



FOURSQUARE CHAPLAINS
Disaster Relief Trainings
FAQs

1. What is the goal regarding a total number of disaster relief chaplains after this training is complete? Disaster relief workers?

Our goal is to have 50 trained trainers (who could teach the material in their local church and local community) and 800 trained, certified (with Foursquare, by Foursquare standards), and qualified (by meeting FEMA'S standards), and deployable chaplains and relief workers. The key difference between a "chaplain" (aka "Disaster Relief Chaplain") and a "Disaster Relief Worker", is one has a Foursquare license as a minister and one doesn't. It is our way of qualifying them before FEMA and their local VOAD.

2. Elaborate just a bit about how this training will ultimately help people in the field.

Those wanting to retain their Foursquare certification as a disaster relief first responder will need to renew their certification annually. To do this, within 24 months of their initial course, they will need to take the VRM course as well as CISM (just two of the CISM courses, offered online at no cost). How does this help? First of all, each trained individual will now know how to deal with folks that are victims of crime (it happens a lot, but there are few trained to deal with them), how to deal with folks who have just had a loss or tragedy in their life, as well as those suffering from grief, and families dealing with the suicide of a loved one. Can you imagine how this could help the local church? Pastors better trained, to have the confidence in these tough situations that their response is healthy and helpful, as well as glorifying of the Lord. But also, what an asset for the pastor to have folks within the congregation he or she can send to call on folks that are suffering from one of these situations! This is huge! It also keeps these trained leaders in a position to be helpful, not hurtful, to bring healing not further pain. This is a big deal!

3. Explain some of the immediate outcomes of the training across the U.S.

Other than stated above, that the local church now has qualified folks to send to regional and national disasters. Many churches care deeply. Many have been sending people for years. The huge problem at the incident site (where they are all heading) is that the government agencies are having to deal with folks that are dear and well meaning, but from their lack of knowledge and understanding and training the sweet folks are becoming victims in the situation, placing themselves in harms way, thus sidetracking incident responders to have to rescue them rather than centering in on only those that were the original victims. Further, the Christians being deployed but untrained, were not only getting in the way (and again, some becoming victims themselves!), but due to their awkwardness, they were hurting others with their counsel and desire to help, rather than

ministering to them! Also, because they did not know how to defuse or debrief, or know which needed to be done when, they were weakening the incident command folks (local and federal government workers, who themselves need ministry too, but appropriate and timely ministry!) Further, because they did not know how to keep watch on their own team, many of the disaster relief workers were themselves suffering from emotional trauma from the carnage they were dealing with. This training prepares them to deal with it in a healthy way. Also, how to stay out of the way of the rescue workers and to appropriately engage in the incident, so they themselves don't become a part of a need to be rescued! Lastly, these workers bring the gospel into a tough situation.

4. Describe any immediate relief efforts that are in the works now in the U.S. that would benefit (or could have benefited) from this training.

There aren't any immediate relief efforts. Katrina, the two examples listed above (fire and flood), and the 9/11 attacks are four big ones in the past that could have benefited. Kim Voisin is thrilled we are offering this training. One site will be at his church, and he is in training to be a trainer.

5. Describe the passion for this training.

Noah was told of the Lord to prepare an ARC, as there were floods coming. He had never seen a flood, but knew the Lord was up to redeeming his own family. There is a sensing that we are going to see an increase in both natural disasters and man made ones. The Bible speaks of this in the end times. Chatter of terrorism against the US on US soil is up. Even against churches (and we especially need them to know what to do if terrorism strikes in a local church). The national weather service is predicting that 8 hurricanes will hit mainland US in this coming season. That's a bundle. Will we know how to act when it hits. Local human tragedy is at an all time high. The suicide rate is high and climbing. So...will the church prepare for it in advance, like Noah prepared the ARC for his family, to know how to be salt and light in an ever increasingly rough time in the US. This is the church's opportunity! We must be ready!

6. When you think of Foursquare's disaster relief training and ultimate program, what scripture passage drives the passion?

The parable of the Good Samaritan comes to mind immediately (Luke 10). It is told by Jesus in response to a lawyer asking how to inherit eternal life. He first talks about our need to Love God, but then talks about loving our neighbor. He uses the parable to define who are neighbor is. There was the wounded man who had been a victim of crime. The Levite and priest were no help. The Samaritan took care of the man. The other two saw him, but ignored him. We can't ignore the victims of crime, nor human tragedy. We must be prepared.

7. Are there pastors/laypeople who have expressed interest in being certified? If so, can you estimate what the response is?

When we are projecting 800 folks trained, we are estimating from the interest generated at the convention (50 wanted to be trained as trainers) as well as talking to local hosts, many who have done disaster relief. Of the 10 sites we will offer the training over the next year (really, September through next summer), at one site we are expecting around 150, and the other sites we are estimating 50 to 75 per site. So, 75 times 9 (675) plus 150, and rounded down a bit to 800. We have also heard strong interest from our chaplains, many whom already have CISM training (an online course offered by the US government). These courses usually run about 200.00 a course, but we are "scholarshipping" ours down to \$50.00 from the \$200.00 standard.

When the fire storm hit Southern California a few years, the commander of the San Diego fire said it was a rough one. Due to newer regulations from FEMA and adopted by local authorities, the commander was not allowed to let any "help" into the area except those that were trained under the newer FEMA standards (which is what we are doing!). When Christian folks arrived, in this case, all had to be turned away due to their lack of qualifications. The only group qualified was the church of scientology. He said it was tragic. The Christian leaders in CDF (now Cal Fire) were asking him where the qualified Christians were, and there were none to be had! One more story to illustrate a point made above. In the mid 1990's wild rains followed lots of snow pack in the Sierras, resulting in massive flooding in the Central and Northern California area. Well meaning but untrained Christians responded. One of those groups went to the place of the incident where they began to help with a levy that was compromised and threatening to destroy a town. These folks were willing to help, but did not know how to help. They were asked to leave the area as the levy was about to break. They did not leave right away. The government had to send in rescue workers to rescue them, putting more of their own rescue workers at risk of their own lives (as well as taking them away from those that lived in the area). Minutes after getting them out of the area the levy collapsed, destroying the town. Had they not been removed when they did, they as well as the rescue workers could have lost their lives. So is this training important? It is life-saving and life-giving... and respectful!