



“Who will go for us?” —Isaiah 6:8, ESV

VOLUNTEER CHAPLAIN APPLICATION

Thank you for responding with compassion to the needs of disaster victims. Serving as a volunteer chaplain to those who have experienced loss and pain is a rewarding ministry. Please read this document carefully and prayerfully, asking God to speak to your heart as you consider applying to become a Billy Graham Rapid Response Team (BG-RRT) volunteer chaplain.

I. Essential Functions

While deployed in disaster areas, chaplains may experience difficult physical, emotional, and spiritual challenges. Please review the following functions as they are essential capabilities in the role of a BG-RRT volunteer chaplain.

A. Physical Functions:

- Be able to drive a vehicle as needed (copy of valid driver’s license required to verify eligibility to drive).
- Have good physical health.
- Be willing to sleep on an air mattress or cot in a room with others in close proximity.
- Be willing to share bathroom facilities with many others.
- Understand showers may be in a shower trailer with time limitations.
- Be willing to minister outside in extreme weather conditions.
- Be willing to endure a deployment day lasting from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. (14-hour days)
- Understand electricity may be limited or not available.
- Be willing to do daily tasks, including cleaning bathrooms, kitchens, and/or showers, mopping floors, sweeping, and carrying bags of trash.
- Be able to lift at least 25 pounds.
- Understand cellphone service may be limited or not available.

B. Emotional, Spiritual, and Mental Functions:

- Be currently active in a church and accountable to the leadership of that church.
- Be in God’s Word daily, growing in your faith.
- Be a person of emotional and spiritual maturity.
- Always demonstrate a servant’s heart.
- Be a good listener for extended periods of time.
- Focus on the emotional and spiritual care of others.
- Demonstrate God’s love through compassion and care.
- Be free of any medication that would impair your thinking or activity.
- Always be prepared to share God’s hope.

Please retain this page for your records. Do not send it back with the application.



II. Training Requirements

In order to maintain a high standard of excellence while providing emotional and spiritual care and operate in accordance with expected standards of the disaster community, all BG-RRT volunteer chaplains will need to complete the following minimum training requirements within 24 months of being accepted.

A. *Sharing Hope in Crisis:*

These BG-RRT training seminars are available at locations throughout the U.S. and online. Visit BillyGraham.org/RRT for seminar schedules and online course offerings.

and

B. Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) Courses (minimum of two):

- Assisting Individuals in Crisis
- Emotional and Spiritual Care in Disasters
- Grief Following Trauma
- Group Crisis Intervention
- Spiritual and Psychological First Aid
- Pastoral Crisis Intervention I
- Pastoral Crisis Intervention II
- Suicide Prevention, Intervention, and Postvention
- Law Enforcement Perspectives for CISM Enhancement
- CISM Application With Children
- Strategic Response to Crisis

*The above CISM courses are recommended and listed in order of priority by BG-RRT.

The recommended CISM courses can be completed through the International Critical Incident Stress Foundation. Visit icisf.org to find classes near you. Courses are also available through the website crisisresponse.org, or you can contact your local police or fire chaplain, and often they will be able to direct you to regional CISM trainings.

C. Records of Completed Training:

- When you complete BG-RRT seminar, we will have that information on record.
- For all CISM courses completed, you will need to send a copy of your certificate to us. This can be done by scanning and emailing a copy to rrt@bgea.org or by mailing to:

BGEA-RRT
1 Billy Graham Parkway
Charlotte, NC 28201

- If you have already completed other crisis intervention training, please submit the certificate and/or class description to the BG-RRT office for consideration on a case-by-case basis for credit toward your requirements.
- Once approved as a BG-RRT chaplain, an online orientation training should be completed every two years in order to deploy.

*Two International Critical Incident Stress Foundation (ICISF) courses listed above fulfill the BG-RRT requirements. Various courses taken through other organizations, while they may be valuable, will not be accepted as a substitute for these courses.

