

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

Before the Call

Teaching in Niceville

This month I have the privilege of teaching Individual/Peer Crisis Intervention and Group Crisis Intervention in Niceville, FL. I'll be there June 16-19 connecting with personnel from the following agencies...

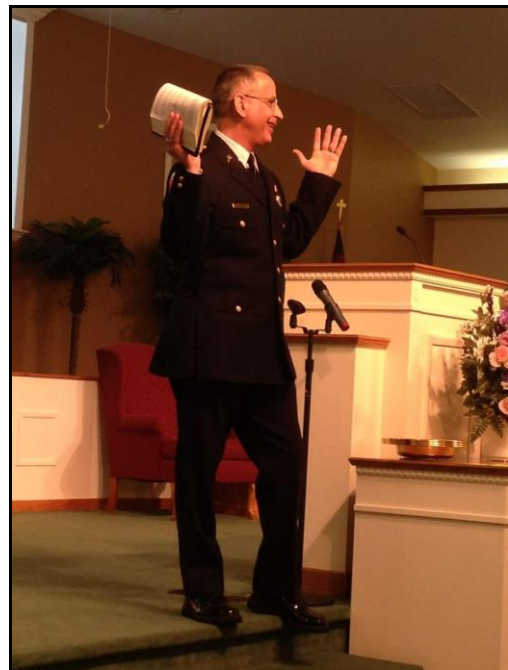
Bay County Fire/EMS, Crestview FD, Destin FD, Emerald Coast Critical Incident Stress Team, Fort Walton Beach FD, Mary Esther FD, Niceville FD, North Bay Fire District, Ocean City-Wright FD, Okaloosa County EMS, Okaloosa Island FD, Panama City Beach Fire Rescue and Panama City FD

Cub Scout Religious Emblem Award



During the month of April I had the opportunity to spend time with Cub Scout Pack #197 to help them work on their Religious Emblem Award. During our time together we talked about the special way in which they were created by God, the gift God gave in Jesus, the privilege we have to pray and the opportunity we have to show God's love by caring for others. Pray for these young men as they grow in their faith.

First Responder Sunday



On Sunday, May 4, I had the privilege of being the guest speaker at First Responder Sunday hosted by Grace Bible Baptist Church of Fruitland Park. This annual event brought together public safety agencies from Lake and Sumter counties for the purpose of thanking them for their service. The church had gifts to give and hosted a wonderful luncheon. I had the brought a message of encouragement and challenge to the men and women in attendance.

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During the Call



Hot day in Spruce Creek South



Gas leak secondary to motor vehicle accident



Extra heat – extra response



Lending a hand

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After the Call

CISM follow up



While I have the opportunity to teach Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) from time to time, the reason I've been trained in CISM is to assist the men and women of fire rescue in navigating through some of the

challenges they encounter. The month of May had a number of these challenging situations including two serious accidents on I-75 (one which resulted in the death of FHP Trooper Chelsea Richard) and the passing of Brian Gibson who worked with Marion County Emergency Management. In addition, I traveled to Hillsborough County to assist their crews with a particularly difficult fire scene that involved a murder-suicide.

Being there to help someone in crisis is a great honor and privilege. Perhaps it's something you have thought about doing. If so, please contact me. I am in the early stages of developing a Peer Support Program that would train fire rescue personnel to assist their brothers and sisters during times of difficulty.

Brian Stoothoff retires



After more than thirty one years of dedicated service to the city of Ocala, Assistant Fire Chief Brian Stoothoff retired at the end of May. He was hired as a firefighter/EMT in November 1982 and became a paramedic in 1985. Over the years Brian was promoted

through all ranks. Additionally, in recent years Assistant Chief Stoothoff also served as the department's public information officer and public education specialist. In total, Stoothoff served twenty four years on the line and more than seven years in fire administration.

Beyond all of this, Brian has become a friend and tremendous supporter of the work I do as Chaplain.

I pray God's best to Chief Stoothoff in his retirement and look forward to his continued contributions to the fire service.

"The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace." Numbers 6:24-26



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A Special Thank You

The beginning of my involvement in the world of fire rescue dates back to 1986. At that time I served as a high school principal in a small town in Illinois. Our school did not have a nurse, so if a student became ill or injured they were sent to the office where my secretary and I did the best we could. Desiring to be of more assistance in these situations, I became an EMT with the local ambulance service. When I moved to another community to be the high school principal there, I got involved with the fire service and became a Driver/Engineer. These were wonderful days of working in the school system and volunteering with the fire department in small town America.

When I left education and went into the ministry, my involvement with first responders continued, but now in the role as Chaplain. First I served with a police department and then a fire department both in the Greater Chicago area. In each of these situations I was pastoring a small church while volunteering with a small department – a balance that worked well.

That all changed when I moved to Florida. I found myself on staff at Church @ The Springs – a church of 3,000 – and volunteering with Dunnellon Fire Rescue, the Florida State Fire College, Marion County Fire Rescue and Ocala Fire Rescue – agencies with a total workforce of nearly 700. It was at this time that God showed me there was an opportunity to pursue the chaplaincy full time.

Along the way I started a conversation with Ron Sylvia, Lead Pastor of Church @ The Springs. We talked about what it would look like for me to have more time available to devote to the needs of the fire rescue community while still serving at The Springs. With Ron's encouragement and support, I moved to a part time role at the church and filled in my remaining hours with fire rescue.

It was during this transition that Fire Rescue Support (FRS) began. Initially, Church @ The Springs was the main contributor to FRS giving me the opportunity to have a solid financial foundation to begin this work. Today, it is through FRS that grants are written and funds are donated. Fire Rescue Support will one day be the organization that financially provides me the opportunity to serve the fire rescue community on a full time basis.

I will be forever grateful to Ron and The Springs for personally, prayerfully and financially investing in Fire Rescue Support.





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Who Rescues Heroes?

Several times a year I have the privilege of being part of the graduation ceremonies for EMT and Firefighter I/II students at the Florida State Fire College. These days are full of family and friends, speeches and awards.

Near the end of the program, I have the opportunity to offer a prayer of benediction. But before I pray, I offer some words to the graduates. I congratulate them on their accomplishment. I thank them for their commitment to serve. I welcome them to the fire family.

And I tell them they are now among those we refer to as heroes.

Hero. I know that's a word you tend to brush aside. You don't see yourself as a hero. But those around you do. A hero is a person who is admired for great or brave acts or fine qualities. Heroes are those who, in the face of danger and adversity, display courage and the will for self-sacrifice for some greater good of all humanity.

As our heroes, you are the ones we call on when we are in need. But where do heroes turn when they need to be rescued? Who do you call on in your times of distress?

King David, of Old Testament fame, is remembered as a true hero. He was a man's man; a warrior with no equal. Many of David's life experiences are recorded in the Psalms.

We read of the intensity with which he fought his foes in Psalm 18:37-38: "I pursued my enemies and overtook them; I did not turn back till they were destroyed. I crushed them so that they could not rise; they fell beneath my feet."

We read of the comfort he found in God in Psalm 23:1-3: "The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he restores my soul."

And we read that this hero turned toward heaven when he was in need in Psalm 31:2: "Turn your ear to me, come quickly to my rescue; be my rock of refuge, a strong fortress to save me." I share this verse with the students at their graduation ceremony. And I share with them what I'd like to share with you.

I believe there is One greater than us that is watching over us. He's the One I pray to every day asking Him to keep you safe. He's the One that brings skill to your hands. He's the One that gives wisdom to your minds.

And He's the One you can turn to; the One that rescues heroes.



Monthly Newsletter
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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.

