

Emergency Services Chaplain Report 2020 / 2021

Rev Chaplain Mark Bowler

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Emergency Services dealt with many trauma situations, even when we face Covid-19 deaths of our uniform staff. We had to do memorial and funeral service of firemen, law enforcement officers, disaster management workers, traffic officials and chaplains who passed away of this dreaded Covid-19 disease. Some of our chaplains landed in hospital, including myself and we had to fight for our own lives.

It was a challenging year for us in the emergency services chaplaincy, we had to have a permit in the different lockdown levels. We could not visit hospitals to see those who needed our help and encouragement. We visited motor vehicle accident (Mva) sites, drowning sites, suicide sites, mountain sites of those who fell to their deaths to comfort their loved ones and railway sites of those who were killed by trains.

Our meetings were always done through Zoom to protect ourselves from Covid-19. When we were needed, we responded to give trauma support.

We have a few Baptist ministers and lay people who are Chaplains. They completed their training successfully and they are doing excellent work in Chaplain Alert Western Cape connected to City of Cape Town. We trained 40 new chaplains most of them from Eastern Cape and Winelands area.

We also help with members of the public who need trauma counselling, no matter what their religion is. The trauma counselling is free and all the chaplains are doing it voluntarily.

Yours in the service of our God

Rev Chaplain Mark Bowler