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### Objectives of this Presentation

- Emphasize religious and cultural diversity in our society
- Share some thoughts on serving such a diverse population as a Chaplains & First Responders
- Relating to your First Responders

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### Census Data for North Carolina

Breakdown for	(2010)	(2020)
White	68.5%	61.6%
Black	21.5%	12.4%
Hispanic/Latino	8.4%	18.7%
Asian	2.2%	1.1%

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## Religious Affiliation

By law, Census Dept. is not permitted to ask about religious affiliation

As population demographics change, there is a broadening of religious and cultural diversity

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Religions	NC	US
Claim a Religion	<b>47.5%</b>	<b>48.8%</b>
Baptist	18.7%	9.3%
Methodist	8.7%	3.9%
Catholic	4.3%	19.4%
Presbyterian	2.7%	1.6%
Pentecostal	2.6%	1.8%
Lutheran	1.1%	2.3%
Other Christian	7.1%	5.5%
LDS	.8%	.2%
Jewish	.2%	.7%
Islam	.3%	.8%
Eastern	.3%	.5%

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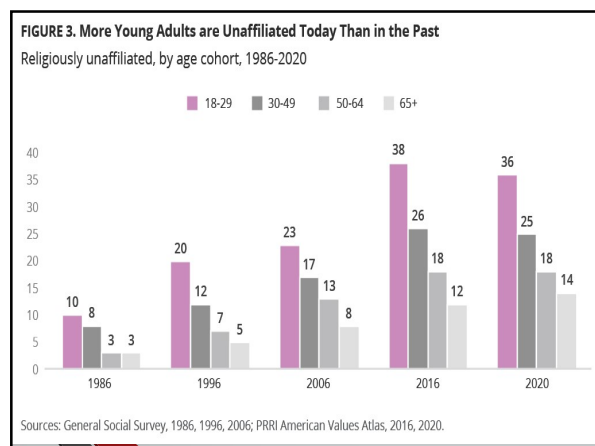
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**Reality of this century**

There is a growing cultural and religious diversity in our communities.

***We must*** deal with these cultural, diverse and religious differences in our departments.

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**Changes in the "Traditional" Christian Community**

Things have changed from 50 Years Ago

- Today, many are un-churched
  - Or have no religious affiliation
- Recent Demonstrations
  - College Anti-Israel protests
  - Flag burning in DC

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**When People are in Crisis**

- First Responders see people at their most vulnerable stressful times.
- Chaplains & Clergy are there to assist.
- IF WE COULD SEE INSIDE OTHER PEOPLE'S HEARTS

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## People in Crisis Respond in Different Ways

- Denial
- Withdrawal
- Fear and avoidance
- Hopelessness, and helplessness

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## How Comforters Are Created

- God never wastes anything
- He often calls us to use our pain to minister to others.
- Scriptures are always there for us.

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## **2 Corinthians 1:4**

**1:4 who comforts us in all our troubles so that we may be able to comfort those experiencing any trouble with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.**

**Job asked a challenging question during his time of suffering: Job 2:10**

- "Shall we actually accept good from God but not accept adversity?"
- Even hardship has a place in the Lord's plan.

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**Think about the kind of people you seek out when you feel hurt.**

- You want someone who has felt your pain,
- A person who's walked the path you're on
  - one can understand your suffering
  - and provide wise counsel.

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**According to the apostle Paul,**

- passing through a **"valley experience"**
  - prepares us to be a blessing and encouragement
  - to those who are going through hard times.

**We have to accept the adversity God has placed in our way**

- and choose to learn from the situation.

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**God is the Lord of our life,**

- He has called us as comforters and encouragers

**As His servants,**

- we must be willing to receive whatever training that is necessary
  - to complete His will,
- This including the times when it hurts.

**Even in suffering,**

- we can trust that He loves us
  - and has a plan and purpose for our life.

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## Conclusion

- Be prepared for a future of even greater diversity and troubling times
  - ALWAYS be secure in your own faith – willing to help everyone...
- I Corinthians 9:22-23

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## 1 Corinthians 9:22-23

**9:22** To the weak I became weak in order to gain the weak. I have become all things to all people, so that by all means I may save some.

**9:23** I do all these things because of the gospel, so that I can be a participant in it.

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## Matthew 5:14 & 16

**5:14** You are the light of the world. A city located on a hill cannot be hidden.

**5:16** In the same way, let your light shine before people, so that they can see your good deeds and give honor to your Father in heaven.

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**WHERE ARE YOU GOING TO  
PUT YOUR LADDER**

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Questions



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