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For God & Country

*A Journal for
Military-related
Seventh-day Adventists*





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END IT NOW!

The U.S. Department of Defense and each of the military services have excellent programs for the prevention of domestic abuse and sexual harassment. These awareness and training programs have proven effective in reducing incidents, creating more respectful work environments, and promoting family values. That is not to suggest a harmonious utopia of relationships between males and females has been achieved!

Competition and conflict between the sexes continues, and unfortunately among Christians and within the church.

A recent study of one large population of Adventist church members revealed that domestic abuse occurs within the denomination

at about the same percentages as in the general population, and in one category was slightly higher. In some regions of the world “disciplining” your wife is considered normal behavior. Daughters are viewed as property. Such distorted thinking may seem absurd when comparing cultures. It can be translated spiritually into another form of unholy human abuse that limits a female called by God from expressing or using her spiritual gifts given by the Holy Spirit. So what is the Seventh-day Adventist Church doing about abuse of women?

Adventists are saying “no” to violence against women. In recent years *EndItNow* has attracted hundreds of thousands of signed commitments to petition the United Nations and other governments

Table of Contents



- 2** Perspective
- 4** Preserving and Protecting the Home
- 8** Men Don't Tell
- 10** The War Within the Ranks
- 14** It Happened to Me
- 18** Domestic Violence: Physical, Emotional, or Verbal Abuse is Evil
- 20** Stand Up, Speak Out
- 22** 20 Years of R and R
- 26** Resources

to do more in addressing women's issues. The General Conference and North American Division Women's Ministries Departments are promoting *EnditNow* awareness and materials. Excellent literature is available for free from the Women's Ministries Departments, as well as Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries. These materials include a series of brochures entitled, "Breaking the Silence." Preventive help is also available from local conference Family Life departments and by attending church-sponsored retreats and seminars. Another organization, *The Hope of Survivors*, addresses healing for those hurt by clergy sexual abuse. Yes, regrettably, that does occur!

Whenever any kind of abuse occurs, the three Rs should be

initiated: *Record* the facts objectively. *Report* the incident to civil and church authorities. *Refer* the victim and alleged perpetrator for professional help. Reconciliation between the abuser and victim should not be suggested, encouraged, or recommended without qualified professional intervention and proof of attitude and behavior change. Very few pastors or church members are trained to offer counseling in these very sensitive issues. Bottom Line Up Front: No Adventist female should have to suffer abuse or sexual harassment in silence from any source, particularly from within the church, or by a church member or pastor. Seek help!

WHAT IS YOUR STORY?

Many Seventh-day Adventists have faithfully served God and country through military service. This is a legacy that should be shared with family, friends, and the church at large.

Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries is seeking stories about Adventists serving on Active Duty, in the Guard or Reserve, or from veterans about their service experiences. Please contact the editor at Deena.Bartel-Wagner@nad.adventist.org to learn how your story can be told.





PRESERVING PROTECTING THE HOME



By Chaplain (MAJ) Eddie Kinley
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Military families face a myriad of challenges, which are foreign to most typical families. They are often confronted with pre- and post-deployment cycles, permanent change of station (PCS), reintegration, post-traumatic stress disorder, missions other than combat, and more. With so many potential stressors, it is sometimes difficult for military



affected. Statistics vary, but they indicate that violence against men is also growing.

Domestic abuse is a grave concern for military leaders in all branches of service. Hundreds of reported incidents are in the hands of social services each week for review. Millions of dollars are spent every year on programs and initiatives to foster healthy family relationships. Unfortunately, the problem still persists and for many reasons.

Numerous things make it difficult for service members to admit to domestic abuse. Primarily, they fear disciplinary actions by their chain of command. The statistics are sobering and alarming. In fiscal year 2010, the rate of confirmed spouse abuse was 11.2 per 1,000 military couples, up from 10.1 per 1,000 in 2009 and 9.4 per 1,000 in 2008. Prior to 2008, the rate had been steadily declining from 16.5 per 1,000 in fiscal year 2001. The report states 16 domestic abuse deaths were reported to the Family Advocacy Program in fiscal year 2010.

**Self-image is very important to men and women in uniform.
Admission to domestic abuse takes courage and humility.**

couples and families to find a healthy balance. Stressful environments can lead to a plethora of obstacles and problems, such as depression, marital strife, financial pitfalls, and even domestic violence.

Domestic violence plagues our world each and every day. In fact, statistics reveal that worldwide between 600,000 and six million women are victims of domestic violence each year. Men are also

In 81 percent of the cases, the alleged perpetrator was an active-duty service member. Also, during the year 2010 there was an increase in the number of substantiated child maltreatment cases reported to Family Advocacy, from 4.8 incidents per 1,000 children in 2008 and 2009 to 5.7 per 1,000 in fiscal year 2010.

Service members frequently believe that by admitting to domestic violence they face retribution from

their leaders. Consequently, the spouse often ends up contacting the chain of command or social services in an effort to reach out for help. The chain of command contacts Family Advocacy and the service member is responsible for seeking help and committing to the program. The only time a soldier may face disciplinary

actions is if the Military Police are called to the home.

Not only are service members fearful of disciplinary measures, but they are also often embarrassed and hurt by their own actions. Self-image is very important to men and women in uniform. Admission to domestic abuse takes courage and humility. In

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As the first step, marital counseling tackles any domestic challenge when trust is violated. Domestic violence violates trust. It destroys self-esteem. It induces fear, making the home a very unsafe place.

order for the abuser to admit to his/her actions, first he/she must see how his/her behavior impacts the spouse and the family.

Secondly, the service member must admit how the abuse has changed his/her life, as well as the life of the entire family. Change will only occur when the abuser can engage in candid self-reflection. Most men are not open to counseling because of the vulnerability involved. It is not easy talking to a complete stranger about problems within the home.

It is even more difficult talking to someone about problems in the home, when *you* are the problem.

Several steps must be taken in order to bring about healing. First, the couple should immediately enroll in marital counseling. As the first step, marital counseling tackles any domestic challenge when trust is violated. Domestic violence violates trust. It destroys self-esteem. It induces fear, making the home a very unsafe place. During a typical counseling session, the counselor or therapist will do a good job describing and explaining the nature and patterns of abuse. The counselor will also hold both parties accountable for improving the relationship.

