

Issue 2
2013

For God & Country

*A Journal for
Seventh-day Adventists
Serving in Uniform*





by **Gary R. Councill**
 Director, Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries
 Chaplain (Colonel), U.S. Army Retired

THE THIN BLUE LINE

Apostle Paul describes evil forces in the last days (2 Timothy 3:1-5). According to FBI statistics, most people will be the victim of a criminal act at least once during their lifetime. In 2011, over 12,000,000 people felt the sting of crime in the United States. Last year 165 law enforcement officers were killed performing their duties. To quote John Walsh of the television show, *America's Most Wanted*, "It matters not how they died, but how they lived and what they lived for."

What motivates someone to enter the challenging and disciplined careers of law enforcement? Some may be enamored with the uniform, badge, gun, and police vehicle. Those things are symbols of authority and power. Misused and misapplied authority can turn into arrogant abuse of others.

When governed by public law, moral ethics, and professional training, authority is a positive blessing protecting and defending the innocent and assisting victims. Others simply wish to serve their neighbors and communities by promoting public safety and justice. Christian principles naturally lead to upholding moral values and responsible behavior.

When you see a police officer, do you think of them as one of God's ministers? In Romans 13 the Apostle Paul tells us God established them as His servants. The "thin blue line" of men and women who serve and protect their neighbors and communities from harm daily perform both routine and difficult tasks while facing the possibility of personal injury or death.

Adventists are law-abiding citizens

who care for their neighbors' well-being. That caring is expressed by church members working in the justice system as judges, prosecuting attorneys, uniformed police, corrections, parole, probation officers, ATF agents, border patrol, immigration officials, etc. Businesses, institutions, and organizations also require security guards. Security must be considered for denominational properties and church events such as camp meeting.

Even the General Conference building has a security force. These vocations are noble for Adventist Christians. I believe it is possible to be a practicing Adventist and work in public safety and justice systems.

Since the terrorists attacks on America 11 September 2001, over 6,000 military personnel have died in the Global War on Terror, but more than 100,000 Americans have been murdered in our own country. The war on crime impacts all citizens as

much or more than foreign wars.

Long overdue, ACM is promoting pastoral care and religious support for Adventists engaged in that fight. The ACM quarterly journal, *For God and Country*, will include articles pertaining to Adventists in law enforcement. Please let us know who you are and where to send your free subscription.

ACM has also launched a new website at www.AdventistsInUniform.org as one way to affirm and recognize the service of Adventist police officers being as important as church members serving in the armed forces. Over fifty Adventist pastors, including three conference presidents and four departmental leaders, serve as chaplains to various law enforcement agencies. Their volunteer service is another way of ministering to those who serve their neighbors and communities. ACM appreciates what the men and women of law enforcement do.

Table of Contents



- 2 Perspective
- 4 Adventist Community Chaplains to Meet
- 5 Adventists in Uniform
- 6 Use My Talents, Lord
- 10 Being Fished by God
- 14 Of Sheepdogs and Shoes
- 18 Woman in Blue
- 22 Passing the Test
- 26 NAD Graduations, Promotions, Ordinations, and Retirements

WHAT IS YOUR STORY?



Every day Seventh-day Adventist men and women in uniform faithfully serve. The uniform may be military fatigues, law enforcement blues, the protective covering and helmet for firefighting, the paramedic or EMT uniform or others.

Whatever the line of duty, your story should be shared. Your family, friends, and the church-at-large wish to honor your service and commitment.

Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries seeks stories of Adventists serving in uniform. Please contact the editor at Deena.Bartel-Wagner@nad.adventist.org to learn how your story can be told or to submit an article that promotes a Christian perspective on one of the services.



ADVENTIST COMMUNITY CHAPLAINS TO MEET

The second annual Seventh-day Adventist Community Chaplains Association (SDACommCA) training conference will be held from July 5-7 in Grapevine, Texas. For the first time Adventist chaplains who serve in the Civil Air Patrol, fire and police departments, and other agencies will have the opportunity to meet together and receive training for their specialized areas of ministry. Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries (ACM) is the sponsor of the event.

“Seventh-day Adventists who serve as community chaplains have never officially organized or been offered training,” says Gary Councill, General Conference ACM Director. “The time is overdue for that to change, and ACM is

offering an opportunity for a brief conference in conjunction with the International Conference of Police Chaplains (ICPC).”

ACM has knowledge of over forty Adventist police chaplains, one fire department chaplain and eighteen Civil Air Patrol chaplains. The department continues to collect names and contact information of Adventist chaplains serving as community chaplains in any capacity.

“This event seeks to promote community chaplaincy ministry and validate the vital ministry performed and provided by Adventist chaplains to the greater communities in which Adventists have a presence,” says Councill. “ACM believes this is a primary method that follows Christ’s way of reaching people (see *Ministry of Healing*, page 143).



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT THE ADVENTIST CHAPLAINCY MINISTRIES WEBSITE AT WWW.NAD.ADVENTISTCHAPLAINS.ORG.



ADVENTISTS in UNIFORM



Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries (ACM) and the National Service Organization (NSO) are pleased to announce the launch of *Adventists In Uniform*, a new website designed specifically for Seventh-day Adventists who serve as uniformed members of the military, law enforcement, and fire and rescue. The website, www.AdventistsInUniform.org, also has a special section for veterans.

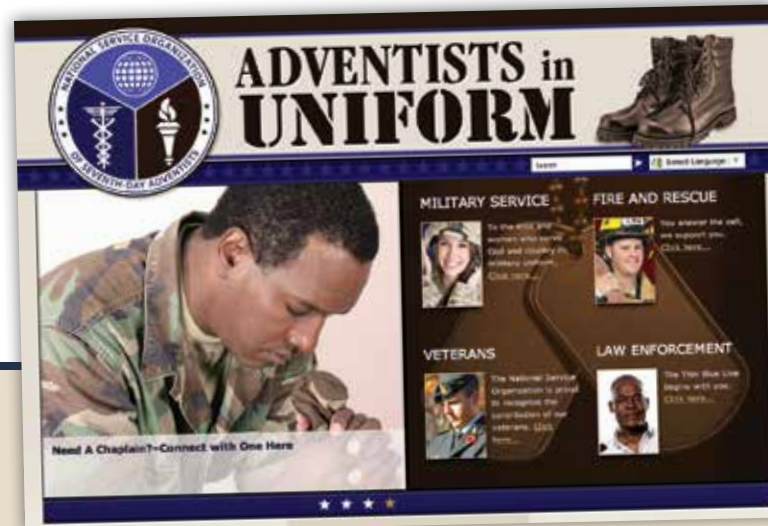
“In today’s technology-driven world, having a method to share current and up-to-date information is imperative,” says Gary Councill, director of ACM and NSO. “The new website will provide a central location where Adventists members who are serving their community and country can find information about the services ACM and the NSO provides.”

