



Sierra Law Enforcement Chaplaincy

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Last month I announced that Rev. Eric Myers has joined SLEC as a staff chaplain. Eric has accompanied me to briefings for all of the law enforcement agencies SLEC serves. It has been very encouraging to see him building relationships with our peace officers

and professional staff in each of the agencies we serve. He has also attended roll calls and done ride-alongs with several of our patrol officers.



Chaplain Of The Month — Terri Brown

The SLEC is now an integral part of the trauma response protocol for local law enforcement agencies. This past month, the Folsom Police Department called and asked for a chaplain to respond to the scene of a sudden death. A woman had gone to work in the morning after checking on her husband; she was concerned about him because he had some health issues. While at work later that morning, she called home to make sure her husband was okay. After numerous phone calls and no answer, she went home during her lunch hour. You can imagine her shock and distress when she found her husband lying unresponsive on the floor; she immediately called 911. The medics and police arrived, and the medics attempted to revive the man but it was too late and he was pronounced dead at the scene. Our chaplain arrived on the scene and was welcomed by the wife who needed spiritual support at that heart-breaking moment. I was really glad that Chaplain Terri Brown was on-call that day as she quickly established a comforting relationship with this woman. At a time of heart-wrenching grief, people need a chaplain who will listen to their cries and wail of anguish. They are so grateful for someone who will walk with them through that deep valley of unspeakable pain. Chaplain Terri brought a great deal of relief to this wife as she prayed with her and stayed with her after everyone else was gone. People don't realize how much a survivor needs someone to stay with them until family, friends, or church members can arrive. Not so long ago, these people would have been left all alone after all the emergency workers left.

Comments from the Executive Director

It is always exciting to see ministries come together. As I lead the chaplaincy, there are goals that I have had and have prayed for God's guidance to bring them to fruition. At the beginning of last year, I started planning for our first Chaplains Academy. After months of preparation, I began contacting churches and talking to pastors about members of their congregations who might want to attend. As we started our Chaplains Academy, we had twenty-five sign up. We met for twelve weeks and we graduated twenty-three chaplains! Out of those who attended the academy, we had five people apply to be law enforcement chaplains. Then the work of conducting background investigations etc. began. Last month, Sheriff D'Agostini had a swearing in ceremony for new deputies that were beginning their careers with the El Dorado Sheriffs Office. At that ceremony, I had the privilege of swearing in four new chaplains. Please look at our web site for that event (www.slec.us). Thank you for your prayers and support as we continue to broaden the base of the chaplaincy ministry to reach out to more people needing spiritual support during traumatic incidents.



Please Pray With Me For...

- Chaplain Eric Myers and his wife, Michelle, as he learns the duties of a staff chaplain
- the woman who found her husband dead on the front room floor
- a widow and children whose father committed suicide
- a woman our chaplains ministered to and was told that her husband died in a single car fatality
- a friend who is a retired officer and is fighting an aggressive form of breast cancer
- one of our chaplains who is undergoing radiation treatments
- an officer with bulging discs in his back