



Sierra Law Enforcement Chaplaincy

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COMMISSIONING OF CHAPLAIN STEVE WRIGHT

I had the joy of participating in the commissioning service for Chaplain Steve Wright at Lakeside Community Church in Folsom. Chaplain Steve was on the pastoral staff there as their minister for adult programs. Pastor Brad Franklin arranged to have a special service in which we would commission Steve to the Sierra Law Enforcement Chaplaincy ministry, and at the two services on a Saturday night, Sheriff John D'Agostini and Pastor Brad spoke, and I gave the commissioning prayer for Steve. On Sunday, we had two more services; Pastor Brad spoke as well as the Chief of the Folsom Police Department, Cynthia Renaud, and again I gave the commissioning prayer. It is really exciting to see how God is opening the doors as Chaplain Steve builds rapport with our police officers and deputies.



In the middle of my monthly chaplains' training, we received a call from the El Dorado Sheriff's Office that a middle-age man had committed suicide. I stopped the training, and as my on-call chaplain was ready to depart to the call, I had all of our chaplains stop and pray for our chaplain team who would be responding. The team was Chaplains Tore and Sunday Pearson, a husband and wife team; Sunday is on staff at the Covenant Church in El Dorado Hills.

When they arrived on scene, they met with a deputy whom we all know. The deputy informed them that the mother, who found her son, was not very receptive to having a chaplain respond, but she had agreed nonetheless. Chaplain Sunday was able to build a connection with the mother, as she too is a mother and grandmother, which opened the door for communication and comfort. The mother cycled up and down many times through the trauma. Sunday explained that it is normal to go over and over the traumatic event because of the shock and inability to make some sense out of the situation. The mother's son had been sick most of his life and had undergone major surgeries in the previous few months. His brothers and sisters began to arrive at the home, and Chaplain Sunday shifted her focus to them as they were in shock, grief-stricken, and angry with their brother. She normalized their anger and explained that someday they might find a way to forgive their son/brother. She gave them information on a suicide survivors support group. Chaplains Sunday and Tore followed up a few days later to give the family additional support and help them with their grief and planning a memorial service for their loved one.

When I sit down to write my letter to you each month, it is impossible to share all of the call-outs to which we have responded. That is why we list the prayer requests for the families we have ministered to and continue to follow up in the midst of their crises. Having you as a faithful group that befriends, supports, and remembers us before the throne of grace means more than you will ever know! Thank you for being part of our faithful team; without you, this ministry would not be here.

Chaplain Tim Thompson

PLEASE PRAY WITH ME FOR...

- one of our board members who has a serious infection from his back surgery
- the mother, father, and siblings of the man who committed suicide
- praise for our chaplain who was told on his birthday that he is now cancer free
- praise for the wife of one of our chaplains who is now cancer free
- a husband (a former sheriff's employee) and the family because their loved one was murdered
- a deputy's step-mother who is terminally ill and his father as they face this huge challenge
- an officer going through an internal affairs investigation