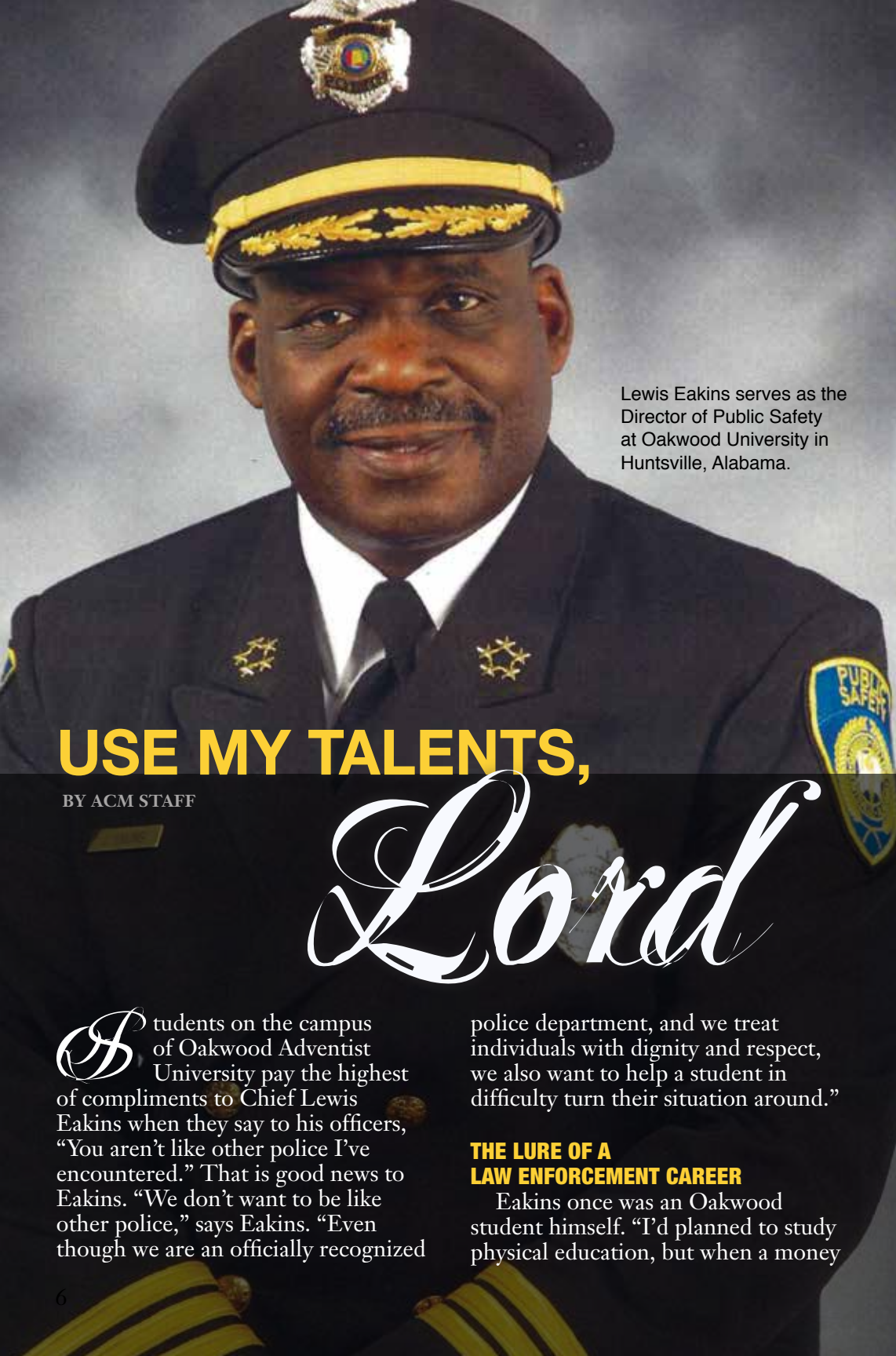
Visitors to the site will find information about the denominational position on military service, religious accommodation, religious support, as well as witnessing opportunities in the military.

A special veterans section will feature stories of Adventist veterans, how they served, and what their ministry is today. Adventists should not forget the legacy of brothers and sisters who have faithfully served God and country.

The law enforcement, fire and rescue personnel sections will highlight information and resources pertinent to those who are working in their local community, whether it is on the city, county, state, or federal level.

A special media section will contain current issues of the publication *For God and Country*, along with archived editions from previous years. Visitors will also have access to resources such as mobile apps and recommended websites on topics of interest.





Lewis Eakins serves as the Director of Public Safety at Oakwood University in Huntsville, Alabama.

USE MY TALENTS,

BY ACM STAFF

Lord

Students on the campus of Oakwood Adventist University pay the highest of compliments to Chief Lewis Eakins when they say to his officers, “You aren’t like other police I’ve encountered.” That is good news to Eakins. “We don’t want to be like other police,” says Eakins. “Even though we are an officially recognized

police department, and we treat individuals with dignity and respect, we also want to help a student in difficulty turn their situation around.”

THE LURE OF A LAW ENFORCEMENT CAREER

Eakins once was an Oakwood student himself. “I’d planned to study physical education, but when a money

shortage kept me from staying at Oakwood I was disappointed.” Not to be deterred and eager to continue their education, Eakins and a friend decided to take a course at a public college. “The only class that still had open seats was Introduction to Law Enforcement,” says Eakins. “This caught my attention and I decided to enroll. That led me to pursue an associate degree in Police Science.”

During the time he was studying for his Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice/Business Administration, Eakins also worked as a security officer at Oakwood. While he was a reserve officer on the Huntsville police force, Eakins was offered the job of Assistant Chief of Police at Texas Southern University (TSU). “I was 24-years-old and the youngest command level officer in Houston,” says Eakins. “The Chief became my mentor and modeled what being an officer entailed.”

The TSU campus was in an urban setting and 8,000 students strong. “We dealt with a multitude of challenges

“The only class that still had open seats was Introduction to Law Enforcement,” says Eakins.

on campus. Robbery, kidnappings, and general crime, as well as small riots and several large demonstrations kept us on alert. During this period we started major initiatives in security cameras and access control on the university campus,” says Eakins. “Much of what I learned during my time at TSU gave me the foundation

for other positions I have held throughout my career.”

Following his time at TSU, Eakins became Bureau Commander of Patrol Operations, Support Services, and Investigations Divisions with the METRO Transit Police in Houston, Texas. “When I began, our officers were non-sworn and we were a staff of four,” says Eakins. “We made a change to sworn officers and our department eventually grew to 200 officers.”

MOVING OUT ON HIS OWN

In 1986, Eakins decided he wanted to move into business for himself and opened Eakins Consulting Services, a private investigations and security firm. “Our work included providing employment backgrounds and corporate due diligence as well as security consulting services to



Eakins served as the Bureau Commander of Metro Transit Police in Houston, Texas.

religious organizations, business entities, and private clients,” says Eakins. Familiar names among his client list included the Federal

Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), the U. S. Small Business Administration, and Enron.

Today, Eakins also serves as the chairperson for the American Society for Industrial Security International North Alabama chapter.

“I’d been in business for 22 years when officials from Oakwood contacted me about a vacancy in the university’s campus safety department,” says Eakins. Intrigued with the idea of returning to the campus he had once patrolled while a college student, Eakins made the move.

COMING FULL CIRCLE

His arrival also brought changes within the department. “We needed to employ a more professional model,” says Eakins. “At that time our non-sworn officers only had first aid training and nothing else.”

With his background, Eakins understood the value a law enforcement status would bring to the university’s public safety department. “We don’t have a crime problem at the university,” says Eakins. “Our move to law enforcement status was proactive.”

