



## Sierra Law Enforcement Chaplaincy

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### **Chaplain Of The Month, Chaplain Carl Pascoe**

Chaplain Carl was born and raised in San Diego, California. He graduated from Point Loma Nazarene College in 1987 with a B.A. in Social Work. For many years, Carl worked as an independent living skills trainer and job coach for people with developmental disabilities, and he has also worked for California's Regional Center system. Carl has worked on a suicide hotline and in a psychiatric intensive care unit. In 2010, Carl became a Child Welfare Social Worker, joining El Dorado County Child Protective Services. Carl married the love of his life, Donna, in 1997, and they have lived in Placerville, since 2014. Carl and Donna are members of Foothills United Methodist Church in Rescue. Carl is grateful for the opportunity to serve members of Law Enforcement, their families, and his community. With the love and grace of almighty God, Carl hopes to be an instrument of God's peace, to bring healing, comfort, and light to those in his community.

### ***Comments from the Executive Director, Tim Thompson***

As summer heat hit our area, we were concerned about the potential for another forest fire when the Trailhead fire broke out, and numerous fire and law enforcement personnel were sent to the scene. I went to the command post for the fire which reminded me of my army experiences. Just like the military, it takes a host of people behind the scenes to put one man or woman on the line. As the fire raged for days, I spent time going from one group of men and women to another: fire fighters on the front line, deputies patrolling and protecting people's property from looters, others working the mess hall, those supplying tents, water, showers, and a multitude of others providing logistical support. A number of them asked me, "Chaplain, what are you doing up here? We certainly didn't expect to see you." SLEC's ministry of presence tells our officers and fire personnel that God is there in the midst of danger, risk, and peril. Even though the fire raged for weeks, no lives were lost, and we thank God for that. I was able to speak with many of these folks during their rest breaks and let them know that many were praying for their protection.

The calls from the Sheriff's dispatcher are never predictable or routine. On a Sunday morning, the dispatcher called and said that they needed a chaplain in Pollock Pines. When my chaplain arrived, he learned that a middle-aged man had been found dead in his living room by his mother. Apparently, the man had a serious case of diabetes which caused other medical complications. The man's mother had not heard from her son, so she and his two daughters (ages 13 and 15) who had been staying with her, went to check on him. They entered her son's home and found him dead on the floor. Naturally, they were overwhelmed with shock and grief. Our chaplain comforted them and gave them spiritual support. As he listened to their grief, he guided them in a review of their father's/son's life. In Edith Schaeffer's her book, *What is a Family?*, there is a chapter entitled "A family is a museum of memories." This chaplain gave them such good support that they asked him to officiate at the man's funeral.

### ***Please pray with us for...***

- the many families who have lost their loved ones in a tragic act of suicide
- one of our officers whose former wife died of medical complications
- praise for all who came through the Trailhead Fire unharmed and for all the emergency personnel who responded
- one of our chaplains who is recovering from prostate cancer and undergoing radiation treatments
- a man camping with his wife, celebrating their first anniversary when she drowned in the American River
- surviving family members of a horrendous auto accident that killed most of the family
- a deputy's step-mother who is terminally ill and for that officer's father as they face this huge challenge