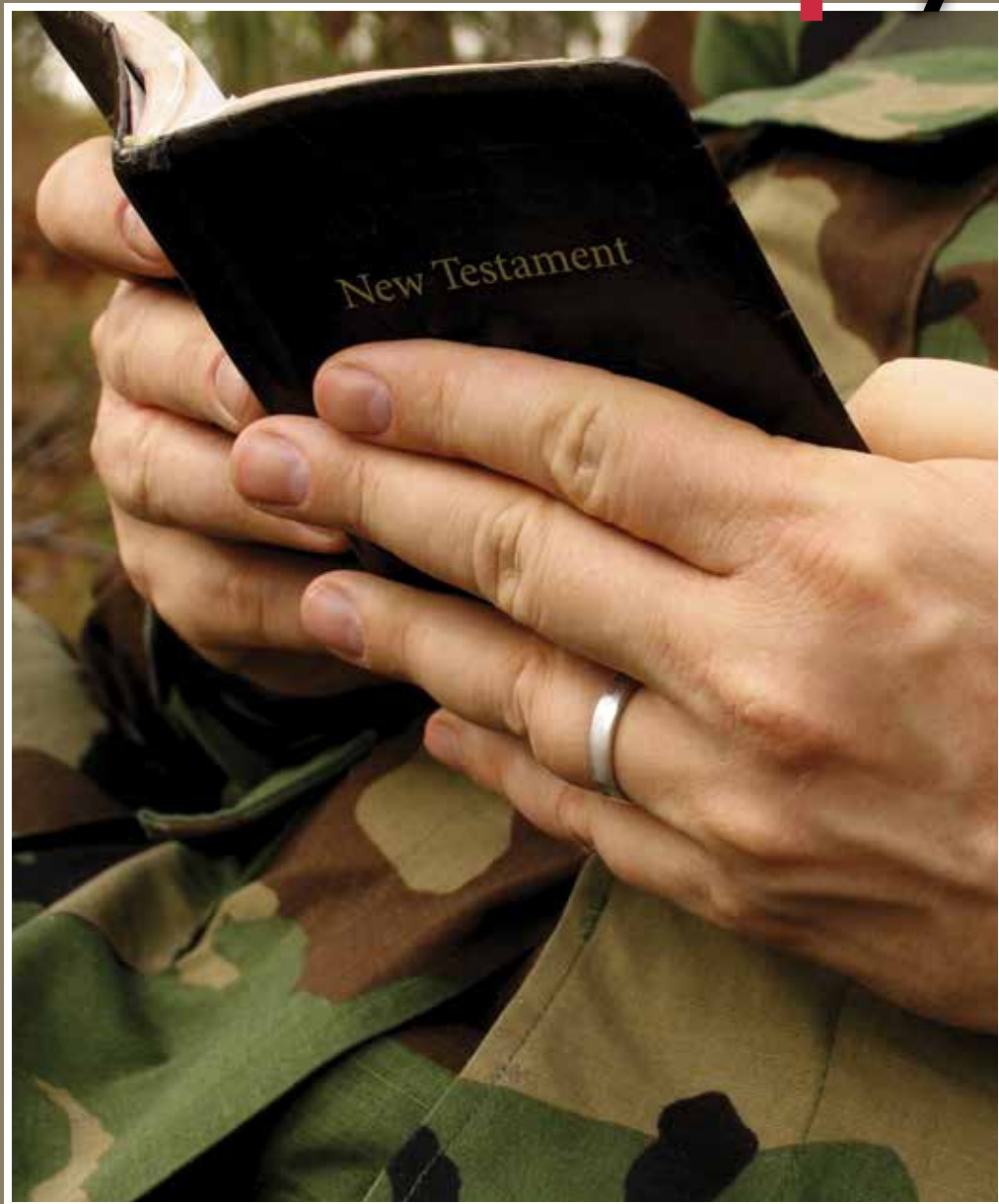


Issue 4  
2013

# For God & Country

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





# ACCOMMODATION OF RELIGIOUS PRACTICES

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

**A**n old myth persists within Adventism: if you enlist in the military, you lose all your rights, but if you are drafted, you will have Sabbath privileges. Though military personnel in the United States are subject to the *Uniform Code of Military Justice* and must adhere to the *Code of Conduct for Members of the United States Armed Forces*, military service does not abrogate the U.S. Constitution and public laws. In accordance with U.S. Public law (10 USC 47 and Section 774), the U.S. Department of Defense Instructions 1300.17 states as policy:

“The U.S. Constitution proscribes Congress from enacting any law prohibiting the free exercise of religion. The Department of Defense places a high value on the rights of members of the Military Services to observe the tenets of their respective religions. It

is the Department of Defense policy that requests for accommodation of religious practices should be approved by commanders when accommodation will not have adverse impact on mission accomplishment, military readiness, unit cohesion, standards, or discipline.”

