



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

Easter @ The Springs



When I'm not out and about with Fire Rescue Support, I serve as the Associate Pastor of Church @ The Springs (www.thesprings.net). I've had the privilege of being part of The Springs for over 10 years.

I'd like to invite you to Easter Services where you'll hear the good news about how Jesus makes all things new. 2 Corinthians 5:17 says, "This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!"

Services at the Ocala campus:
(Baseline just south of Maricamp)
Friday, April 3 – 7:00pm
Saturday, April 4 – 4:30pm & 6:00pm
Sunday, April 5 – 9:30am & 11:15am

Services at The Villages campus:
(Highway 25 just north of Griffin)
Sunday, April 5 – 8:30am & 10:00am

Services at the Southwest campus:
(CR 484 & I 75 behind McDonalds)
Sunday, April 5 – 10:00am

CISM in Bay County



On May 12-14, 2015, I'll be in Bay County (Southport, FL) teaching crisis intervention through the International Critical Incident Stress Foundation (ICISF).

I'll be offering both Individual/Peer Crisis Intervention and Group Crisis Intervention in a combined 3-day format. This plan maximizes your time by completing two 2-day classes in three days. There is also a cost savings to this plan. Normally, each 2-day courses costs \$175, but the combined 3-day format is only \$275 which includes two workbooks and two certificates.

For more details and to register, go to www.firerescuesupport.com.





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The Fire Chaplaincy

During Volunteer Week at the Florida State Fire College, I'll have the privilege of presenting a class called "The Fire Chaplaincy." Being held on Thursday, April 23, 2015, this class will focus on a variety of aspects of what it means to be a chaplain in the fire service.

The role of the chaplain is "serving those who serve". This workshop 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 would also be the perfect opportunity for a department exploring the chaplaincy to find out what it is all about.

For more information and to get the registration brochure, go to www.firerescuesupport.com.



Tragic Fire Claims Life of Child

On Wednesday, March 18, at about 11:00pm, I was alerted to a structure fire in Hog Valley. Initial reports indicated that there was a child trapped inside. I drove 45-minutes to the area praying that the child would be found alive. However, when I was about 10 minutes away, the word came over the radio. The child had been found, but he was dead.

My heart sank. There is no worse news than hearing of the death of a child.

When I arrived on scene, I was directed to the family. The victim's father and mother had been unable to get to their child as the home was engulfed in flames. They sat in the back of an ambulance waiting to hear news about their son; news I was already aware of.

After spending a few moments with them, I excused myself and met up with our on scene commander. He confirmed the child's death. I then accompanied him to tell the family the news they already feared; their son was dead.

I spent the rest of my time on scene going from firefighter to firefighter. I wanted to spend just a moment with each of them. The death of a child is especially impactful on our first responders. I wanted to be sure they were doing okay.

As things came to an end at the fire, there was one more place that needed my attention. I headed to our Communications Center. This group, although often forgotten about because they work behind the scenes, is also impacted by traumatic events such as this.



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Putting it in Perspective

I recently attended a regional conference with the International Critical Incident Stress Foundation (ICISF) in Atlanta, GA. I have the privilege of being an Approved Instructor with the ICISF in the areas of Individual/Peer Crisis Intervention and Group Crisis Intervention. I was there to continue to learn about this incredible field of study.

As a chaplain, I am often called upon to help firefighters navigate through the struggles they face on a daily basis. My training in crisis intervention provides a strong foundation for the work I do. I have learned specific tools and techniques to use in guiding an individual or a group through the challenges that this career presents. My training has prepared me to walk with someone impacted by a critical incident, which is defined as an event that has the potential to overwhelm one's usual coping abilities.

However, at times it's the simple, basic wisdom that comes with experience that provides the greatest assistance during difficult times. It was such wisdom that I recently heard.

I was out at one of our fire stations spending some time with the crew there. They had just returned from a call where a four-month-old died. It was one of those calls that knocked the wind out of everyone. We talked about how hard going forward will be for the family. We talked about how grateful we are for our children and families. We talked about how we would be at a loss if something like this happened to us.

After we had chatted for a while, the station officer offered this insight. "We don't cause these tragedies; we are just there to pick up the pieces after they happen."

To the officer, this comment was simply the compilation of hundreds of calls over twenty years. To the rest of us, this was a profound statement. In just a few words, he was able to offer a observation that put things into perspective. And a proper perspective has everything to do with resolving the challenges we face every day.

Like watching a parade through a hole in a fence, we often only see one portion of the events around us. Someone lifting us above the fence allows us to see more of what is happening. This larger perspective gives us the opportunity to more fully understand, and often more fully process and accept, the challenges we face.



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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.