Secondly, the couple must rely on Divine help in order for deliverance to occur. As believers, we emphatically know that any form of abuse or violence is contrary to a God of love and mercy. Ephesians 4:26 reminds us: "In your anger do not sin. Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry." Anger is not a sin, in and of itself. How we channel and direct the anger can, however, be a sin. The couple must learn to pray and study together. It is impossible to pray with your spouse when you are angry. A prayer a day will keep the anger away.

Third, the abuser must know his/her trigger points. What is making you angry? How can you tell when you are about to do something

continued on page 31



MEN DON'T TELL

It's a rare person who hasn't heard discussions about violence against women. The tragedy of women being disrespected and abused is a story that needs to be told. Sadly, another story is frequently overlooked—the battered men and husbands who often suffer silently and in shame. The 1993 CBS television drama, “Men Don't Tell”¹ depicts the true story of a husband and father who is terrorized by the violent actions and behavior of his wife. Although not as readily recognized, men can be and are the victims of abuse.

Statistics are not complete on how many men worldwide are in abusive

relationships. This is due to the fact that most intimate partner violence (IPV) against men is under-reported. In the United States alone, statistics vary from one in three men being victims to as many as fifty percent of men in relationships. According to a report by the National Institute of Justice and the Center for Disease Control, it is estimated that more than 834,000 men are assaulted annually, either physically or sexually by an intimate partner.²

In the “Intimate Partner Violence in Christian Denomination: Prevalence and Types” study, the authors cite that seven percent of men

actually reported being physically assaulted in their lifetime.³

In the 2003 study, “Intimate Partner Violence and Abuse among Active Duty Military Women,” a survey of married Army couples reported 31.1 percent of active duty females “perpetrating physical violence” against a spouse during the previous year.⁴

With such high rates of violence against men, why is there such silence? Many men may fear the taunts of “You got beat up by a girl?” Other reasons that can discourage reporting include fear of an escalation of the violence, denial of being in an abusive relationship, a feeling of powerlessness, and the fear of not being believed by anyone that abuse is occurring.

Other factors can impact the reporting of IPV directed at men. Anecdotal evidence indicates that men have lost their jobs, homes, and professional licenses because of the abuse they were receiving and reported. Others have lost security clearances or can no longer carry a gun (particularly police and military service members.)⁵ Men with children often fear they will be kept away from their children if they are the ones who report abuse in the family.

When women are facing IPV, shelters and support systems such as 24-hour crisis lines are available for them. Very few such services exist for men in the United States or Canada. Outside of North America, these are almost non-existent.

The coping mechanisms for men who are experiencing IPV range from the attitude of “I can handle this” to denial and escaping through long hours of work, and sleeping at the home of a friend.

Stop Abuse for Everyone, a non-profit organization, recommends

the following steps for those who suffer under IPV. The first thing you should do is to seek help. Don’t allow shame or fear of reprisal paralyze you. Confide in a chaplain about what is taking place. If your spouse is willing to seek help, encourage this, but recognize that you should probably begin with separate counselors to work on personal issues.

You should see a doctor about your physical health and seek a mental health counselor who will help you deal with the emotional wounds you have suffered. Get legal advice.

Don’t allow yourself to be provoked into striking back through either physical or verbal abuse. Record dates and times of incidents and keep copies of medical records and police reports. Take photographs of injuries.⁶

If you are a man who is hiding the fact that you are being abused, recognize that you are not alone. Other men have and do experience violence from their partners. Asking for help is not shameful and it does not make you a weak person. Reaching out for help is a sign of courage and strength.

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The WAR
Within
the RANKS



A war raging within the ranks of soldiers damages and takes a toll most can never understand. Military Sexual Trauma (MST) is that type of war and claims its victims, many who often remain silent. In a 2008 report to a House of Representatives panel investigation on military sexual assaults, former California Democratic Representative Jane Harman testified, “A woman who signs up to protect her country is more likely to be raped by a fellow soldier than killed by enemy fire.”¹

MST DOES HAPPEN

The Department of Defense (DoD) and the Pentagon states that in fiscal year 2011 there were 3,192 reports of sexual assault in the military.² The DoD also estimates that in 2010 only 13.5 percent of total assaults were actually reported. The total number of incidents of MST for 2010 was probably more than 19,000 individuals.³

“A woman who signs up to protect her country is more likely to be raped by a fellow soldier than killed by enemy fire.”

The definition of MST is psychological trauma resulting from physical sexual assault or sexual harassment occurring during active duty. In addition to outright assault, MST can include threats of negative consequences for refusing sex, offensive remarks about sexual activities or an individual’s body, and unwelcome sexual advances that are rebuffed.

In a 2010 study published in the *American Journal of Public Health*, researchers found that among 125,729 veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan, 15.1 percent of women and 0.7 percent of men reported MST during screenings at a VA facility.⁴ A larger study in 2008 showed even higher rates of MST—19.5 percent among 33,259 women and 1.2 percent among 540,381 men.⁵

MST AND MENTAL HEALTH

Along with the physical trauma, MST survivors are impacted emotionally and experience an increase in mental health issues. According to researchers Suris and Lind, men and women who report MST are three times more likely to be diagnosed with a mental disorder, most commonly depression, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), substance abuse disorders, and anxiety disorders.⁶ Women also experience eating disorders. Females who experience MST are also nine times more likely to develop PTSD compared to females veterans who don’t experience MST. Another troubling statistic for women veterans who have experienced MST is the higher risk factors for homelessness.

MEN AND MST

Men are affected by the stigma of MST, but in different ways. Being less willing to report incidents and

seek necessary support impedes male service members from getting needed help. This can make them feel isolated and alienated. It can also increase feelings of vulnerability. They may be afraid that no one will believe them if a report is filed. Typical issues that male survivors contend with following an assault can include feelings of inadequacy, lack of power, and worries over sexual orientation.

GETTING HELP

Whether you are a female or male survivor of MST, the first thing you should acknowledge is that you are not alone. It takes courage to report what has happened to you and to seek professional help to overcome the trauma inflicted by others.