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III. Background Checks

In accordance with BG-RRT policy for all chaplains—and to be better prepared for deployment alongside local, state, or federal government agencies—all volunteer chaplain candidates must have a completed and approved background check by the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association (BGEA). Please print, sign, and mail the attached disclosure and consent form with your volunteer chaplain application. Please include a \$40.00 check, made payable to BGEA, to cover the cost. On the memo line of the check, write “background check.”

IV. Summary

To become a BG-RRT volunteer chaplain, you need to:

- Agree to the essential functions as outlined.
- Have a current email address and reliable access to the internet. Most BG-RRT communications are online.
- Be willing to complete the required training as stated.
- Be willing to submit to the guidance and direction of site leadership (i.e., chaplain coordinator) while deployed.
- Be willing to deploy at least one week every two years if called.
- Complete the application and background check consent form and mail them, along with the processing fee of \$40.00 and a copy of your driver’s license, to the address given on the application.

Since Sept. 11, 2001, with God’s guidance and direction, BG-RRT has responded to man-made and natural disasters in over 20 countries on six continents, offering emotional and spiritual care to more than 1 million survivors and first responders. Today, with BG-RRT offices in the United States, the U.S. territory of Puerto Rico, Australia, Canada, and the United Kingdom, we hope to reach even more people with the comfort and hope of Jesus Christ.

We are excited that you are interested in becoming a Billy Graham RRT volunteer chaplain and want to share God’s love at a moment’s notice anywhere in the world. Thank you for your prayers.

God bless you!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Josh Holland".

Josh Holland
International Director
Billy Graham Rapid Response Team
and Specialized Ministries

With the high volume of chaplain applications, please allow 8–12 weeks for processing. Thank you for your patience during this application process.

Please retain this page for your records. Do not send it back with the application.



TRAINING EVENT AT WHICH VOLUNTEER
CHAPLAIN APPLICATION WAS RECEIVED:

RAPID RESPONSE TEAM VOLUNTEER CHAPLAIN APPLICATION

(MUST BE 18 YEARS OR OLDER)

Full (Legal) Name _____

Preferred Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone (_____) _____ (_____) _____ (_____) _____
MOBILE HOME ALTERNATE

Email Address (Required) _____

Marital Status: Married Single Divorced Separated Widow/Widower

Emergency Contact Name _____ Phone _____

Church Affiliation (Denomination) _____

May we contact your pastor or church leader who personally knows your spiritual journey and service within the church? ____

If yes, pastor's or church leader's name and contact information:

Name _____ Telephone (_____) _____

Church Name _____ Email _____

Church Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

1. Why do you desire to serve as a volunteer chaplain? _____

2. Please check the ministry role(s) in which you have served in the past.

Ministry Role	Dates Served
<input type="checkbox"/> Pastor	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Chaplain: Specify: Military, FBI, Police, Fire, etc.	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Christian Counselor (Licensed/Certified): Specify: Adult, Youth, Children	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Ministry Leader	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Youth or Children's Ministry	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Hospice Worker	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Administrative Support	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Prayer Intercessor	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Marriage Ministry	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please describe)	_____

3. Please check any training you have attended and fill in date and location.

- Sharing Hope in Crisis* (BG-RRT) _____
- Sharing Hope in Crisis* online _____
- Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) course(s): _____
- Other (please describe): _____

4. Please describe past experience and duties in disaster, grief, trauma, crisis intervention, or missions.

5. Do you have any physical, emotional, or medical limitations that would hinder your involvement at a disaster site? If so, please explain.

Yes _____

No

6. Please check the boxes for the conditions or situations that would be acceptable to you in a deployment:

- Climb stairs
- Sleep on air mattress or cot
- Lift 25 pounds
- No electricity
- Extreme weather conditions (below 25 degrees F or above 95 degrees F)
- Work 14 hours per day
- Extended times standing or walking
- Assist with daily chores (cleaning, laundry, etc.)

7. a) According to 1 Peter 3:15, "Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect" (NIV). How would you answer if someone asked you, "What must I do to have a personal relationship with Christ, to experience His hope and comfort?"

b) How comfortable would you be responding to their question according to God's Word? Please indicate your response on the scale below.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Not Comfortable Very Comfortable

8. Would you be able to deploy to a disaster, if sent, for one week every two years?

Yes No

9. Are you able to cover your own travel expenses to and from a deployment, including but not limited to air travel and getting to and from the host church?

