



International Conference of Police Chaplains

Serving All Law Enforcement Chaplains

A Message to ICPC Members

In these unprecedented times we are living through, I wanted to reach out to you, the Chaplains of ICPC. Maybe you are in one of the areas that has a high number of COVID-19 cases and have already had to deal with those families affected by the virus. Maybe you are in an area that has a low number of cases. Either way it is good to remember the safety procedures to protect yourself as much as you can from COVID-19.

- Wash your hands often and for at least 20 seconds
- Keep as much distance as possible with people when you answer calls for service
- Use masks and gloves as provided by your agency when responding to residences
- Keep hand sanitizer available to use following contact with the public; take extra cleaning measures of equipment and vehicles
- Find out your agency protocol for responding to calls to avoid exposure to COVID-19
- Follow agency protocols and the direction of the Officers you work with for safety precautions
- If you do become ill, please stay home and don't infect others; if exposed to someone with the COVID-19, self quarantine as a precaution until you know whether you have the virus
- Your role as a Chaplain may change as your agency deals with the virus; be flexible but be safe

Many of you have asked about the future of ICPC Regional Training Seminars and the Annual Training Seminar. Please know that your Executive Committee and Executive Director are in touch and working diligently to make good decisions for the best benefit of ICPC members. We will keep you posted as decisions are made. We are committed to keeping you informed as quickly as we can.

Please know that we are praying for you, for your family, for your Officers, and for your agency. Take care of yourself and take all precautions to stay healthy as we navigate these very difficult times.

Psalm 91 is one that we have often shared with Officers as they serve our communities. I encourage you to read it and keep it handy in the days ahead. As a Christian, I am reminded daily of Philippians 4:4-7 as a great comfort. Rely on your faith or your source of inspiration during these difficult days. Know that ICPC cares about you. If we can be of assistance or if you just need someone to talk to, please let us know. Be encouraged. We will get through this.

Blessings,

Pam Neal
ICPC President



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The emergence and spread of COVID-19 as designated by the World Health Organization, has Police Chaplains wondering about their role and response. At such times, we are reminded of how interconnected our global world can be and how important it is to approach one another with an ethic of compassion and care.

We sometimes focus on the numbers and the maps, yet we are reminded that each reported case of the virus has behind it a person, a family, a community. We are connected globally and our compassion and care reaches out to the full human community. We are called to be in prayer for those affected; those caring for the affected, for those valiantly trying to diagnose and treat patients, and for the development of strong partnerships across international communities in order to effectively prevent, detect and respond to this virus. As a Chaplain I offer my prayers for healing and support for all affected.

I offer continued thanks for the medical professionals, concerned citizens, and governmental and non-governmental entities across the world that are actively advocating for an effective and appropriate response.

It is important during such a dynamic global event, that we, law enforcement professionals, also take the time for an informed and thoughtful response. The need for urgency can be fertile ground for fearful reactions. As we try to go about our daily routines, we may even begin to see others through a lens of skepticism, judgment, and fear. In global health crises such as this, we must be attentive not to place blame on particular individuals or communities. We know too well in the histories of the U.S. and global communities how discrimination and isolation develops towards others or those deemed as “other”. I encourage faithful response that is informed by medical and mental health professionals and reflective of our theological identities that we care for all.

One antidote to fear can be information and planning. I encourage the sharing of guidelines for preventing the spread of the virus. While it is tempting to rely on social media outlets for the most up to date information, please be aware of the amount of misinformation that is also shared through these same outlets.

Humbly,

Bishop Ronnie White, DMin PhD BCC QMHP
President-elect, International Conference of Police Chaplains