In July 2008, the university made the decision to follow Eakins’ recommendation. Eakins was

tasked with gathering support from the local police chief, sheriff, and district attorney. The first step in the process was to obtain backing at the state legislative level. Eakins contacted Senator Tom Butler (D) of the Alabama House of Representatives. “Butler sponsored a bill to amend the existing legislation to give Oakwood’s president the authority to ‘employ and appoint police officers’ that have full arrest powers.” The bill passed, the department obtained an agency number, and was officially designated as the Oakwood University Police Department on July 30, 2009, making it the first Seventh-day Adventist institution in the North American Division to have a police department.

A police force dovetails with emergency operations plans. “This allows us to have an increased level of preparedness and enforcement for events such as fire, earthquake, tornado, active shooter situations, etc.,” says Eakins. “It also gives

us the authority to conduct search and seizures, make arrests, and protect the campus from external forces.”

The status also allows the department to apply for various state and federal grants for funding purposes, as well as enhancing the professional training of officers with mandated police academy training.

“We can now share and receive information with other law enforcement agencies,” says Eakins. “When the General Conference held the Spring Council meeting on our campus, our department was able to determine whether there were any credible threats of which we needed to be aware. We worked with the FBI, Alabama state troopers, and the City of Huntsville police.”

WE TAKE CARE OF OUR OWN

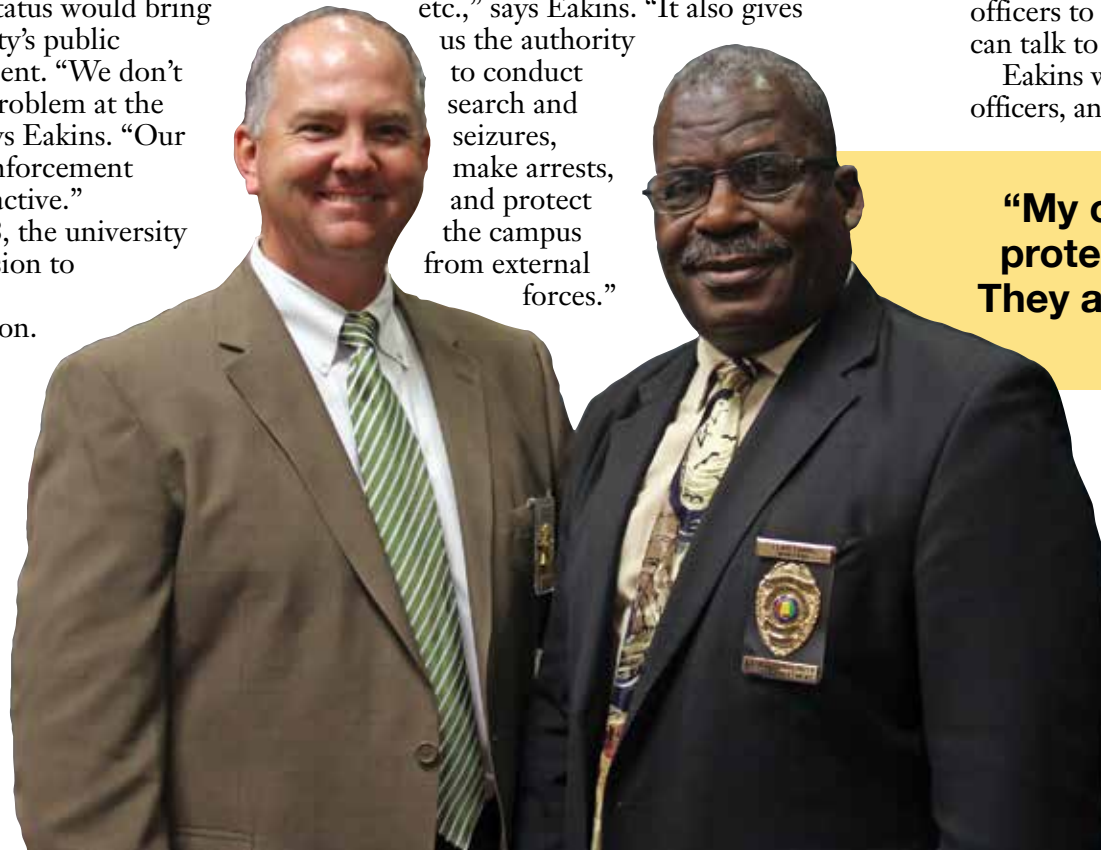
The emotional health of his officers is important to Eakins also. “In my career I had two officers who committed suicide,” says Eakins. “I understand the need to have a chaplain on staff. This allows the officers to have someone whom they can talk to confidentially.”

Eakins works closely with his officers, and is now mentoring them to

room, the issues that will impact the university, etc.”

As Eakins walks the 1100-acre of Oakwood’s campus, he reflects on his career in law enforcement and his current role at Oakwood. “It’s amazing to me to be back here at Oakwood, where my interest in law enforcement first took hold. I understand the culture of Oakwood and this helps me as the chief of the department,” says Eakins. “My officers are here to not only protect the students and faculty. They are here to make a difference in individual lives.”

Eakins says that the officers often go out of their way to help a student who is struggling. “One day a student was involved in an incident in the cafeteria and wasn’t able to get a meal,” says Eakins. “One of the officers who responded offered to take the student to Burger King. It gave the student time to cool down and the officer was able to connect with him. It was a positive outcome for all involved.”



Lewis Eakins (right) collaborates area law enforcement personnel, including Sheriff Blake Dorning (left).

“My officers are here to not only protect the students and faculty. They are here to make a difference in individual lives.”



fill administrative roles. “I have them attend various community meetings, where the department has to be represented. Before they attend, I brief them on various aspects, such as the personalities in the

“When I first began working as a police officer I committed to not having to work on Sabbath. This was a stand I had to take for myself,” says Eakins. “The opportunities that I have had were not my doing. God has taken me and my talents and worked through me.”

BEING FISHED *by* GOD

BY ACM STAFF

Death seemed imminent. As a rookie police officer on his first beat, Paul Muniz had one thought—*I'm going to die this week.*

"I'd been assigned to ride with a sergeant who insisted on taking every high priority call that week," says Muniz. Although it was a heart-stopping entry into his new career, Muniz was doing what he loved.

"I was a preacher's kid who grew up in the church," says Muniz. "My dad is a Nazarene pastor gifted for parish ministry. Instead of being attracted to it, I looked at pastoral ministry with earthly eyes." All Paul could see was the heavy load his dad carried with a low monetary remuneration.

For Muniz, a career in law enforcement was intriguing because of his understanding of the idea of the law. "I understood and believed in the ideas of

keeping God's law and man's law," says Muniz. "As a young adult I wasn't always thinking about what I heard in spiritual settings. Instead, I was attracted to the idea of prestige, power, and money."

TURNING LIVES AROUND

Muniz did survive his first week on the job. His career began in Camden, New Jersey where 400 officers kept



Rookie patrolman Paul as a Police Academy graduate.



Patrol Officer Paul Muniz on the beat.



Patrol Officer Paul Muniz with drug-free poster.



Chief Paul Muniz speaking to teachers.

watch over eight square miles of real estate. Muniz spent time in special ops, narcotics, homicide, the juvenile division, and became involved in the D.A.R.E. program, the highly acclaimed program that equips youth with skills to avoid drugs, gangs, and violence.

