

VISION HOPE PARTNERS

Ministry Update from Steve Smeltzer



EVENTFUL START

First, I hope that you and your families had a blessed Christmas and New Year's. Cindy and I spent a wonderful time with our children and grandchildren and my mom. It was a precious time with family.

These first three months with the ReachGlobal Crisis Response Team have seemed to fly by. I am excited to be a part of this great team.

My time has been primarily focused on:

- Training
- Connecting California Churches
- Ministry Partner Development
- Getting Social

TRAINING

The Crisis Response Team provides in-depth training for full and part-time staff members. The purpose of the training is to prepare us for the ministry. Our training focuses on being healthy: spiritually, emotionally and physically. One of the training sessions that has impacted me the most was on spiritual warfare. While we might be able to quote, Ephesians 6:12 "For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places", it has become evident how much the enemy seeks to hinder this ministry. As one friend put it, "Do you think Satan defends people who aren't in the game? If you are not participating in the offense and scoring, he doesn't care. But if you start scoring 3's you know he is going to try and defend against you."

CONNECTING CALIFORNIA CHURCHES

One of my key roles is to raise awareness of the Crisis Response Ministry in EFCA churches. Over the last three months I have been able to meet with over 80 pastors from churches in Southern, Central and Northern California. This has been a great time getting to know some awesome men of God who are leading churches across California. As a result of these initial meetings, I am going to be helping lead a training session on developing a Crisis Response Team and plan for a group of



Catalyst Church Cypress

EFCA churches in Central California at the end of March.

MINISTRY PARTNER DEVELOPMENT

A key area of focus for me has been Ministry Partner Development. In order to be "fully deployed" in my role, I need both spiritual and financial partners. To partner with me financially, click on the following link: [Partner With Me](#) or go to <https://www.efca.org/give> for instructions on how to donate via credit card, check or direct debit from your checking account. I am also looking for a few individuals to be part of a core prayer team. Please pray about becoming part of this team.

GETTING SOCIAL

Another key activity this past quarter was to get my blog set up - [Vision Hope Partners](#). This is where I will post regular updates on the ministry as well as archive my newsletters. Please share the address with anyone you think may be interested.

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Meeting with churches and pastors in the Western US to encourage them to form and send teams to Crisis Sites
- Building up my financial and prayer partners. I have raised about 20% of the required funds to date. My target is about \$55,000 for the year which is mainly for travel expenses.
- Preparation for the California Central Valley training session in March
- Travel to our current Crisis Response sites in February and March

I would love to hear from you and know how I can pray for you. Email me at steve.smeltzer@efca.org

Let's partner together to share God's hope and love through this unique ministry.

"The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

Matthew 9:37-38 ESV