Yes No

10. Do you have: A valid driver's license?

Yes No

A commercial driver's license?

Yes No

A passport?

Yes No

If yes, please provide copy.

11. List any languages you speak fluently in addition to English (including sign language).

12. Please list three references we may contact who know your spiritual journey and ministry service (friends, colleagues, etc.). *Do not* include family members or the senior or staff pastor listed above. You must have known the person for at least six months. For pastors who are applying, please include a spiritual mentor.

Name _____

Relationship and dates known _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Daytime phone _____ Email _____

Name _____

Relationship and dates known _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Daytime phone _____ Email _____

Name _____

Relationship and dates known _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Daytime phone _____ Email _____

13. How did you come to faith in Jesus Christ? Please include where and when your decision occurred. (Use additional paper if needed.)

14. How have you grown spiritually since your decision to follow Jesus Christ?

15. By applying for consideration as a volunteer chaplain for the Billy Graham Rapid Response Team of Billy Graham Evangelistic Association (BGEA), I acknowledge my understanding and agreement that the selection of volunteers is at the sole discretion of BGEA, based on its assessment of the overall qualifications of volunteer applicants and BGEA's ministry requirements.

16. Assumption of Risk/Release: I understand that while volunteering for BGEA, I may be exposed to dangerous or hazardous situations and environments and may engage in hazardous work involving risk of illness, including COVID-19 or similar variant or illness, physical injury, property damage, or even death, resulting from hard physical labor and exposure to environmental hazards, such as mold or inclement weather. I also understand that I may be volunteering alongside disaster relief workers using equipment which is dangerous to operate and can cause serious injury or death. I hereby assume all risks associated with performance of these activities and release and forever discharge BGEA from any and all liability, including for negligent acts or omissions, for claims or damages I might have that result from my work with BGEA as a volunteer, and any related claims or damages arising from BGEA's selection of disaster response or activities, provision of equipment, or provision of food, lodging, or transportation in connection with volunteering with BGEA. I understand that BGEA is not responsible for the safety or security of my personal effects and release BGEA from liability for theft, damage, or destruction of my personal property.

17. Mission Statement

Continuing the lifelong work of Billy Graham, the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association exists to support and extend the evangelistic calling and ministry of Franklin Graham by proclaiming the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to all we can by every effective means available to us and by equipping the church and others to do the same.

18. Statement of Faith [please initial beside each statement]

These core beliefs make up the foundation upon which all our ministry endeavors are based. The Billy Graham Evangelistic Association believes:

_____ We believe the Bible to be the inspired, the only infallible, authoritative Word of God revealing the love of God to the world. *1 Thessalonians 2:13; 2 Timothy 3:15-17; John 3:16.*

_____ We believe that there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. *Matthew 28:19; John 10:30; Ephesians 4:4-6.*

_____ We believe in the deity of the Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death through His shed blood on the cross, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His personal return in power and glory. *Matthew 1:23; John 1:1-4 and 1:29; Acts 1:11 and 2:22-24; Romans 8:34; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Philippians 2:5-11; Hebrews 1:1-4 and 4:15.*

_____ We believe that all men everywhere are lost and face the judgment of God, that Jesus Christ is the only way of salvation, and that for the salvation of lost and sinful man, repentance of sin and faith in Jesus Christ results in regeneration by the Holy Spirit. Furthermore we believe that God will reward the righteous with eternal life in Heaven, and that He will banish the unrighteous to everlasting punishment in Hell. *Luke 24:46-47; John 14:6; Acts 4:12; Romans 3:23; 2 Corinthians 5:10-11; Ephesians 1:7 and 2:8-9; Titus 3:4-7.*

_____ We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit, whose indwelling enables the Christian to live a godly life. *John 3:5-8; Acts 1:8 and 4:31; Romans 8:9; 1 Corinthians 2:14; Galatians 5:16-18; Ephesians 6:12; Colossians 2:6-10.*