You can begin by contacting the confidential crisis intervention and support system provided to military service members. The *Safe Helpline* is available anytime, anywhere—24-hours-a-day, 7-days-a-week, worldwide. *Safe Helpline* is operated by the Rape, Abuse, & Incest National Network (RAINN), the nation's largest anti-sexual violence organization. All *Safe Helpline* services, including online sessions, are provided by RAINN through a contract with the DoD Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office (SAPRO). However, your information will remain confidential. RAINN will not share your name or any other personally identifying information with DoD SAPRO or chain of command.

- **To call**—Dial 877-995-5247. The phone number is the same for use inside the U.S. or via the Defense Switched Network (DSN).
- **To text**—Text your zip code or installation/base name to 55-247 (inside the U.S.) or 202-470-5546

(outside the U.S.). You will receive a return text with contact information for the nearest Sexual Assault Response Counselor.

- **Online counseling**—Visit <https://m.safehelpline.org/>

You can learn more about the *Safe Helpline* and RAINN at <https://safehelpline.org/>.



HOW CAN I HELP A FRIEND OR LOVED ONE?

Your family member or friend has just shared with you a sexual assault story that is shocking. You want to help, but don't know where to start. The first thing is to remember that she/he is a survivor and needs a listening ear. Give support and listen.

Your patience might be tested as she/he works through the process of what has happened and how to handle it. This can take time.

If the individual is in immediate danger, get help by contacting military law enforcement or local police. Call 911 if medical care is needed.

Allow the survivor the space and time needed to cope with what has happened. By pushing too fast or too hard, the hurt and emotional trauma can be increased.

Recognize that depression and eating disorders can be common effects from the trauma of sexual assault.

Ask to meet on a regular basis to talk openly. Don't be tempted to blame or shame your friend for their actions or how they are reacting. Your role is to support and show care and love. Ask

how you can show your support in a way that is meaningful and

The most important thing to remember is that healing from an attack that is as personal and destructive as sexual assault takes time.

effective. This may change over time, so ask more than once.

The most important thing to remember is that healing from an attack that is as personal and destructive as sexual assault takes time. The individual has been traumatized and will need to heal in her/his own way and time.

IT TAKES COURAGE

If you are a survivor of sexual assault, one of the most courageous things you will ever do will be to get the help you need to rebuild your life and to go on living. Yes, your life has been changed, but with the proper help, discipline, and commitment, you can recover from what happened to you. You will always be a survivor of MST. You can also be the one in control of your life and how you choose to react to what has happened to you.

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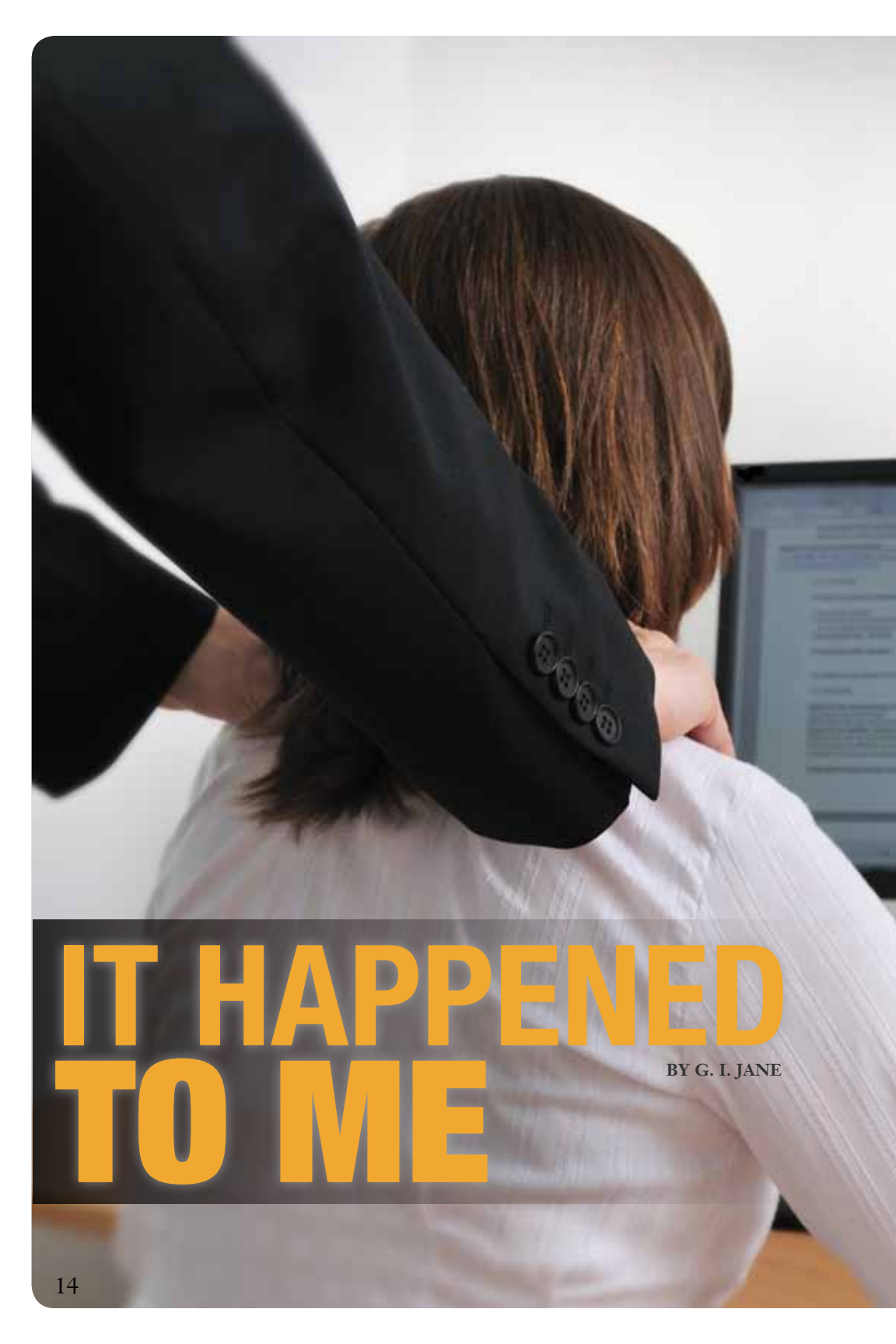
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IT HAPPENED TO ME

BY G. I. JANE

As a young theology student, I was full of passion for the cause of God. With eager anticipation I looked forward to graduation and joining the so-called “real world,” where I could put everything I had learned into practice.

