

Braveheart



CHAPLAIN
MINISTRY™

From an officer's wife ...

I am a police officer's wife.

My husband was a police officer when we met, and we have been married eleven years.

One evening when we were dating he was putting on his vest and I realized that he may not return. I actually said it out loud to him and in that moment we both understood the unspoken risk that he faced everyday he went to work. The next day he asked me to please not make this a factor in our dating. However, when you love someone how do you purposely let them go out into danger every day? It is not normal by any standard and the subtle stress that seeps into your life can have a corrosive effect against your marriage.

The stress comes in all variations. The continual change in shifts makes it impossible for most police officers to take their children to school or pick them up. Field trips, games, birthdays and recitals can all be affected. My husband spent our daughter's second birthday on a 36-hour SWAT call. This unrelenting sacrifice slices into my life forcing me to take on the burden of his job. When I married my husband this is what I agreed to. Whether I knew it or not at the time, I certainly didn't understand what it would take to endure this lifestyle. The truth is I didn't want to just endure, I wanted to thrive. I wanted my children to understand the importance of serving unconditionally. It is a love that surpasses our human nature and it is only found through Jesus Christ. Matthew 23:11 says "He that is the greatest among you shall be your servant" Love knows that doing the Father's will is the only thing of value. Because love does not seek its own, it is not dismayed when circumstances are unfavorable.

I would be lying if I told you this was an easy task, and that I didn't get annoyed, angry or hurt when some stranger's distress trumps my date night or holidays. Galatians 6:7 states "Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows." So even if I do not see the results of the sacrifice, I know what God has promised me. He has promised good to me.

Several years ago I found as I began to meet more officers' wives that there was a core group of Christian women who all felt the same. We decided to start a prayer group. It was to be a forum to bring our fears and hopes privately to one another and pray together. This group has offered a time and place of support for one another. It creates a trickledown effect as we go back to our families refreshed and equipped to support and honor our husbands in their calling as officers. To help keep us on course we asked Drew Buckner if he would help lead our group. He and his wife, Brenda, have been a great source of encouragement to the group. Their Biblical advice and support has helped many of us through challenges and difficult times in our homes. A ministry once conceived to help only officers in their immediate needs now helps our families not only cope and but thrive. They too serve us in love giving more of themselves to help others.

Thank you for supporting Braveheart Chaplain Ministry in serving families like these. ~Drew