_____ We believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost; the saved unto the resurrection of eternal life and the lost unto the resurrection of damnation and eternal punishment. *1 Corinthians 15:51-57; Revelation 20:11-15.*

_____ We believe in the spiritual unity of believers in the Lord Jesus Christ and that all true believers are members of His body, the church. *1 Corinthians 12:12, 27; Ephesians 1:22-23.*

_____ We believe that the ministry of evangelism (sharing and proclaiming the message of salvation only possible by grace through faith in Jesus Christ) and discipleship (helping followers of Christ grow up into maturity in Christ) is a responsibility of all followers of Jesus Christ. *Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8; Romans 10:9-15; 1 Peter 3:15.*

_____ We believe God's plan for human sexuality is to be expressed only within the context of marriage, that God created man and woman as unique biological persons made to complete each other. God instituted monogamous marriage between male and female as the foundation of the family and the basic structure of human society. For this reason, we believe that marriage is exclusively the union of one genetic male and one genetic female. *Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19:5-6; Mark 10:6-9; Romans 1:26-27; 1 Corinthians 6:9.*

_____ We believe that we must dedicate ourselves to prayer, to the service of our Lord, to His authority over our lives, and to the ministry of evangelism. *Matthew 9:35-38; 22:37-39; and 28:18-20; Acts 1:8; Romans 10:9-15 and 12:20-21; Galatians 6:10; Colossians 2:6-10; 1 Peter 3:15.*

_____ We believe that human life is sacred from conception to its natural end; and that we must have concern for the physical and spiritual needs of our fellowmen. *Psalms 139:13; Isaiah 49:1; Jeremiah 1:5; Matthew 22:37-39; Romans 12:20-21; Galatians 6:10.*

19. Expectations for Volunteer Chaplains

As a volunteer chaplain with the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association:

- I acknowledge that the Lord Jesus Christ is my personal Savior and that I am a personal representative of Him.
- I understand that BGEA is a Christian organization whose purpose is proclaiming the message of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ throughout the world.
- I agree that the purpose of my volunteer status with BGEA is to further its Christian purpose and that I am prepared to assist in accomplishing that purpose.
- I understand that I must exhibit conduct that is consistent with BGEA's expectations, whether at work or away from work, in keeping with Scriptural teachings and principles as set forth in God's Word, BGEA's Statement of Faith, and BGEA's policies including Christian Conduct.
- I understand that BGEA has the right and the responsibility to ensure that its Christian religious purpose is carried on with the highest standards and is not harmed or impeded by conduct that is inconsistent with the Bible, BGEA's Statement of Faith, its Christian religious purpose, or its policies.
- I understand that any of my conduct which is not in keeping with the Scriptural teachings and principles as set forth in God's Word, BGEA's Statement of Faith, and BGEA's corporate policies, is inconsistent with BGEA's Christian religious purpose.
- I understand that if my conduct is determined by BGEA to be inconsistent with its Christian religious purpose, the result will be corrective action up to and including termination from volunteer status.

I understand on signing this application that I agree with the Assumption of Risk/Release, Mission Statement, Statement of Faith, and Expectations for Volunteer Chaplains above, that I obligate myself to share only the basic Gospel of Jesus Christ, and that I will attempt to meet the expressed spiritual need in light of the Scriptures. I further understand that I am not to advocate any doctrines other than Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and that I am not to be a promoter for my church or denomination. Also, I agree that information I learn during the course of my volunteer activities (including, but not limited to, the personal information, photographs, and stories of those to whom I minister) is to be considered confidential information, and I agree to view, handle, and hold all confidential information in trust and confidence, to protect and safeguard such confidential information against unauthorized use, publication, or disclosure, and agree to not directly, or indirectly, in any way, reveal, report, publish, disclose, transfer, or otherwise use any of the confidential information except as specifically requested or authorized by BGEA.

(Signature)

(Date)



VOLUNTEER CHAPLAIN APPLICANT

DISCLOSURE & CONSENT FOR RELEASE OF INFORMATION

(Please print responses to the following required information.)