The D.A.R.E. program was a highlight for Muniz. "I was able to build friendships with the students I worked with in D.A.R.E.," says Muniz. "Students were taught how to build support systems that helped deal with peer pressure in the areas of drugs, violence, and gangs. As an urban teen when you see others making quick cash, driving fancy cars with big rims, and supposedly living the good life, the temptation to deal drugs is big."

"We often talk about being fishers of men, but God goes fishing too. He wants to use our talents to minister for Him."

Muniz also advocated for kids who were in trouble. Helping turn a life around for good was a natural result of the years he had watched his dad minister to others. "The Lord allowed me opportunities to minister to those around me," says Muniz. "I would see kids years after I had worked with them who asked if I remembered them. Then they would tell me how their lives had changed."

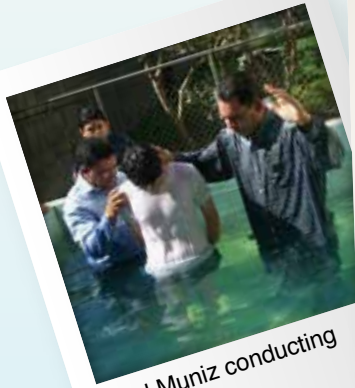
MINISTRY IS CALLING

In 1999, Muniz had a change in his life, too. "I began working alongside my father," says Muniz. "I ministered in a Spanish church in Camden." This eventually led to full-time ministry in the Nazarene church.

Muniz never imagined he would eventually end up in Berrien Springs, Michigan playing volleyball with Adventist seminary students. "For two years conversations with a friend led me to find the truth about the Sabbath. I was re-baptized in 2005 and joined the Adventist church," says Muniz. "I began my seminary studies in 2006."



Pastor Paul Muniz speaking at 9/11 memorial ceremony in Bristol, PA.



Paul Muniz conducting a baptism.



Paul Muniz visits a lady in Honduras.



Pastor Paul Muniz on a mission trip to Honduras.

GROWING A CHAPLAIN

It wasn't long before Muniz learned about chaplaincy ministry. "When a friend asked me what my ministry was and then asked if I had considered chaplaincy, I didn't know how to respond," says Muniz. "I'd never heard about chaplaincy ministry."

After some research, Muniz decided to register for a unit of Clinical Pastoral Education. "I enjoyed it so much I chose to complete a year-long course," says Muniz. "I was eventually offered a residency, and then received an offer to work in a hospice unit in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania."

Ministry in a hospice unit has special challenges. Muniz learned quickly that ministry had to be in the "now" because there might not be tomorrow. "When I left for the weekend there could be 27 people on the unit," says Muniz. "On Monday, when I returned, 17 of those people might have died over the weekend."

As Muniz continued his seminary studies, he was fully focused on entering chaplaincy ministry. While at Andrews, Muniz met his future wife, Esperanza or Espi. "We actually met at the North American Division Evangelism Institute," says Paul. They were married in May 2008.

"My seminary studies were coming to an end and as any prospective graduate I was looking forward to learning where I would be serving," says Muniz.

Two of the job offers were typical of what a seminary student might expect. A hospital wanted Muniz as a hospital chaplain. There was also an opportunity to pastor in a three church district. "The third possibility was not something I had sought out or expected," says Muniz. "I was contacted by the Adventist Relief and Development Agency (ADRA) with the opportunity to be the Agency Safety and Security Director." This was a perfect fit with Muniz's law enforcement background.

GOD—THE FISHERMAN

"God knows you better than you know yourself," says Muniz. "He knows how to fish us. We often talk about being fishers of men, but God goes fishing too. He wants to use our talents to minister for Him."

Paul and Espi prayed that God would reveal His perfect will to them. "I'd just spent several years studying and training to be a chaplain," says Muniz. "How could the answer be to

return to work that would use many of the skills that I learned in law enforcement?" For Paul and Espi, it became apparent that this was where God was leading.

"I moved to Silver Spring and began my work with ADRA in September 2011," says Muniz. "Esperanza had remained at Andrews where she was working as the assistant dean of women."

THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DOOR

A knock on his hotel room door on October 14 turned Paul's world upside down. A two-car accident had ended Espi's life. "I had made those kinds of notification calls many times as a police officer," says Paul. "Now I was the person opening the door to news I didn't want to hear. Life is precious and too often we don't enjoy it enough."

KEEPING THEM SAFE

Today, as Paul oversees the safety and security of ADRA employees around the world, he seeks to be as informed as possible about threats and alerts that may prove dangerous. "We follow United Nations and U.S.

State Department alerts," says Paul. "Additionally we cross-check with other non-governmental agencies."

There are four key areas used to keep ADRA employees safe. "We monitor, evaluate, and assess situations on a daily basis," says Paul. "Additionally, we train our employees and in-country office staff to meet challenges they may face. It's imperative that they have the tools and training in security management necessary to stay safe." Another key aspect of his work with ADRA is to help craft security management policy and procedures that will allow the work of ADRA to go forward, and maintain a safe environment for those who are dedicating their lives to help others.

From that first rookie week on the force in Camden, New Jersey, through 20 years as a law enforcement officer, and experiencing the loss of his wife, Paul Muniz still clings to his faith and trust in God. "My life has been a journey that has included several painful losses. When I look at loss after loss, after loss, what I see is God's grace uplifting me through it all," says Paul.

"When I look at loss after loss, what I see is God's grace uplifting me."



Paul Muniz speaking in India.



Paul Muniz in an ADRA refugee camp.



OF SHEEPDOGS & SHOES

BY ACM STAFF

In the blackness of a tropical night Dale Hodges had a literal mountaintop experience that led him to Christ. “When I didn’t have enough money to continue in college, I joined the Louisiana National Guard to fund my educational goals,” says Dale. “I discovered I enjoyed the lifestyle so much that I switched to active duty and served in the military police corps.”

Dale’s military career took him to Germany, Honduras, and Panama. During his Panama deployment, a midnight encounter with a local family changed Dale’s life forever. “A local tradesman brought items to our mountain outpost on a regular basis for us,” says Dale. “Late one night he



arrived very upset. His daughter was seriously ill and needed help.”

MERCY’S MISSION

Dale and several others made a mission of mercy trip down the mountain to the family’s village. “In the pitch black we headed out on the treacherous road,” says Dale. “When I arrived in the village my job was to provide security for those who would treat the child.”

As Dale patrolled the area his eyes began to be opened. “We were standing among some of the poorest people on earth,” says Dale. “I couldn’t believe it when I saw the mud hut that was constructed from discarded shipping pallets and dirt. The sick child lay on a grass mat on

the dirt floor. Some of the family members had “shoes” made out of tires. The rest were barefoot.”

A few days after the nighttime trip, the father came to see the soldiers who had cared for his daughter. “This man who had nothing brought a pig to roast and share with us,” says Dale. That moment still moves him to tears.

Dale wondered, *How could someone with so little be so giving to others?* He began to feel an overwhelming urge to learn more about Jesus and who He is. A request to a family member provided Dale with a Bible, which led to the

in the emergency response and evacuation of New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina.

