

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

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**Meet MCFR's Newest Chaplain**



I'm excited to introduce you to Josh Mader, Marion County Fire Rescue's newest chaplain. Josh joins Tom Golden and me in supporting Marion County's fire rescue personnel. While Josh is new to the chaplaincy, he is not new to MCFR. Josh served nearly 10 years as a Driver/Engineer with Marion County Fire Rescue before leaving to pursue another business interest. However, his love for the fire service and for his brother and sister firefighters has brought him back. Josh brings not only fire rescue experience, but also integrity, faith and his heart for people.

**New Radio Call Signs**

Since the chaplaincy is growing, it has become necessary to update the way chaplains are referred to on the radio. MCFR will eventually have six chaplains; one to serve in each of the five districts and me to provide overall leadership to the program. For this reason, my radio designation has been changed to Chaplain 100. The other chaplains will be referred to by their district number...

- Chaplain 1 – open
- Chaplain 2 – open
- Chaplain 3 – open
- Chaplain 4 – Tom Golden
- Chaplain 5 – Josh Mader

**Pediatric Fatalities**

It's the worst possible kind of call; the kind of call that impacts the most seasoned among us. The call that has the potential to linger on in your heart and mind for days and even weeks after it's over.

It's a call that involves the death of an infant.

Fire rescue crews experienced this situation twice last month. On Tuesday, March 22 and again on Wednesday, March 30, crews were dispatched to one-month-old babies in cardiac arrest. In each instance, fire rescue crews started advanced life support procedures in the field and then quickly transported the infants to Munroe Regional Medical Center. There, emergency room personnel worked tirelessly to resuscitate the children.

But in the end, neither of the babies survived.

My heart aches for the parents and families of these children. There can be no greater experience of loss than the loss of a child. I pray they would find peace in God's arms of love.

There is another group I hurt for; those involved in the emergency medical system whose mission is to help and heal. I hurt for them, because they hurt for the people they care for. To them, these children were not patients; they were their babies and grandbabies, their nieces and nephews.

Please remember to pray for the families of these dear children. Please also remember to pray for those committed to helping.

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## Fire Rescue in Action



Fire at the Dump



MCFR Station 4 Fire



Speaking of Dumps



Training Burn



Training Burn



Ladder 30 Training



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**CISM Training**



One of my great passions is teaching. I love the opportunity to share relevant information that will make a difference in people's lives.

I have the privilege of being an Approved Instructor with the International Critical Incident Stress Foundation and teach their two core courses. "Assisting Individuals in Crisis" focuses on helping an individual in a crisis situation by using questioning techniques to create a strong, empathic connection. In "Group Crisis Intervention", the focus is on helping a group move through a crisis situation using a variety of intervention techniques.

Over the next couple of months I'll be in the following locations teaching these two courses over three days.

Brooksville, FL (Pasco County) – April 12-14  
Daytona Beach, FL (Volusia County) – May 10-12  
Southport, FL (Bay County) – May 17-19  
Long Key, FL (Monroe County) – June 7-9

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

If none of these locations or dates are convenient and you have a group of at least 10 that are interested in these courses, contact me and I may be able to set up training in your area.

**The Fire Chaplaincy**

What are fire chaplains? What value do they bring to a department? What roles do they play? These and many other questions will be explored during a course I'll be teaching at the Florida State Fire College in April.

"The Fire Chaplaincy" will be held from 9:00am – 3:00pm on Friday, April 29.

From theory to practice, participants will leave challenged and prepared to bring this valuable position to their departments. 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 register go to [www.firerescuesupport.com](http://www.firerescuesupport.com).





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### Just Being There

She was on her way to work when she got the news of a traffic crash. “It involves a motorcycle,” she was told by one of her friends. Knowing her son is a rider caused her to pick up her phone and call him. The fact that he didn’t answer didn’t bother her much. Who can answer the phone while they’re riding? But as time passed and she didn’t hear from him, she became more concerned.

Then, the unthinkable happened. Her route to work brought her right to the accident scene. Within a matter of moments, she realized her son was involved. Soon after that, she knew he was dead.

I had arrived on scene about 20 minutes before all that happened. I had been called to speak with the driver that had turned in front of the motorcyclist. The crews saw he was shaken up. However, by the time I arrived, he had already left the scene. He had spoken with the police and, understandably, wanted to get away from the incident. So, I simply spent some time connecting with our crews to see how they were doing.

That’s when she showed up. I saw her as she exited her vehicle and started to approach the scene. I started asking who she was, even though it was obvious. I was able to stop her from going any further; she did not need to see what had happened. After just a few moments, she crumbled to the ground overwhelmed with grief.

So, chaplain, what did you do? How did you help this poor woman? What crisis intervention techniques did you use?

I sat on the pavement, in the middle of the intersection, right next to her.

There’s an approach to the work I do as chaplain called the Ministry of Presence. The idea is that by just being there, I am able to help people in the midst of their pain; in the midst of their struggle. By just being there, I communicate help, safety and peace. Biblically speaking, by just being there, I become the hands and feet of Jesus offering comfort and hope.

And while I do more than just sit there, there’s something profound that occurs when I do indeed just sit there; on the pavement, in the middle of the intersection, right next to her. For there are times when sitting silently communicates more than words. There are times when we don’t know what to say; when there is nothing to say.

I tell you all of this not to let you know about what I do, but rather to have you reflect upon what you do. Without knowing it, you also practice the Ministry of Presence. You might not explain it in such terms, but your very presence changes the environment from one of chaos to one of control; from hurt to hope. By just being there, you communicate help, safety and peace.

I hear all the time, “Chaplain, we’re so glad you’re here. We don’t know what to do for the family.” And while I know you appreciate when someone like me shows up on scene, don’t ever underestimate what you do for people by just being there.



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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](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).