I met an experienced pastor who took me under his wing. He even gave me the opportunity to work in his church district. At the same time I was finishing my last year of school. Pastor H* generously helped me with my schoolwork and encouraged me

when I had doubts. I really admired his talent and started spending a lot of time with him as we worked together. In order to be able to contact me anytime, Pastor H also purchased a pager and gave it to me.

Then things began to change. Pastor H started giving me more personal gifts, such as perfume and flowers. Soon he wanted to know where I was at all the time. There were times when he would show up at my house without previous notice and for no reason.

Before I could even digest what was going on, I started *feeling very uncomfortable*. My brain was giving one of the first warning signs, but I tried to deny it. My denial was not because I was enjoying the situation. I simply did not want to believe that this was happening to me, and much less from a person I considered a spiritual leader.

As things continued to build, I began to feel ashamed of telling anyone. That was the second sign I should have obeyed. Instead, I started to suck it up and tell myself I could manage the situation. I promised myself, *“When the work contract is finished, I will go home and never see him again.”* This course of action only led to isolation.

The third sign that something was extremely wrong was when I tried to rationalize my situation. I started creating excuses for Pastor H’s behavior. Finally, I concluded that since he had not insinuated anything



sexual, my situation was not sexual harassment. I tried to write it off as just a misunderstanding. I just could not believe it was happening to me!

Finally, a friend started noticing I was constantly nervous and jumpy. She knew something was going on with me. One day she had the courage to ask me what was wrong. At first, I didn't tell her anything.

Then one day Pastor H came to my house with an excuse that he had an urgent issue related to the church

until I talked to the appropriate authorities, the behavior on the part of Pastor H would never stop. For that reason I agreed to be a witness in a trial. Pastor H was eventually prosecuted for his behaviour.

Although the experience was painful and uncomfortable, I want to focus on the solutions and lessons I learned. It is my hope that my story will help other victims, as well as provide information that will help others to avoid the same situation.

I JUST COULD NOT BELIEVE IT WAS HAPPENING TO ME!

to discuss with me. The event that happened next was the turning point for me. Pastor H took me to a nice restaurant and told me, "If you get a boyfriend, I will turn all my love and admiration for you into hate."

That was it for me. I was scared to death, but did not have a clue where to go or who to talk to. When I confessed everything to my friend, she took me to meet with a pastor who she knew and trusted.

I can still remember how long it took me to say the first word. As I started talking, I felt relief and the tears began to fall. By that time my work contract with Pastor H conveniently came to an end. I graduated from college and moved back to my hometown, hoping to leave all this behind.

I thought I forgot everything until one day at my new place of work a young lady was waiting to talk to me. Her visit brought back so many memories. The same man, who had targeted me, had harassed her. Somehow she found out I had been another victim. Suddenly I realized

ANYWHERE AND ANYONE

One of the first things I had to learn was that sexual harassment can come in many different packages. It does not matter if you are educated, young or adult, or even Christian. This can happen to you, and from any person you know. Therefore, you need to be cautious and pay attention to details.

SPEAK UP AND REACH OUT

I cannot stress strongly enough one fact. If you are being harassed, you have to talk. There is no way I could receive help without telling my story to my friend. This is not something the victim has to go through alone. Many times we may think that God's help is all we need. Yes, God is our strength in every crisis, but He did not make us islands to live in isolation. We are members of a community. It might be through marriage, family, church, friends, or society. His message is clear; we are not to live alone. There are always people eager to help us. Another reason to speak up was demonstrated in my case. Many times silence will only protect the aggressor, while he or she

continues to hurt other people. We are to be part of the solution and not to perpetuate the problem.

EDUCATE YOURSELF

Because I did not consider most of the actions and statements directed at me to be of a sexual nature, I could not bring myself to admit I was being *sexually* harassed. I was able to identify the harassment part, but not the sexual part.

It was during the legal investigation that I became educated. Sexual harassment includes not only explicit, but also implicit, insinuations. It is important to learn what kind of behavior is not normal and how you can lay correct boundaries.

PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES

After educating yourself, you are going to be in a better position to take precautionary measures. This does not mean that you will be suspicious of every person who gets close to you. Nor does it mean that you will never allow people to be intimate with you. These are extreme and wrong ways to deal with the issue. Instead, you will be able to identify when a situation is making you feel uncomfortable. You will also be more equipped to leave a situation that makes you vulnerable.

DON'T OVER-ANALYZE. IT IS WHAT IT IS.

As I mentioned before I tried to rationalize the situation, and by doing this I over-analyzed it. Therefore, I created in my mind many different ways to excuse the behavior of my aggressor. This caused me to freeze, remain in the situation, and accept the harassment. There is nothing wrong with you if you feel uncomfortable in a situation. As soon as you feel like this, take it as real, look for counsel

and help to clarify your emotions, and look for solutions.

HEAL

A conscious choice to choose to heal is an important part, if not the most important, of becoming a survivor. Choosing not to heal keeps you in the position of being a victim. If you have been a victim, or if you have been an aggressor, you need to look for healing of the soul. This includes entering into the process of forgiveness to the other person and to yourself. And, yes, it is a process, not an event. This means the healing takes time and intentional, hard work. We cannot live forever as victims by letting grief, sorrow, and bitterness grow roots in our hearts. There is healing from heaven and on earth. Look for assistance from behavioral professionals. They know how to guide you through the process and show you techniques you can practice.

Finally, God not only promised to be with us through “the valley of the shadow” but He also calls us to move forward and out of the valley.

“Forget what happened in the past, and do not dwell on events from long ago. I am going to do something new. It is already happening. Don’t you recognize it? I will clear a way in the desert. I will make rivers on dry land. I will provide water in the desert. I will make rivers on the dry land for my chosen people to drink.” Isaiah 43:18-20, God’s Word Translation.

The Lord God has in place so many wonderful solutions to our problems than we can’t even imagine. I am so grateful that God had restored and healed me. Daily, I live in anticipation and with excitement about the things He will bring into my life, even in the midst of my dry deserts.

*Pastor H is a pseudonym.