“As our children grew, Christy and I became more concerned about raising them in the area where we lived,” says Dale. “In my 13 years as a detective I had seen much of the evil in this world. Crime rates were increasing. As a school resource officer I was aware of the problems in the schools. Our oldest son had already faced bullying because of his faith.” The concerns became matters of prayer.

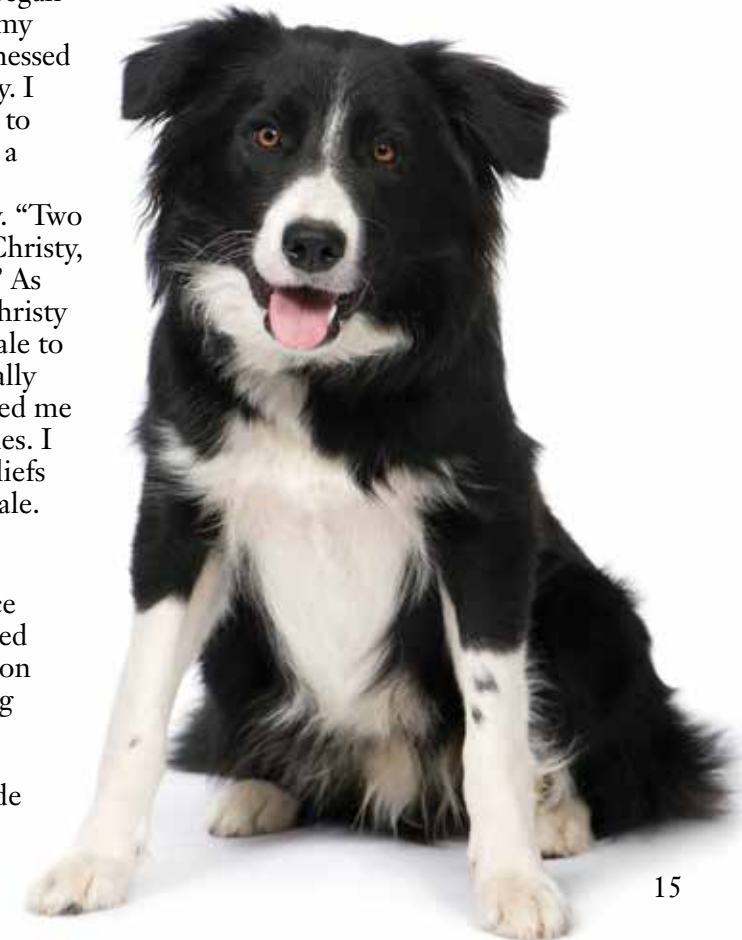
“IN MY 13 YEARS AS A DETECTIVE I HAD SEEN MUCH OF THE EVIL IN THIS WORLD. CRIME RATES WERE INCREASING.”

organization of a Bible study group. “As I found Christ, I also began thinking about the rest of my life,” says Dale. “I had witnessed what divorce does to family. I didn’t want that to happen to me.” He began to pray for a Christian wife.

Then Dale met Christy. “Two days after we met, I told Christy, “I’m going to marry you!” As their relationship grew, Christy continued to introduce Dale to Bible truths. “I was biblically illiterate and Christy helped me learn what the Bible teaches. I accepted the Adventist beliefs and was baptized,” says Dale.

WORKING THE BEAT

With his military service behind him, Dale continued in law enforcement in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, working in corrections, criminal investigations, as a school resource officer, a homicide detective, and assisting





Dale Hodges served for 13 years in law enforcement in Louisiana.

With those thoughts in mind, Dale knew he was going to have to develop a new image for the department.

Dale worked with the AU administration to assess campus needs and made recommendations for changes. “We had to implement a complete restructuring of the office,” says Dale. “Upon my recommendation trained professionals now make up the full-time staff. These are individuals who have graduated from police academy and certified dispatcher training. We also have an LPN and certified fire safety inspector on staff.”

Emergency alert systems, written and adopted policies, active shooter planning, and an ongoing safety budget are other items that were adopted through the department’s development.

PASS

“There is an expectation by the population that those in leadership will make decisions to provide safety and security,” says Dale. “This is especially true within the Adventist community.” Dale recognized a need for networking with other Adventists who are tasked with providing security in Adventist institutions.

In 2010, nine Adventist security professionals met at AU for the first time to form the Professional Adventists for Safety and Security (PASS) group. With an overall growing awareness of security issues and needs by the church, PASS membership is also expanding. The meetings include training in information technology, implementation of tracking systems, and real time incident notifications. Although security advances have been made, some things never change in the security field. Parking policy enforcement, clearing buildings at night, and other routine calls still

One day Christy saw a job posting on the Internet for the campus security director of Andrews University (AU). She convinced Dale to apply, even though deep down he didn’t believe he’d be considered for the job. “I was astonished after the interview when I was offered the position,” says Dale. “My thoughts were, *I am the provider for our family. How can I just walk away from an established career?*”

Christy had another perspective. She told Dale they’d already been praying for God to lead them. If the university offered the job, God had opened the opportunity. “That decision brought me to the best job of my career,” says Dale.

VEGGIE-COPS—ARE YOU KIDDING ME?

Dale used his field experience to reorganize and build the Department of Campus Safety at AU into a respected entity. “The first time I heard the term veggie-cop I was appalled,” says Dale. “As a professional law enforcement officer I felt this was offensive and demeaning.”

“THE SHEEPDOGS ARE THOSE INDIVIDUALS WHO STAND UP FOR THOSE BULLIED BY THE WOLVES.”

occupy the time of officers.

As PASS president, Dale seeks to work with other professionals in developing awareness that security at public Adventist events, such as camp meetings and graduations doesn’t just happen. Coordinated vision, planning, and training provide better security in any setting.

SHEEPDOGS AND SHOES

During his law enforcement career, Dale says two things stood out to him. “While I was at the police academy, an old veteran told us that there are three kinds of people in the world—wolves, sheep, and sheepdogs,” says Dale. “He told us that he’d seen what wolves do to sheep. The sheepdogs are those individuals who stand up for those bullied by the wolves.”

As a homicide detective Dale was

called to the results of many violent acts. He was often tasked to accompany the relatives of the victims to identify their loved one. “As I witnessed this countless times, I realized that most people get up in the morning and put their shoes on without a second thought,” says Dale. “There are people who tie their shoes in the morning and have no idea that a pathologist will be untying and taking those shoes off of them that night.” Such an intimate task, and yet, such a seemingly mundane detail in a daily life.

Sheepdogs and shoes—those images are what propel Dale Hodges to be the best law enforcement professional he can be. They are what drive him to expect excellence and professionalism from those who serve under him to keep those under his watch safe and secure. Sheepdogs and shoes.



Dale Hodges serves as the Director of Campus Safety at Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan.

Woman in Blue

BY ACM STAFF

“Being a woman probably was an advantage. Many times, people opened their door to me because I didn’t look like a police officer.”

school, Douma worked as a security guard at Loma Linda University. “As I was attending classes I realized I really didn’t want to be a nurse. My personality needed more variety in the tasks I would be doing daily,” says Douma. “I was attending an event where I saw several uniformed officers providing security. It sparked my interest.”

Applications and successful graduation from police academy eventually led to Douma becoming the first woman officer to serve on the force in Hemet, California. “I was an unknown quantity to the other officers,” says Douma. “They’d never worked with a woman officer.”