While the above policy encourages accommodation, it is subject to command interpretation and does not necessarily guarantee your distinctive faith practices. The guidance listed below will help you be proactive in preventing problems with practicing a conscientious and consistent practice of your religious faith.

1. Identify yourself as a Seventh-day Adventist, and be sure your religious preference is noted in your military personnel records. Be sure ACM knows you are in the military.

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2. Inform the chain of command and unit chaplain of your religious preference and faith practices. They may not know about or understand the distinctive beliefs and practices of Adventists. A few may dismiss your request as unimportant, or react in an argumentative, or even hostile manner. Don't argue or demand. Instead, ask for their help implementing the established procedures of your military service for requesting accommodation of religious practice. They are obligated to respond. If the answer is negative, you have the right to appeal to the next level of command.
3. Obtain help early; i.e., don't wait until "sundown Friday" to refuse Sabbath duty, etc.
4. Start with the base, ship, or unit chaplain. Her or his job is based on the premise of respecting the "free exercise of religion" and supporting your faith, rather than imposing her or his beliefs on you, or trying to interpret your beliefs and practices for you. They are hardly qualified to be an Adventist theologian unless the chaplain is truly an Adventist.
5. Seek support from Adventist sources: chaplains and pastors, local conference Public Affairs and Religious Liberty directors and, as a last resort, ACM.
6. Be a "conscientious co-operator" whose religious values and work ethic make you a valued member of the ship or unit. Give no cause for punishment by violating some other UCMJ article. Avoid a "we – they" mentality. Pray for any who oppose you.

Requests for accommodation of religious practice are judged on their logic (is the basis religious?), sincerity of the requestor, and consistency of practice. The situation could be a test of faith (1 Peter 4:12-19; Acts 5:29; Hebrews 12-1-14; James 5:10 and 11; and Matthew 5:10-12). You may need to stand like Joseph, Daniel, or the three Hebrews.

## 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](mailto:Deena.Bartel-Wagner@nad.adventist.org) to learn how your story can be told.





# RELIGIOUS ACCOMMODATION- IS THERE AN APP FOR THAT?

Most nations' populations are pluralistic in composition. Few nations of the world are comprised wholly of one ethnic heritage, race, religion, or tribe. In the workforce this can contribute to a contentious and difficult area for both employees and employers. Statistics in the United States the Office of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) is reporting statistics that show an increase in religion-based discrimination. Although there might not be an app for religious accommodation, it is important to know and understand the laws and regulations of your country when it comes to religious accommodation, the free exercise of religion, and how this can impact your religious rights and needs, as well as those of the workplace requirements.

## WHAT IS REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION?

When the subject of religious accommodation is discussed, it is necessary to define "reasonable accommodation." According to the Anti-Defamation League, reasonable accommodation "is one that eliminates the employee's conflict between his religious practices and work requirements, and that does not cause an undue hardship for the employer."<sup>1</sup>

Religious accommodation requests can vary from the need of a particular day off for religious holidays or a weekly Sabbath; the option to have a place to pray; and/or the wearing of religious garb. It is necessary for you to understand the law of your own country and how it provides for these types of accommodations. For instance, in the United States an

individual requesting a particular day off for Sabbath hours might be asked to swap shifts with another employee or work extra hours on another day.

Another aspect of the religious accommodation within the U.S. law is designed to provide some protection for the employer. This is call “undue hardship.” “An employer is not required to provide an accommodation that causes it an “undue hardship.”<sup>2</sup> Employers do not need to incur more than minimal costs in order to meet the accommodation.

### MILITARY RELIGIOUS ACCOMMODATION

Military forces usually represent a cross-section of their nation’s population, especially if conscription is the main source of manpower. As a result, military leaders must meld a diverse group of people into a cohesive organization that has the willing support of members to fulfill the military mission. Some leaders use coercion and force to insure compliance and obedience to military objectives. Wiser leaders understand the need to care for the whole person and use respect, values, and education to achieve voluntary support for accomplishing the mission.

Each human being comprises

the rest. Religious beliefs, practices, faith, values, and goals make up the spiritual element of man and form the basis for relationships.

Occasionally, misunderstandings arise when military and religious requirements place a service member in the difficult position of choosing between legitimate goals, loyalties, and values. Like family ties and patriotism, religious beliefs and practices are deeply personal– even to those who hold an agnostic perspective. Most conflicts over military requirements/ expectations and religious practice occur around the following issues:

- 1 Misconceptions about challenges to authority and power by leaders.
- 2 Religious practices and worship of emerging or less-known faiths.
- 3 Observance of Sabbaths and/or holy days.
- 4 Conscientious objection to killing or bearing arms (weapons).
- 5 Religious dietary restrictions.
- 6 Wearing religious apparel/clothing.
- 7 Medical treatment.
- 8 Lifestyle differences with peers.