*G.I. Jane is a real person and an Adventist serving in the military. Her name has been changed for security reasons.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: PHYSICAL, EMOTIONAL, OR VERBAL ABUSE IS EVIL



by Bob Davidson, M.Div., M.Ed., LMFT, CSAT
Director, Family Institute, P.C.

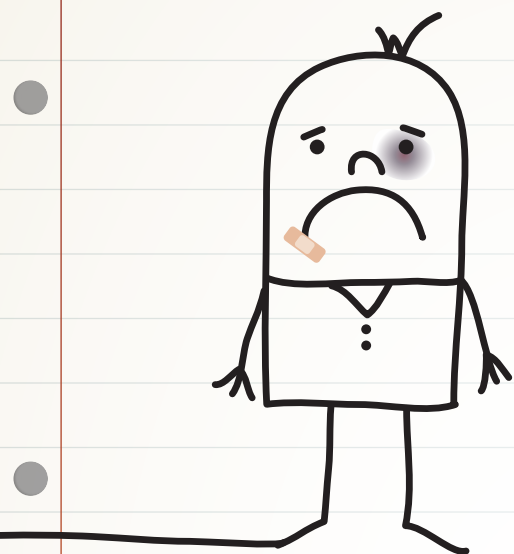
Many abusers, men and women alike, do not want to abuse their spouse or children. But their acute need for control pushes them over the edge. Both spouses desperately need to be heard and loved. Psychologically, if you aren't heard, you will get louder and more aggressive; or quieter and more passive. This happens in families, church meetings, workplace settings, and politics, to name just a few.

Raymond*, an Adventist Army Specialist, was physically beaten with a baseball bat by his wife over the course of one year. The last incident was with a 2x4, during a camping event with friends. A few weeks later, Raymond learned that his wife wasn't going to move with him. Instead she chose to live with "his best friend." The profound pain and hurt, followed by anger, then provoked Raymond to pick up the same baseball bat, striking and killing her. Raymond reported the crime, was convicted, and sent to

Death Row. Raymond had just wanted to give her some of the pain that he felt all the times he was abused. When I met Raymond at the stockade the day after the incident, he was grieving her loss and his abusive behavior. Killing her was the last thing he had wanted to do—he only wanted to love and receive love from her.

THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO
CHRISTIAN PRINCIPLE OR CORRECT
EXEGESIS OF SCRIPTURE WHICH
CONDONES ABUSE

Proverbs 19:19 says: "A hot-tempered man must pay the penalty; if you rescue him, you will have to do it again." (NIV) This proverb applies to both genders. Physical, emotional, and verbal abuse is not just hurtful, it's evil. Such behaviors are for the purpose of having control, power, pride, and building ego. They ultimately



destroy people and perpetuate hurt for generations.

A surprising realization occurs when a controlling, rage-aholic spouse becomes aware that his/her constant desire to control the other and win every argument or situation makes him/her a loser! The purpose of winning is due to a driving force to be right—a desire for power or control. To put it another way, you have to be right and that puts you in control of the relationship, which makes you feel safe. If you lose, you feel devastated and that threatens your ego. If you must win all the time, you are a loser, because subconsciously you “married the wrong person.” That makes you a loser. Putting them down, having to be right all the time, may help you temporarily feel better about the given situation, but it doesn’t help the relationship. In fact, the predictor is that you will ultimately lose the relationship.

Many well-meaning people tell abused women to turn the other cheek (Matt. 5:39), for “as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their husbands in everything” (Eph. 5:24). They urge these women to “do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you” (Matt. 5:44). This is problematic. When I have coached those well-meaning people, I ask them this question: “If a woman was doing the same behavior to the husband, would you counsel with the same concept?” The answer is always an emphatic “No, of course not!” “Would you suggest that the man leave and protect himself?” Their answer is, “Well, yes!” A truly Christian marriage (family) means mutual respect and love where husband and wife work on being a team—a couple team and a parental team. The more Christ-likeness they demonstrate toward each other and their children, the more love and respect will flow through them to each member of their family, to their friends and neighbors, and ultimately, to everyone they meet.

SOME STARTER SELF-HELP BOOKS LISTED BELOW ARE JUST A FEW RESOURCES THAT YOU MIGHT FIND HELPFUL:

- *The Emotionally Abusive Relationship: How to Stop Being Abused and How to Stop Abusing* by Beverly Engel. This is a great resource to help you know if you should stay in a relationship or leave. It delineates very helpful principles.
- *The Verbally Abusive Relationship: How to Recognize it and How to Respond* by Patricia Evans. Very helpful.
- *Healing the Emotionally Abusive Marriage* by Focus on the Family

enditnow[®]

Adventists Say No to Violence Against Women

STAND UP
SPEAK
OUT

E*nditNow*, the boldest stand the Seventh-day Adventist Church has ever taken regarding violence against women and girls, is a global awareness campaign that advocates for the end of violence against women and girls around the world. It aims to mobilize Adventists around the world and invites other community groups to join in to resolve this worldwide issue.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church has a long tradition of responding to the needs of all human beings. This has come in the forms of advocating in favor of human rights, tolerance, children's well-being, freedom of expression and conscience, and the protection and integrity of families. *EnditNow* is a call to Adventists in more than 200 countries and territories around the world to be a united voice calling for the end to violence against all God's children. The focus of the campaign is primarily on women and children, because these are the population groups who suffer most from gender-based violence.

"Sadly, domestic violence has

been documented as a major issue within the Seventh-day Adventist Church,” says Carla Baker, Director of Women’s Ministry for the North American Division.

Sociologist Dr. René Drumm, chair of the social work department at Southern Adventist University in Collegedale, Tennessee, was the principal researcher on a field study of abuse in one North American region of the church. The study, which focused on the North Pacific Union Conference, covering the states of Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington, is believed to be the first of its kind in any denomination.

Nearly 34 percent of women and more than 20 percent of men reported being assaulted by an intimate partner.

Drumm surveyed 1,431 adults—men and women—and found some startling results. Nearly 34 percent of women and more than 20 percent of men reported being assaulted by an intimate partner. For women, these numbers were on the high end of previous studies. But for men, the percentage was significantly greater. These incidences of abuse follow trends documented in non-Adventist populations.¹ This is why *EnditNow* seeks to increase personal awareness, responsibility, and involvement to effectively help end violence against women and girls in every family and community.

