



# Sierra Law Enforcement Chaplaincy

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## INTRODUCTION OF CHAPLAIN STEVE WRIGHT

I am extremely happy to announce a great addition to our staff – Chaplain Steve Wright who is joining us as our Senior Chaplain. I will continue as the Executive Director giving administrative guidance, conducting training, and recruiting our volunteer chaplains. Steve comes to us after 10 years of ministry experience. His ministry career began in Costa Rica where he and his family were assigned as missionaries. During that time, Steve also coached and played American football which quickly became a vehicle for discipleship. Most recently, Steve served as Pastor of Outreach at Lakeside Church in Folsom.



Prior to ministry, Steve was a Deputy Sheriff for the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department for 10 years. His career ranged from custody to patrol in Rosemont and Rancho Cordova to School Resource Officer for Cordova High School and Mills Middle School. Steve studied engineering and mathematics at University of the Pacific in Stockton and received a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from Indiana Wesleyan University in Marion, IN. Steve has been married to his wife, Jamie, for 22 years and they have 3 sons: Stephen (22), Dylan (18), and Jamison (16).

I have been praying the Lord would send us a person with the skills and background to be an effective law enforcement chaplain, and I believe that Steve is an answer to those prayers. I believe the Lord has brought Chaplain Steve to us for this specific ministry.

## COMMENTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I heard the call on my police radio that a subject was holding his wife and children hostage in his apartment. The SWAT team had set up a perimeter around the apartment building and had evacuated all the people from the surrounding apartments, so I went to the command post to give support to our officers. After 12 hours, the El Dorado Sheriff's SWAT team was relieved by the Folsom P.D. SWAT team. Another ten hours went by as the suspect released his wife and daughter but sprayed hundreds of rounds at our officers attempting to kill them. Finally, the sniper shot the suspect who was then life-flighted to the hospital. A total of 22 hours in the battle zone had come to an end. I was asked by the command staff to do a Critical Incident Stress Debriefing with the Folsom Police Department, and a few days later, I met with the sniper to talk with him about his experience. One of the most stressful events that can take place in an officer's career is making the decision to use lethal force to injure, maim, or kill another human being—that weighs heavily on any officer. Please continue to pray for our officers as they work in our currently very hostile and violent culture. Also, pray for their spouses, children, and other family members who live with great uncertainty every day. Finally, pray for our chaplains who minister to them behind the scenes in highly charged, intense, and stressful situations.

*Chaplain Tim Thompson*

## PLEASE PRAY WITH ME FOR...

- our SWAT teams as they train for the worst situations and scenarios in our communities
- the snipers who have to make split-second decisions and will be held accountable for many years to come
- a deputy's step-mother, who is terminally ill, and his father as they face this huge challenge
- Chaplain Tim as he continues to improve from medical challenges he has faced this past year
- praise that we have recruited a new Senior Chaplain who will help us meet increasing needs