Volunteer name: _____
(First) (Middle) (Last)

Other names used: _____

Gender: _____

Current street address: _____

Previous address (1): _____

Previous address (2): _____

Social Security number: _____

Driver's license state of issue and number: _____
(State of issue) (Number)

Date of birth: _____ Place of birth: _____
(City) (State) (Country)

DISCLOSURE AND CONSENT CONCERNING CONSUMER REPORTS FOR VOLUNTEER CHAPLAIN APPLICANTS

Please read the accompanying information carefully. This Disclosure and Consent Form has been provided to you by Billy Graham Evangelistic Association (BGEA) to request a consumer report or investigative consumer report in connection with your application to become a volunteer chaplain or in connection with you continuing to serve as a volunteer chaplain, whichever is applicable. An investigative consumer report may include information regarding your character, general reputation, personal characteristics, and mode of living, whichever is applicable.

DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

You, the Volunteer Chaplain Applicant, acknowledge that BGEA may now, or at any time while you provide volunteer services to BGEA, verify information within your application, résumé, or other related documents. Such verification may include, without limitation, the following: driving records, workers' compensation records, credit bureau files, employment references, personal references, educational and licensing institution records, and any criminal record information pertaining to you which may be in the files of any federal, state, local, or foreign criminal justice agency.

The results of this verification process may be used to determine your eligibility for initial or continued volunteer roles with BGEA. All results will be kept confidential. The information will not be provided to parties other than designated BGEA personnel, unless otherwise mandated by law.

In accordance with the Fair Credit Reporting Act, you are entitled, upon written request made within a reasonable amount of time, to receive a copy of a consumer report or investigative consumer report prepared by a consumer reporting agency and a disclosure of the nature and scope of the investigative consumer report, if applicable.

Your signature below indicates that (1) you have carefully read this form and that you understand that a consumer report or investigative consumer report regarding you may be requested by BGEA and reviewed for volunteer-related purposes, including future decisions concerning your role as a volunteer chaplain, as applicable, (2) that you understand that such consent will remain in effect indefinitely until you revoke it in writing, and (3) that you understand that you have the right to revoke such consent at any time.

VOLUNTEER CHAPLAIN APPLICANT'S CONSENT TO RELEASE INFORMATION

I, the Volunteer Chaplain Applicant, understand that in consideration of my application to become a volunteer chaplain, or my continued service as a volunteer chaplain, with BGEA, an investigation may be conducted of my past employment and other activities. I authorize past employers, personal references, and any other persons with whom I am acquainted to answer all questions asked concerning my previous employment record, ability, character, educational background, military service, and credit history. I release all persons, including, without limitation, past employers, credit bureaus, and government agencies, from any liabilities or damages related to furnishing such information.

In consideration of my application to become a volunteer chaplain, or my continued service as a volunteer chaplain, with BGEA, I hereby authorize BGEA and/or their agents to conduct such an investigation, and release said companies, including, without limitation, their officers, directors, employees, agents, and representatives, from all liability or responsibility for this investigation, which may include, without limitation, the gathering of information regarding personal, professional, and educational references, credit or consumer investigations and histories, driving histories, professional license, civil and criminal history information that may be in the files of any local, state, federal, or foreign criminal justice agency.

A photocopy or fax of this Disclosure and Consent Form shall be valid as the original.

I, the Volunteer Chaplain Applicant, do hereby certify that all of the information provided by me for the purpose of applying to become a volunteer chaplain or continue service as a volunteer chaplain is true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that any false statements may end consideration of my volunteer activities with BGEA, or may be cause for ending my volunteer role with BGEA.

APPLICANT: _____ DATE: _____
(Please type or print name)

(Signature)

IMPORTANT

LIST OF ITEMS TO BE MAILED:

1. Completed application
2. Volunteer Chaplain Applicant Disclosure & Consent Release
3. Clean copy of driver's license
4. Processing check \$40.00
5. Copy of any CISM certificates
6. Copy of passport (if applicable)

Please include with this signed form a check in the amount of \$40.00, payable to BGEA, and note on the memo line "background check." Mail with application form to:

BGEA-RRT
1 Billy Graham Parkway
Charlotte, NC 28201