“The annual Abuse Prevention Day held in Adventist Churches helps to highlight the various types of abuse and practical ways to help in ending it,” says Baker. “The *EnditNow* initiative is a practical way for individuals to speak out in their communities and churches against abuse.”

In October 2012, the *EnditNow* Summit on Abuse was held at Loma Linda University. The two-day event addressed the many forms of abuse and examined how the Adventist Church and its members can combat these dangerous behaviours. “For individuals who were not able to attend, they can view the presentations on the website for Women’s Ministries of the North American Division,” says Baker. The website address is www.nadwm.org.

For individuals wishing to become involved in the *EnditNow* campaign, visit the website www.enditnow.org for more information and resources.

One aspect of *EnditNow* is the goal of collecting one million signatures from Seventh-day Adventists and supporters around the world who wish to speak out about violence against women and children. “This is an excellent way for our members to help their neighbors and friends learn that the Adventist church has taken a stand on abuse. Once the signatures are collected, the entire petition will be delivered to United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon,” says Baker. Signature forms for the petition can also found on the *EnditNow* website.

Will you be the voice in your church and your community to say, “End It Now!?”

REFERENCES

¹René D. Drumm, Marciana Popescu, and Matt L. Riggs, “Gender Variation in Partner Abuse: Findings From a Conservative Christian Denomination,” *Affilia February 2009* 24: 56-68, doi:10.1177/0886109908326737



Laurie Troode enjoys reading through the names of sailors and Marines who visited his home and reminiscing about their visits.

port,” says Laurie. “We were able to procure a list of Adventist sailors and the ships they were on from the National Service Organization (NSO) at the General Conference.”

Laurie would compare newspaper lists of ships entering port with the list he’d received from the NSO. “When a ship was scheduled to arrive, I would wait on the wharf, greet the sailors as they disembarked, and offer a respite of a meal and a tour of the local sights,” says Laurie

Laurie and Jean encouraged their children to participate in the outreach also. “This was a wonderful experience for our children,” says Jean. “They learned about other places, met a

wide variety of individuals, and encountered the various religious beliefs that the sailors had.”

The Troodes never knew who they might be entertaining. “Our guests included descendants of Sam Houston, Johnny Appleseed, the Studebaker family, and George Custer,” says Jean.

For Laurie and Jean, practical ministry to each sailor and Marine was uppermost in their mind. “When you are ministering to others in this kind of situation, you realize how lonely some people can be when



Laurie and Jean Troode included their children in their outreach ministry to sailors and Marines. They began their Navy ministry in 1980.

they are far from home,” says Jean. “One of the first groups to visit our home arrived just after Mount St. Helens erupted in Oregon. A sailor in the group was from that area. He was extremely worried about his family. We told him he should use our phone and call home.” That simple gesture of offering a phone call home



Jean (far left) and Laurie (far right) Troode ministered to sailors and Marines with homecooked meals, fellowship, and sight-seeing opportunities.

gave the sailor peace of mind that he desperately needed.

“I remember another young man by the name of Matt,” says Laurie. “When I first met him, he had no interest in the church or spiritual things. I asked Matt what he would like to do while he was in Australia. He really wanted to go surfing.” Laurie knew just the spot to take Matt and they spent the day at the beach surfing and building a relationship. Laurie’s interest in Matt as a person took root. When Matt returned home he also began attending church again, and today is a church leader.

One of Laurie and Jean’s favorite stories involve Mike and Mark, who met during boot camp and eventually were assigned to the same ship. “Mike and Mark learned about Seventh-day Adventists during boot camp,” says Laurie. “As they grew in their faith, Mike and Mark decided they would pray together for their mothers. Neither one of them had told their mothers about their baptism.”

While visiting Laurie and Jean, Mike and Mark each received a letter from their mothers. “Mike’s mother wrote that she had been studying the Bible with a woman and had been baptized into the Adventist Church. Mark’s mother told how her attendance at a series of meetings led to her baptism,” says Laurie. “When they compared the dates of the baptisms, Mike and Mark learned that their mothers had been baptized on the same day. It was a very moving experience to watch these two young sailors see their joint prayers make such an impact on their mothers who were in different parts of the world.”

Some of the sailors who visited in Laurie and Jean’s home had no faith experience at all. Ministering to these young adults was just as important to the Troodes. “I would find a level of thought we could agree on and go from there,” says Laurie. “Sometimes I would use the second coming of Jesus as a starting point. Other times it would need to be a different subject.” For Laurie and Jean, being the hands and feet of Jesus and showing compassion and interest was their primary focus.

As Laurie became a familiar sight at the docks, the officers of the ships grew to know and respect him. “At one point we had an Australian politician who was kind of a rabble rouser,” says Laurie.

The politician and Laurie arrived at the dock at the same time to meet a newly arrived ship. The politician demanded to see the captain, while Laurie quietly stated that he would like to meet with the chaplain or Protestant lay-leader. “I was granted access, while the politician was turned away,” chuckles Laurie. His regular visits had built a relationship that made a difference, even with the officers.

When the Troodes met Steve, a

fourth-generation Adventist, they had no idea that his visit would take the turn it did. “Steve was 20-years-old and felt like life was passing him by,” says Laurie. “He joined the Navy, was sent to the Gulf, and assigned the job of entertainment officer.”

While waiting in a chow line, Steve decided that he would begin taking photos and use them to brighten up the bulkhead. Several times when he was shooting photos, his life was spared from accidents that occurred. “One day Steve was shooting photos of a rocket launcher being loaded,” says Laurie. “He had just stepped out of the immediate circle nearest the launcher when an explosion occurred. Steve thought it had been a lucky coincidence.”

Another time Steve was standing on deck behind a heavy shield while helicopters landing. He was told to move out of the way just before the shield collapsed and others were injured.

When Steve arrived in Fremantle, he was scheduled to take photos of a series war games. “Steve was delayed from being on deck by a phone call home to his wife,” says Laurie. “During his absence, a helicopter crashed and killed four men who were in the vicinity where Steve would have been standing.”

Laurie and Jean met Steve just after this accident and invited him to attend services at their local camp meeting. “Steve was surprised to learn that his former college professor, Dick Duerksen, was the scheduled speaker,” says Laurie. Today Steve is involved in ministry, particularly to youth.



