



Monthly Newsletter  
September 2015

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

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## 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.

## 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.

## Blessed Trinity Blue Mass



Blessed Trinity Catholic Church and the Knights of Columbus invite you to their annual Blue Mass on Sunday, September 13, 2015 at 8:45am. All personnel in uniform (law enforcement, fire, EMS, forest rangers, military or scouts) are welcome to a free breakfast at the Knights Hall right after Mass. Blessed Trinity is located at 5 SE 17 Street, Ocala.

## Chaplain Clothing and Products



If you have ever looked for items specifically for the chaplaincy, you know they are hard to find. Here is a resource that will be of help to you. Visit [www.cafepress.com/chaplaingraphics](http://www.cafepress.com/chaplaingraphics) where you'll find a variety of clothing items, gifts and accessories uniquely designed for chaplains. The best part is that these items were designed by Chaplain Tim Stevens of Tarpon Springs Fire Rescue.



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### UCF RESTORES



I recently had the opportunity to attend a ground breaking meeting between fire rescue personnel and the University of Central Florida's (UCF) RESTORES program. RESTORES stands for RESEARCH and Treatment On Response to Extreme Stressors.

Originally designed for the military, UCF RESTORES helps those in high stress professions process the challenges they encounter. UCF RESTORES is a clinical research center dedicated to the study of all facets of anxiety, trauma and posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

The meeting I attended was the first in what will be a series of meeting designed to help UCF RESTORES translate their work from the military to those that serve as first responders.

[Click here](#) for more information about UCF RESTORES.

### 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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## Hope Full

“In this world you will have trouble.”

Whether you're religious or not, you would probably agree with these words of Jesus from John's gospel. You, more than most, understand the struggles and heartaches that make up our daily lives. You see the poor way people take care of themselves. You see the harsh way that people act toward each other. You see situations that are truly accidents out of our control.

It seems whenever life is having a bad day, you're invited to the party.

I just returned from a traffic crash. In fact, in the past several weeks I've been to three. While that doesn't seem like many, remember, I'm the chaplain. I only get called out if things are really bad. And bad they have been. In these three crashes, there were a total of 11 victims; 1 fatality, 6 trauma alerts, 2 ALS patients and 2 BLS patients. The single fatality was an 8 year old boy.

So what are we left with in this world that is so full of trouble? What is there that can comfort your soul and the souls of the victims you serve?

In a word – hope. Hope that things can get better. Hope that we will be able to move forward. Hope that there is a greater purpose to what we see.

As a verb, hope is defined as wanting something to happen or be true and thinking that it could happen or be true. But as a noun, hope is defined as someone or something that may be able to provide help; someone or something that gives you a reason for hoping. You are the one that has the ability and opportunity to bring and bringing hope to those in need.

Your strength fills in for weakness. Your presence establishes order. Your compassion softens despair. You bring safety to dangerous scenes. You bring comfort to hurting people. You bring hope. And this hope is offered to those who serve with you as well as the victims you serve.

You are full of hope and I'm so grateful that you share that hope with those in need.

“Yes, my soul, find rest in God; my hope comes from him.” Psalm 62:5



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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](http://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](mailto:joe@firerescuesupport.com).

