share my personal experiences and my faith on several occasions. Other calls throughout the month included death notifications and family crises. Please continue to pray for local law enforcement officers and the SLEC chaplains who are on-call every day, responding to the needs of our law enforcement officers and our community.



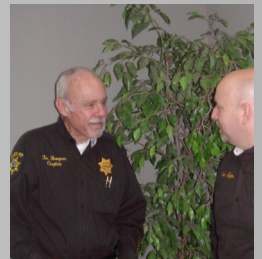
Chaplain Of The Month, Debra Sabino



Chaplain Debra Sabino (pictured on the right in the photo to the left being sworn in at the sheriff's office) responded to Sugar Bowl Ski Resort at Lake Tahoe and spent four long days and nights with the parents and family members of a missing ski instructor as Search and Rescue teams searched for him. The young man went skiing by himself and was missing after he disappeared during white-out conditions. Chaplain Debra ministered to this family as Search and Rescue continued to look for him. She stayed with the family through this heart-wrenching time; many people who are first responders start to distance themselves from people when they realize the situation is not going to have a good ending. Chaplain Debra did not do that. When Search and Rescue called off the search, she stayed with the family as their grieving increased. Search and Rescue told the family that when conditions improved, they would resume the search. The search took a sad turn from rescue to recovery as it became clear his chances of survival were exhausted.

Comments from the Executive Director, Tim Thompson

When a search like that changes from a rescue to a recovery effort, it takes a dedicated person to stay with a family and continue to minister to them in a situation like this. Chaplain Debra continued to give spiritual support to the family and plan an impromptu memorial service for the son before everyone left the mountain to go back to their homes. A few weeks later, the young man's body was recovered by a canine team. Chaplain Debra responded again to be at the family's side. This reopened all of the wounds of sorrow, grief, heartache and misery. This young man was dearly loved by his parents, brothers, and sisters as well as all of the ski instructors and employees at Sugar Bowl Ski Resort. We are truly blessed to have a dedicated and gifted chaplain team with members like Debra Sabino.



Please Pray With Us For...

- Eric Myers as he continues to take on additional chaplain responsibilities and ministry, builds relationships with our peace officers and raises his financial support
- the family that lost their son/brother in a skiing accident in a blizzard at Sugar Bowl Ski Resort
- two of our chaplains going through radiation treatments
- a widow and children whose husband/father committed suicide
- a grief-stricken woman who found her husband killed himself
- a friend who is a retired officer and is fighting an aggressive form of breast cancer
- the father who found his thirty year-old son dead
- an officer who is dealing with placing his father-in-law in a care home
- a young man who recently lost his wife and is left to care for their four small children