On behalf of Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries, Larry Roth, ACM Assistant Director, thanked Laurie and Jean Troode for their ministry to military service members

Laurie Troode holds one of the caps that was presented to him by a visiting sailor.



During the twenty years of ministry to others, Laurie and Jean experienced a period of spiritual discouragement. “In spite of this, we continued to entertain the sailors and Marines who arrived in Fremantle,” says Jean. Their ministry is what helped them work through the other issues they were facing.

Even though the friendships made were built upon short visits, the bonds have remained strong through the years. “We still receive cards and letters from many of those who visited in our home,” says Jean.

“Although our time together was often very short, our family bonded with many of our visitors,” says Laurie. “When we had to say goodbye it was often with tears streaming down everyone’s cheeks.”

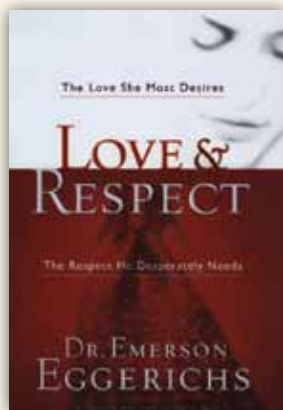
Those farewells were always said with the promise to meet together once again, when the roll is called up yonder.

Domestic Violence

- Safe Horizon
www.safehorizon.ning.com
- National Network to End Domestic Violence
www.nnedv.org
- National Domestic Violence Hotline
www.thehotline.org

Military Sexual Trauma

- Department of Veterans Affairs/
Military Sexual Trauma
www.mentalhealth.va.gov/msthome.asp
- Veterans Crisis Line
www.veteranscrisisline.net
- Make the Connection
www.maketheconnection.net/conditions/military-sexual-trauma
- Department of Defense Sexual Assault
Prevention and Response
www.sapr.mil
- Service Women's Action Network
www.servicewomen.org
- Department of Defense Safe Helpline
www.safehelpline.org



Books

Love and Respect
by Dr. Emerson Eggerichs

A SIMPLE MESSAGE

A wife has one driving need - *to feel loved*. When that need is met, she is happy. A husband has one driving need - *to feel respected*. When that need is met, he is happy. When either of these needs isn't met, things get crazy.

A MESSAGE THAT WORKS

Based on over three decades of counseling, as well as scientific and biblical research, Dr. Emerson Eggerichs and his wife, Sarah, have already taken the Love and Respect message across America and are changing the way couples talk to, think about, and treat each other.

What do you want for your marriage? Want some peace? Want to feel close? Want to feel valued? Want to experience marriage the way God intended? Then why not try some Love and Respect.

Beyond Anger

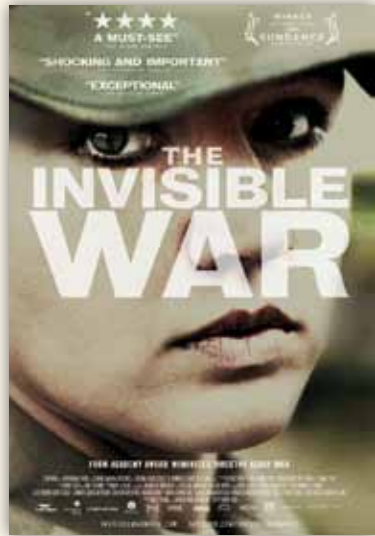
By Larry Yeagley



Mike behaves like a gentleman in public, but at home hurls insults and curses at his family. Bonita vows to gouge out the eyes of the drunk driver who killed her son. A grade school kid picks fights on the playground...a neglected teen wishes her mom were dead...a married couple screams at each other and slams doors...a woman refuses to forgive...

Their stories are all different, but one thing is the same: they are very angry. Sometimes they're so upset that they don't remember what it feels like to be at peace. But there is hope beyond anger. Discover how to break the anger habit and experience the radical transformation that comes from giving and receiving forgiveness. Make a fresh start and learn to control your anger, surrender your grudges, and be set free.

Movie



The Invisible War exposes the epidemic of sexual assault in the military – one of the most under-reported stories of our generation, a story the filmmakers are proud to be breaking to the nation and the world. They hope the film will help lead a national dialogue about the crime of rape perpetrated on the very people who have pledged to protect our country and are gratified to see the film is already making an impact.

For Oscar- and Emmy-nominated director Kirby Dick (*Outrage, This Film Is Not Yet Rated*), the inspiration for *The Invisible War* came from a 2007 Salon.com article about women serving in Iraq entitled “The Private War of Women Soldiers,” by Columbia University journalism professor Helen Benedict. When Dick and Emmy-nominated producing partner Amy Ziering (*Outrage*) read Benedict’s piece, they were astounded by the prevalence of sexual assault in the military. For more information about the movie, visit invisiblewarmovie.com.



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EXPERIENCE UNION COLLEGE

- 1 Nathan, a junior theology major who served in the Air Force
- 2 The Yellow Ribbon program keeps money in military veterans' pockets by providing scholarships matching Union's tuition to that of an in-state public university.