Being the only woman had practical challenges. Her locker had to be located in a hallway. Douma worked hard at excelling in everything she did. “I knew that we had some physical testing coming up,” says Douma. “One of the tests I would have to pass was to be able to scale and cross over a six foot wall.” Douma practiced over and over, but was unable to meet the challenge. The day of the test she gave it one last try. All the practice paid off—she scaled the wall successfully. “I was so excited about my accomplishment that I forgot we were being timed,” says Douma. “I



While studying to be a nurse, Suzy Douma realized she wanted to help others in another way. She discovered her true calling in a law enforcement career.

reached the top of the wall and just sat there for a few moments, enjoying my accomplishment, until someone yelled that the clock was still running!”

Douma’s career entailed work as a patrol officer, assignments to the juvenile system, as a traffic officer, and in narcotics. “The only thing I didn’t do was work with K-9 units and ride a motorcycle,” says Douma.

While working with narcotics teams, Douma was able to gain entry into locations where other officers might not have been as successful. “I worked as a plain clothes officer,” says Douma. “Being a woman probably was an advantage. Many times, people opened their door to me because I didn’t look like a police officer.”

REACHING HEARTS AND MINDS

The juvenile justice system brought Douma in contact with children and teens who were in trouble with the law, but weren’t incarcerated. “Our work was a diversion program to try to help them turn their lives around,” says Douma. “Involving them in programs like community service and building relationships were a big part of what we did.”

One of those teens still weighs on her mind. “Kyle* was a good kid who had a terrible home life,” says Douma. “His dad was a major drug dealer and his mom was a user. I was able to build a relationship with Kyle, but eventually lost track of him. Five or six years later I saw his dad. The irony was that the dad had reformed, but Kyle was in the state penitentiary for a serious crime that would keep him incarcerated for years.”

The disappointments are balanced with success stories. Douma’s 15-year-old son was killed in a drunk driving accident. As a part of the healing process Douma joined Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) and told her family’s story at schools. “Three or four years later I was sitting in my patrol car at a stoplight,” says Douma. “A young man approached my car, indicating that he wanted to talk to me. He said, ‘I remember when you talked to us at school. I stopped drinking after that and I just wanted you to know.’”

SWAT

Being commander of a SWAT team meant a new way for Douma to use her training and skills. “One of the most critical parts of a successful SWAT team is that the members have to trust each other and their leader implicitly,” says Douma. “SWAT

teams have very strict guidelines under which they operate. Those are in place for a reason. When individuals begin making their own calls, the teamwork falls apart.” That is when it becomes dangerous for everyone.

As leader, Douma had to make the conscious decision to accept the responsibility to make the hard decisions. Many times on her way to a call Douma recited the 23rd Psalm. “You can never second guess your judgment as a SWAT commander, but I knew where my strength came from,” says Douma.

RETURN TO LLU

Keeping in touch with officers she knew at LLU led to Douma returning to the institution as the department director. The complex is home to the schools of medicine, dentistry, public health, pharmacy, and science and technology. Additionally, there are hospitals for children, adults, behavioral medicine, and rehabilitation.

“The department needed to overcome some troubled times,” says Douma. “One of the first things we addressed was promoting professionalism within the department.” Job training requirements were increased. A change in officers’ uniforms, patches, and badges was made. “We also began to examine our customer service,” says Douma. “This included being seen as approachable and visible throughout the institution.”

Patrolling such a large campus takes a large staff. “We currently have 53 employees, but could use at least 20 more,” says Douma. The need for more staff is because of mandated reporting as a result of the Clery Act, named for Jeanne Clery, a 19-year-old freshman who

Suzy Douma serves as the Director of Security Services at Loma Linda University Adventist Health Services Center, which includes the campus of Loma Linda University and Medical Center.



Suzy Douma oversees the work of security officers on the Loma Linda campus, including that of K-9 Officer Dwayne Symonette and KY.

was murdered in 1986 in her campus residence hall. Institutions must publish and distribute their Annual Campus Security Report by October 1st each year. It outlines the crime statistics for the prior three years, provides policy statements about safety and security measures on the campus, describes the crime prevention programs and all procedures that are followed in any investigation and prosecution of alleged sex offenses.

“Our students don’t just stay in the environs of LLU itself,” says Douma. “They travel to hospitals and clinics in Redlands, Beaumont, San Bernardino, and Colton. We have to have officers patrol and respond in each of these locations.”

The department’s responsibilities require more than patrolling campuses and making sure doors are locked. “People don’t always understand the role of campus safety officers,” says Douma. “We are constantly assessing how well we are prepared to deal with any volatile incident. These could come in the

form of a fire, bomb, earthquake, or even an active shooter on campus.”

Two or three times a year a campus-wide disaster response exercise is conducted. Many more than that are conducted in smaller venues throughout the year. An alert system has been instituted in which students, faculty, and medical staff can receive alerts by email, text messages, etc. “We currently have about 80% compliance with that, but would like to see that number increase,” says Douma.

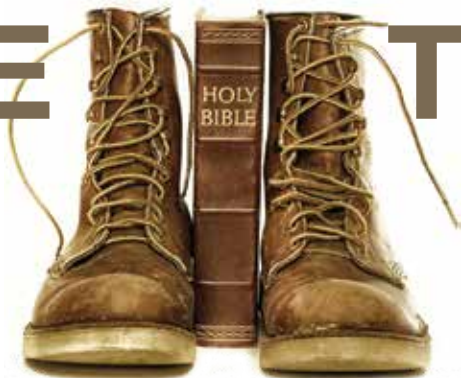
“People don’t always understand the role of campus safety officers,” says Douma. “We are constantly assessing how well we are prepared to deal with any volatile incident.”

Whether you are a male or female who is contemplating a law enforcement career, Douma recommends that you consider several things in making your choice. “Law enforcement is interesting and satisfying,” says Douma. “It is also demanding and can be dangerous. It is important to know your personality type and how that will fit with the lifestyle.”

*Kyle is a pseudonym.



PASSING THE TEST



BY ACM STAFF



Milton and Juliet Blackmon

third son and my dad's last hope to have one of his sons join him in the family business," says Milton. "I decided that I could train as a heavy equipment operator in the Army. I was sure this would be a great asset to my dad's company."

ARMY LIFE

The Vietnam War was raging and Milton's parents were concerned he would be deployed there. "The Army recruiter assured my parents that I wouldn't be sent and so they agreed to give their consent. I left Evanston, Illinois to take basic combat training at Fort Polk, Louisiana."

Milton eventually received his heavy equipment operator training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, and then was sent to Fort Bragg, North Carolina. "I wanted to go to Fort Bragg because I have many relatives in the Fayetteville area," says Milton. "I figured it would give me a place to go when I had leave."

Milton Blackmon didn't join the Army to find answers to his spiritual questions, but that's what happened. "After graduating from high school I wanted to do something other than college," says Milton. "I did well in school but I didn't like it. One day, I felt that I was supposed to visit a military recruiter station."

Because Milton was only 17-years-old, his parents had to sign the papers for him to join. "I was the

A SEEKING HEART

Although Milton grew up in the Methodist AME Church, he didn't feel as though he'd found his spiritual home. "I couldn't put my finger on anything specific. Around age 16 I began praying that God would show me the right way to follow him," says Milton. "I had been at Fort Bragg about a month when I noticed a soldier in the barracks. It was a Saturday morning and he dressed in a suit."

