



Monthly Newsletter August 2015

**Fire Rescue Support exists to support fire rescue personnel
before, during and after the call**

Marion County Fire Rescue conducts Training Burn



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Chief McElhaney Retires



Marion County Fire Rescue Chief Stuart McElhaney retired after 21 years. Chief McElhaney transitioned MCFR from independent volunteer departments to a unified county system that includes EMS.

More personally, Chief McElhaney gave this fire chaplain a chance. He brought me into the ranks of MCFR and was always a full supporter of my work with fire rescue personnel.

I pray God's richest blessings to Chief McElhaney and his family in the years to come.



First Responder Sunday



On Sunday, July 5, I had the privilege of participating in First Responder Sunday. Hosted by Central Christian Church, this event was designed to honor and thank first responders in our community, as well as those who serve in our armed forces.

I am grateful to Pastor Doug Reed and the people of Central Christian Church for showing care and concern to those that serve every day.





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Fire!

July was a busy fire month. Fire Rescue Support responded to four events providing support to fire rescue personnel and the victims they serve. Through our Fire Rescue Cares program, we gave \$700 in financial assistance to help fire victims get back on their feet.



Sunset Harbor Road



Days Inn



Belleview

The Fire Chaplaincy

One of my great desires is to help advance the fire chaplaincy here in Marion County and beyond. To this end, I am working on increasing the number of chaplains that serve locally. I am also working with other agencies to help them start chaplain programs.

I'll be teaching a basic class called "The Fire Chaplaincy" from 9:00am – 3:00pm on Tuesday, September 15 at Church @ The Springs in Ocala.

The role of the chaplain is "serving those who serve". This class will explore the responsibilities of the fire chaplain as they support fire rescue personnel. This course is open to current chaplains, as well as those considering involvement as a chaplain in the future. This is also the perfect opportunity for a department exploring the chaplaincy to find out what it is all about.

[Click here](#) for more information and to register.





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Suicide Prevention Training

I recently attended a train-the-trainer session for a suicide prevention program called “The Fire that Burns Within.” Focusing specifically on the fire service, this program is designed to help facilitate a conversation about this important, yet often taboo topic.

Contact me if your agency is interested in suicide prevention training and starting a discussion that could save a life.



FFCA Presentation



Recently, I had the opportunity to promote the fire chaplaincy at the Florida Fire Chiefs Association Executive Development Conference. “Why Your Department Needs a Chaplain” was the topic of the presentation I shared. In attendance were chief officers from agencies across the state.

Financial Support

I am often asked how Fire Rescue Support is able to do the work it does. I serve as a volunteer with Marion County Fire Rescue and Ocala Fire Rescue. While both agencies have been very generous in providing resources for my training, I receive no salary from them for the chaplaincy.

The bottom line is that we are a faith-based ministry depending on God’s provision. He has used foundations, businesses, churches and individuals to meet our needs.

Perhaps God wants to use you to support fire rescue personnel and the people they serve. Here’s how your support can help:

- A gift of \$25 keeps the Dunkin’ Donuts card charged for a month ready to buy a cup of coffee for a firefighter that needs to talk.
- A gift of \$100 helps a fire victim get the basic items they need so they can start their road to recovery.
- A gift of \$200 provides the resources needed to stay on the road with fire rescue personnel one more day.

Feel free to contact me to discuss becoming part of our financial support team, or [click here](#) to begin giving today.





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You Don't Owe Me Anymore

Revenge: a quick Google search will produce about 175,000,000 results. Revenge: defined as, “The action of inflicting hurt or harm on someone for an injury or wrong suffered at their hands.” Revenge: the normal, almost automatic way we respond when we’ve been hurt.

But is there another way?

The story of Joseph, found in Genesis chapters 37-50, provides us with many incredible lessons about life, relationships and God. In these pages we read of Joseph’s struggles with his brothers, his unfair confinement in prison and God’s incredible sovereignty.

Near the end of the story, we read of the death of Jacob, the father of Joseph and his brothers. This event causes great concern in the lives of the brothers. They remembered the mistreatment that Joseph suffered at their hands years earlier. They wondered if Joseph had been boiling with anger all these years, but simply kept it under control for the sake of his father. Now, with Jacob gone, the brothers feared he would finally take his revenge.

However, what we read is a response far from revenge; it is a response of forgiveness. Along the way, Joseph had made a decision that changed his perspective on everything. This decision allowed him to be successful rather than vengeful while a slave in Egypt.

“The LORD was with Joseph and he prospered, and he lived in the house of his Egyptian master.” Genesis 39:2

This decision allowed him to make a contribution rather than seek retribution when in prison.

“The warden paid no attention to anything under Joseph’s care, because the LORD was with Joseph and gave him success in whatever he did.” Genesis 39:23

The decision? To think of all that his brothers had done to him and say, “You don’t owe me anymore!” This ultimately is the definition of forgiveness. Usually, we keep track of what others have done to us; the ways in which we have been wronged. Every time we are hurt there is a sense that something has been taken from us. And, there is a sense that something is owed in return. This is the nature of revenge.

Forgiveness, on the other hand, is being able to consider the cost of what was lost and say, “You don’t owe me anymore!” Forgiveness doesn’t dismiss or minimize what was lost. It simply chooses to consider the debt as satisfied.

Being unwilling to forgive others will take its toll on you. In fact, it’s been said that being unwilling to forgive is like drinking poison hoping it hurts someone else. The good news is that there is another way.



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Amazon Donates to Charity



For eligible purchases at Amazon Smile, the Amazon Smile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to the customer's selected charitable organization. You can make Fire Rescue Support your organization by [clicking here](#). Then every time you order through the Amazon Smile website you'll be helping Fire Rescue Support continue its mission of supporting fire rescue personnel before, during and after the call.



Thank you!

Thanks for your interest in and partnership with Fire Rescue Support. Because of you, we have the opportunity to support fire rescue personnel before, during and after the call. Visit www.firerescuesupport.com for more information or to donate. You can also find us on Facebook. And please don't hesitate to contact me if I can be of assistance personally or professionally. You can reach me at 352-425-1643 or joe@firerescuesupport.com.