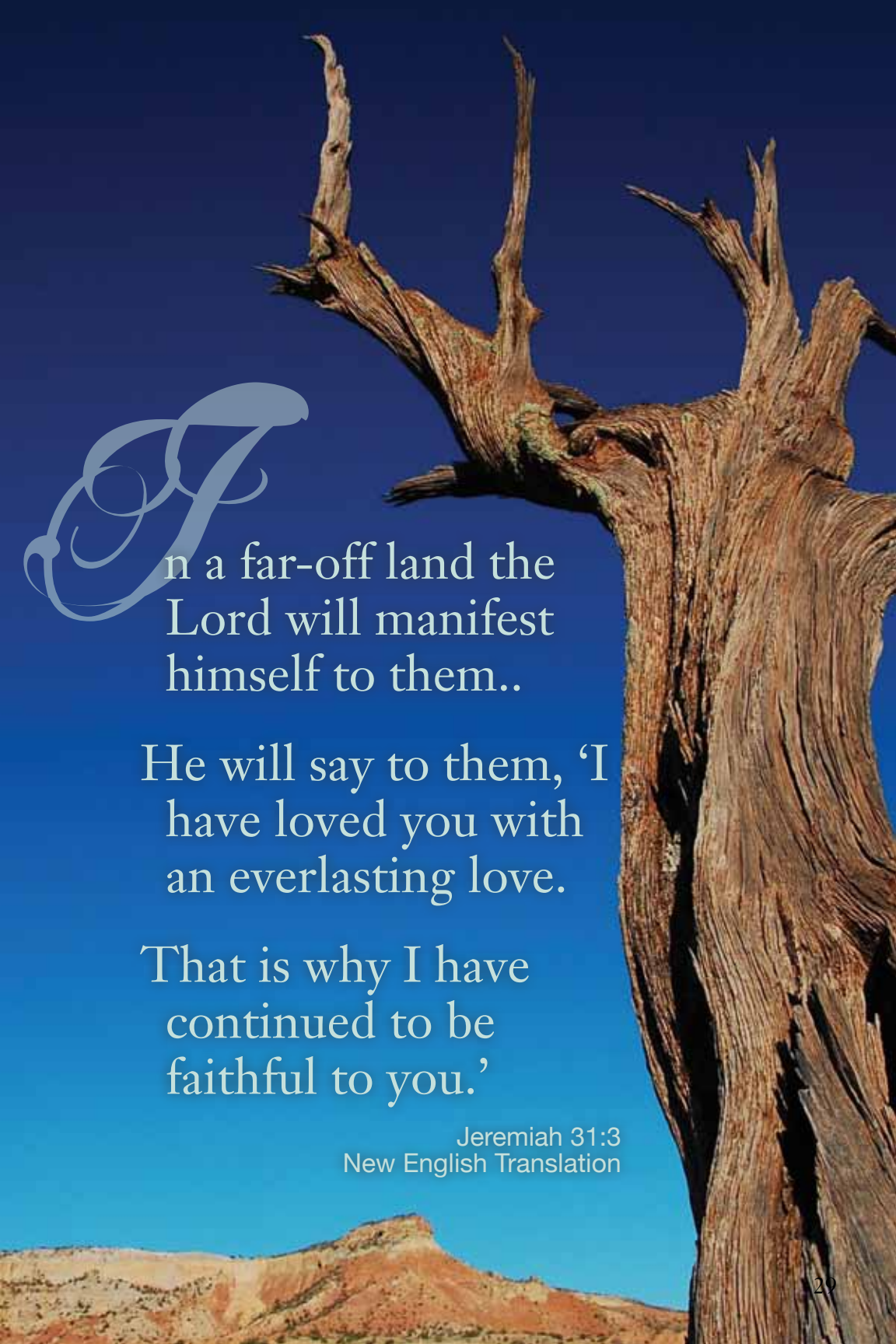
CONTACT US

- 3 Union is one of only two Adventist colleges on the 2013 Military Friendly Schools list.
- 4 Practical experience, dedicated professors, Christian classmates and a wide variety of majors provide excellent preparation for a different kind of service.

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In a far-off land the
Lord will manifest
himself to them..

He will say to them, ‘I
have loved you with
an everlasting love.

That is why I have
continued to be
faithful to you.’

Jeremiah 31:3
New English Translation



NAD MILITARY CHURCH

Charter Membership

If you are assigned overseas for six months or longer in some type of official government or military-related service for Canada or the United States (active duty in the armed forces, civilian employee, teacher, AAFES worker, contractor, or family member), then you are eligible to join the NAD Military Church. To request a transfer of your membership, visit <http://nad.AdventistChaplains.org>. Click on the link “NAD Military Church.”

Membership transfer request forms are available under “Membership.”

Your NAD Military Church staff and board look forward to serving you!

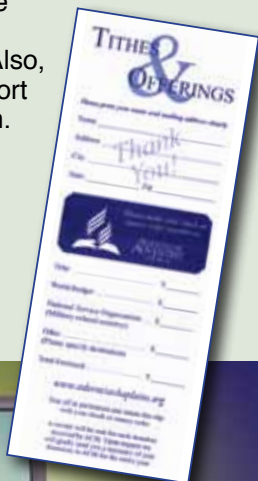
Online Giving

Honoring God through faithful stewardship is encouraged of all Seventh-day Adventists. In the Bible rich blessings are promised to those who return an honest tithe and are generous with offerings to support God’s work.

In response to requests from Adventist members in the United States military, the NSO has made arrangements for members in the U.S. Armed Forces serving outside the United States to be able to send tithes and offerings through the North American Division, and thus qualify for a receipt for tax-exempt contributions.

For your convenience go to www.nad.adventistchaplains.org and use the drop-down menu to make your contribution online.

Chaplains and members are encouraged to support ACM/NSO as their “conference” that provides pastoral care and religious materials for their spiritual well-being. Also, please remember to support your base chapel program. Military members serving in countries in other world divisions should contact their conference/union leadership or the division ACM director for further guidance in this area.



**RICH BLESSINGS
ARE PROMISED
TO THOSE WHO
RETURN AN
HONEST TITHE.**

continued from page 7

irrational? Knowing your point of toleration makes all the difference in the world. Once you know your point of toleration, learn techniques that will help calm your mind and body. I have a friend who serves as a chaplain at Fort Hood, Texas. He gave me a good technique to use when anger flares. He told me that he never says a word about what is disturbing him for 24 hours. He thinks about it, plots a course of action, and then executes. After a few hours his anger subsides and he usually forgets the issue.

If the service member is too embarrassed to physically attend, there are a wealth of programs online.

Fourth, the abuser should be involved in some sort of group therapy or classes on anger management. If the service member is too embarrassed to physically attend, there are a wealth of programs online. These include the Freedom Program (<http://www.freedomprogramme.co.uk/>), Blain Nelson's Abuse Page (<http://blainn.com/abuse/>), Respect (<http://www.giverespect.org/>), Hitting Home, and Everyman Project (<http://www.everymanproject.co.uk/cont4.html>).

The Apostle John declared: "I wish above all things that you prosper and be in good health." God's sole desire for the family is that we love and cherish each and every family member underneath our roof. Remember God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of love, of power, and a sound mind.

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The National Service Organization is the official military-relations office of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Its primary mission is to provide pastoral care and religious resources to support the spiritual well-being of Seventh-day Adventist military-related personnel.

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“Sometimes
you have to
stand alone to
prove that you
can still stand.”

—Anonymous



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