Curious, Milton asked where he was going and the soldier replied that he was going to church. "I was very puzzled. I had never heard of any Christians who

attended church on Saturday," says Milton. "He offered to discuss it with me later and I readily agreed."

The soldier kept his promise and began telling Milton about the Sabbath. Soon an invitation to attend a Revelation Seminar was extended, but Milton declined. "The meeting was on Friday night and I wanted to go to parties with my cousins who lived in Fayetteville. I was very much into smoking and dancing at the time," admits Milton.

The soldier was persistent and continued to extend the invitation. "I finally accepted the third time he

"I attended church the next morning. While sitting in the pew for the first time on a Sabbath, it seemed as though an impression or voice said, *This is the right way.*"



asked," says Milton. "I decided that he would keep asking until I agreed to go."

Milton's spiritual heart was opened the first night he attended. "I saw and heard things I'd never known before. I couldn't wait to learn more," says Milton. "I attended church the next morning. While sitting in the pew for the first time on a Sabbath, it seemed as though an impression or voice said, *This is the right way.*"

Milton's earlier prayer had been answered. He began Bible studies and dug deep for six months. His life began to change dramatically during that time. "I gave up smoking and dancing. My focus was no longer partying during the weekends. My

Milton Blackmon joined the Army to learn to operate heavy equipment. He learned that God had other plans for him.

diet changed,” says Milton. “I was finally baptized when I was 18. My intense Bible study continued after I was baptized. It was during that time I became convicted about something that I knew would be a test to my faith.”

Although he was in the Army, Milton decided that he would need to change his status to non-combatant. Milton asked his pastor to help him explain Milton’s new convictions to military officials. “They accepted my new beliefs and agreed that I wouldn’t have to carry a weapon.”

going to prison,” says Milton. “I’d been praying for days about this. When the moment came, I reached for my suit and went to Abney Chapel in Fayetteville.”

Milton explained to the church what happened and as a church family they prayed that God would intervene. The sun finally set and Milton headed back to the base. *I wonder where the military police will be waiting for me?* Milton thought as he drove to the base entrance. Upon arrival at the barracks he saw no

“I realized that God did indeed intervene on my behalf. I have wondered what impression was made on the sergeant that a soldier was willing to risk prison for his beliefs.”

AWOL ON SABBATH

Although Milton no longer had to carry a weapon, after he had been baptized a sergeant informed him that he would have to pull Sabbath duty. “Before joining the church, Sabbath duty hadn’t been a problem. I explained to the sergeant that being a Seventh-day Adventist, I wouldn’t be able to work on Saturdays anymore,” says Milton. “My new beliefs didn’t matter to him. The sergeant ordered me to report to duty that Saturday.”

Sabbath morning arrived and Milton stood in front of his open locker. He looked at his uniform and his suit. Which should he choose? “I knew that if I disobeyed a lawful order and went to church I would be AWOL (absent without leave) and could risk

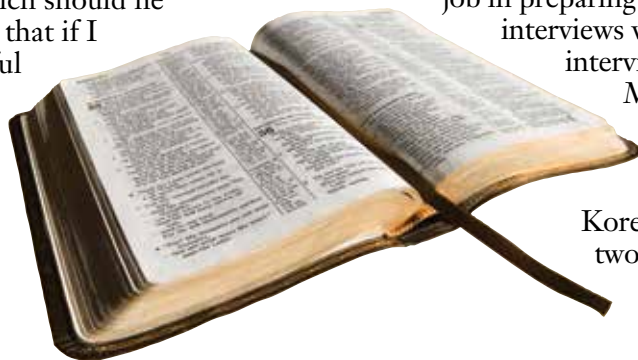
military police. Sunday passed and no one came looking for him.

“On Monday morning I came face-to-face with the sergeant who ordered me to report to duty on Saturday,” says Milton. “He didn’t say a word. I realized that God did indeed intervene on my behalf. I have wondered what impression was made on the sergeant that a soldier was willing to risk prison for his beliefs.”

“After my baptism I contacted the National Service Organization at the General Conference for help in changing my status to conscientious objector. The directors did an excellent

job in preparing me for my interviews with military interviews,” says

Milton. “I was eventually sent to South Korea and almost two years after



Milton Blackmon

use this as an opportunity to reach out to students on the campus.”

A HOSPITAL CHAPLAIN

Milton is also active as a volunteer hospital chaplain. “I have a family member who is a sickle cell patient. My ministry as a chaplain has allowed me to develop several long-term relationships with other sickle cell patients,” says Milton. “I have had the privilege of leading two of these individuals to baptism.”

Although Milton didn’t become a pastor he says God has given him many opportunities to witness in the larger community around him. “I believe in being active in the community,” says Milton. “I make it a point to get to know community leaders, judges, and politicians. I want them to be exposed in a positive manner to Christianity and Adventism.”

applying I was granted a change in my status. There were times during that period that I became discouraged, but God carried me through. Those tough times became an anchor for me later in my life when I faced other challenges.”

PREACHER OR TEACHER?

When Milton completed his enlistment, he decided to attend Oakwood College. Although he majored in religion, Milton realized that he knew he wasn’t called to parish ministry. He made a career change and entered the field of education, teaching in Adventist schools and pursuing his higher education.

“When I finished my doctoral program I learned there was a position open at Duke University. At first I didn’t apply, but eventually submitted my information,” says Milton. “Today I serve as the academic dean for freshmen and sophomore students. I

THE LITTLE THINGS COUNT

As Milton reflects on some of the tests he has experienced he is reminded that we have to be faithful to the small things in life, in order to be faithful in any big tests.

“I am reminded of the solemn words Ellen White penned,” says Milton. “She wrote, ‘The time is not far distant when the *test* will come to *every soul*. The observance of the false Sabbath will be urged upon us. The contest will be between the commandments of God and the commandments of men. Those who have yielded *step by step to worldly demands, and conformed to worldly customs* will then yield to the powers that be, rather than subject themselves to derision, insult, threatened imprisonment, and death. At that time the gold will be separated from the dross.’” *Prophets and Kings*, p. 188, emphasis supplied.

NAD GRADUATIONS, PROMOTIONS ORDINATIONS, AND RETIREMENTS

MILITARY GRADUATIONS

- CH (1LT) David Thompson is congratulated by CH (BG) Charles R. “Ray” Bailey, Deputy Chief of Chaplains, US Army, following his graduation from U.S. Army Chaplain Center and School. Thompson is currently serving as the 63rd Ordinance Battalion Chaplain at Fort Drum, New York.



- CH (CPT) Terencio Mendez (right) with CH (COL) David Colwell at his graduation from U.S. Army Chaplain Center and School. Mendez is currently serving as a battalion chaplain at Fort Hood, Texas.



PROMOTIONS

- CH Daniel Petsch has been promoted to Lieutenant Colonel. He is currently the Brigade Chaplain for the 165th Infantry Division at Fort Jackson.



ORDINATIONS

The following chaplains have been ordained to the gospel ministry.

- CH (CPT) Michael Kim, U. S. Army
- LT Charles Noles, CHC, U.S. Navy
- LT Michael Tagaloa, CHC, U. S. Navy



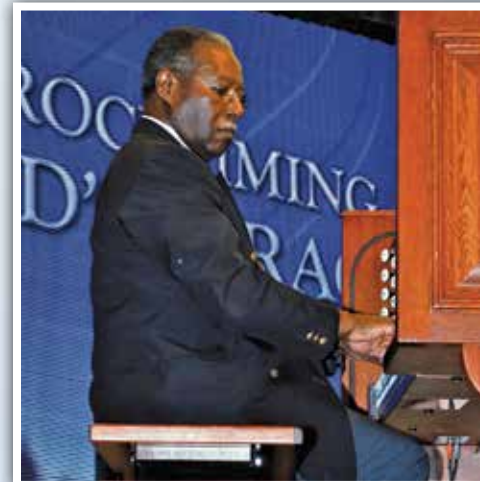
- CH (CPT) Roland Geyronzaga is serving as battalion chaplain for the 501st Airborne at Fort Bliss, Texas.

JAMES NORTH



Ministry for James North has meant serving in parish ministry, military chaplaincy, and as an educator and mentor to young seminarians. On June 30, 2013 North will retire with 50 years of service to God and Country.

As an Air Force Chaplain, North served in Vietnam, Germany, as well as Dover Air Force Base, Arlington National Cemetery, Fort Myer Army



Base, and Beal Air Force Base in the United States.

North also taught at the Air Force Chaplains School. “This helped to prepare me for the role of seminary professor,” says North. For the past 25 years North has taught at the Seventh-day Adventist Seminary (SDATS) at Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan. Among his assigned classes have been chaplaincy formation courses. “Teaching is always a joy,” says North. “I’ve enjoyed the opportunities of visiting and teaching at other Adventists college and university campuses.” One of his other prized experiences is that he has had the opportunity to play all of the organs on the Andrews University campus, as well as numerous ones in the region.



During his time at SDATS, North has also served as the representative for Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries. His impact on seminary students and influencing them towards a ministry in the area of chaplaincy has been significant. North estimates that between 50 and 75 students who he taught have gone on to become chaplains.

RETIREMENTS

ED COUSER



Upon his retirement Chaplain, Lt.Col., Edward R. Couser Jr., USAF Reserve (Retired), received a letter of appreciation, certificate, and plaque from Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries for his dedication and faithful service to the men and women of the Armed Forces. Chaplain Couser served twenty-eight years in military ministry.

Chaplain Couser (left) serves as the pastor for the Asheville North and Fairview Seventh-day Adventist Churches in North Carolina. LCDR Arthur M. Slagle, CHC, USN (Retired), Assistant ACM Director, Southeast NAD, made the presentation.

HERMAN KIBBLE

As a child, Herman Kibble came within inches of dying when a bullet fired from a gun by a four-year-old playmate punctured his abdominal wall. "My mother and father believed that my life was

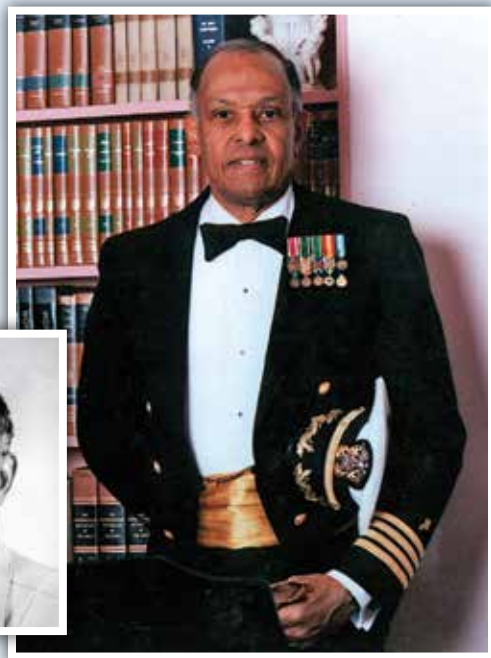


spared for good reason and they kept me aware of this belief," says Kibble.

Kibble's adult life has been one dedicated to ministry. For 17-and-a-half years Chaplain Kibble was involved in parish ministry in Southern California.

Kibble was commissioned as a United States Navy Chaplain. For 23-and-a-half years Chaplain Kibble served on land, in air, on and under the sea. He was the first African-American Seventh-day Adventist Chaplain to attain the rank of O-6, as well as being the first African-American Adventist chaplain in the Navy. He also holds the distinction of being the first Adventist chaplain to be assigned duty on an aircraft carrier. Kibble retired from the Navy in 1993 with the rank of Captain.

For the last 18 years Kibble has provided ministry to veterans as a Staff Chaplain at the Jerry Pettis Memorial Veterans Affairs Hospital. Kibble has a combined military and civilian ministry of 60 years.



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.**

*D*efend the weak and
 the fatherless;
 Uphold the cause of the
 poor and the oppressed.
 Rescue the weak and
 the needy;
 Deliver them from the
 hand of the wicked.

Psalm 82:3, 4 New International Version

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

For God and Country is designed for you, our readers. If you are a Seventh-day Adventist in uniformed service we want to yearn from you!

We are looking for news, stories from the field, and other items of interest. Your contributions can be sent to the editor at: Deena.Bartel-Wagner@nad.adventistchaplains.org.

Include digital photos (as JPEG files) that are at least 1MB in size. Please include identification of individuals who are in the photos.

Have an idea for an article, but writing isn't your forté? No problem. Send us the information and we'll write it for you.

To receive your free subscription to *For God and Country*, please contact us at the above email address.



Executive Editor:

Gary R. Councill
Chaplain (Colonel) U.S. Army, Retired

Editor:

Deena Bartel-Wagner
Deena.Bartel-Wagner@nad.adventist.org

Layout and Design:

Emily Harding
HardingDesign

Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries

Gary R. Councill, Director/Endorser
Mario Ceballos, Associate Director

The FOR GOD AND COUNTRY journal is published by the National Service Organization (NSO), a chapter of Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries (ACM). It is mailed free of charge to Seventh-day Adventist men and women serving in the U.S. Armed Forces.

If you would like to be added to the mailing list, e-mail ACM or call 301-680-6780. Comments and/or articles are welcome and should be sent to the editor at Deena.Bartel-Wagner@nad.adventist.org. Include your full name, complete mailing address, telephone, e-mail address, and current digital photos with all submissions. Items submitted by mail will not be returned unless accompanied by a self-addressed stamped return envelope.

CONTACT US: Adventist World Headquarters National Service Organization/ACM, 12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, MD 20904, U.S.A. Phone: 301-680-6780; fax: 301-680-6783; e-mail acm@gc.adventist.org; URL: <http://nad.AdventistChaplains.org>.

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.

Unless otherwise credited, all photos © BigStock 2011. Texts credited to NIV are from the *Holy Bible, New International Version*. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan Bible Publishers. Adventist® and Seventh-day Adventist® are the registered trademarks of the General Conference Corporation of Seventh-day Adventists®.

NET Bible® copyright ©1996-2006 by Biblical Studies Press, L.L.C. <http://netbible.com> All rights reserved.



There may be times
when we are
powerless to
prevent injustice,
but there must never
be a time when we
fail to protest. – Elie Wiesel



Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries
General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists®
12501 Old Columbia Pike
Silver Spring, MD 20904-6600

Nonprofit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 261
Hagerstown, MD 21740