**Military leaders must meld a diverse group of people into a cohesive organization that has the willing support of members to fulfill the military mission.**

several elements: physical, mental, emotional, volitional, relational, spiritual, and sexual. These elements are inter-related and inter-dependent. Ideally, they develop and function in balance and harmony. When one is deprived, hurt, or ignored, it affects

“Accommodation of religious practice creates a healthy command climate that fosters respect for everyone; it does not open a Pandora’s box of problems for the commander,” says Chaplain Gary Councill. “During my 36+ years of military service I



observed that military members who consistently practiced religious values also had more reliable work ethics, were more involved in their communities and caused units less problems; i.e., they were not as prone to abusing drugs, getting drunk, or

for other duty performance failures. Discouraging spirituality becomes counter-productive to corrective measures. Commanders have other options for improving duty performance and/or disciplining deficient duty performance.

## Smart commanders enhance spiritual fitness; and spiritual fitness contributes to moral ascendancy and winning victories.

engaging in the immoral behaviors that are all too prevalent in most societies. Often, soldiers involved in practicing their faith earned many awards for community service and volunteerism.”

Councill believes that, “Assisting these good citizens to practice the very values that make them valuable to their units and communities is just common sense and responsible leadership. Smart commanders enhance spiritual fitness; and spiritual fitness contributes to moral ascendancy and winning victories.”

Historically, accommodation of sincere and consistent religious practices has been inconsistent by military leaders. Requests for accommodation of religious practice are often viewed as challenges to authority, attempts to get out of work or get over on the unit. That is seldom the case. Responses to sincere requests for accommodation of religious practice indicate the quality of leadership abilities more than legitimacy of faith. Even in those rare cases where a spiritually-minded military member performs military duties in a sub-standard manner, infringement or restriction of religious accommodation should not be confused with or used as disciplinary action or punishment

Certain essential military missions could possibly delay or temporarily limit some religious practices:

- 1 Actual combat and deployment movements.
- 2 Operations to protect government and citizens against insurrection, riot or terrorism, both imminent and occurring.
- 3 Responses to natural disaster; i.e., flood, tornado, etc.
- 4 Assistance to maintain public health and welfare; i.e., preventing an epidemic of disease, providing potable water, etc.

Seventh-day Adventists teach church members civic responsibility and to be “good neighbors” in their communities and countries. But Adventists also believe that though lawful human governments have a rightful claim on allegiance, human beings have a higher obligation to divine authority as revealed in the Scriptures (Holy Bible). When conscientious religious convictions come into conflict with man-made authority for priority, an Adventist must place the spiritual over the temporal and “obey God rather

than man.” Acts 5:29. Whenever possible, Seventh-day Adventists seek to be “conscientious co-operators” rather than “objectors.” We seek the understanding and goodwill of proper governmental authorities in our endeavor to be good citizens of the “kingdom of heaven” as well as the kingdoms of this world.

### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS<sup>3</sup>

*What if others at my work who claim to be Sabbatharians are not honoring the Sabbath and my employer points out this inconsistency?*

Inform your employer that you cannot be responsible for the actions of others. Your actions are based on your personal religious convictions, buttressed by Biblical principles.

*What if my employer grants my Sabbaths off, but then makes the work place so intolerable that I want to quit?*

Keep a record of statements and incidents that could be considered harassment. Employers are responsible to provide an environment free from harassment of religious persons. However, proving that the motive is retaliation is practically impossible. Pray for strength and courage. Be pleasant and do your work as unto the Lord.

Ask your pastor and church family for prayer and support.

*Should I resign from my job since my employer says he cannot accommodate my beliefs and will have to terminate me unless I work Sabbaths?*

Never quit your job under such circumstances. Your unemployment compensation benefits may be forfeited if you quit.

*What if I am fired immediately when I inform my boss that I cannot work on the Sabbath?*

Ask for the reason for your termination in writing. If you receive no written notice, report for work on your next scheduled working day. (An employee orally terminated returns to work to eliminate any confusion later in dealing with the state employment agency about whether that employee was terminated or quit voluntarily.)

Apply for unemployment compensation, stating that the reason for termination was lack of accommodation for your religious belief and practice. Be prepared to appeal if benefits are denied.

If you are threatened with being fired and your employer does not

*continued on page 31*



# *Sabbath Observance*

## SOME PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS

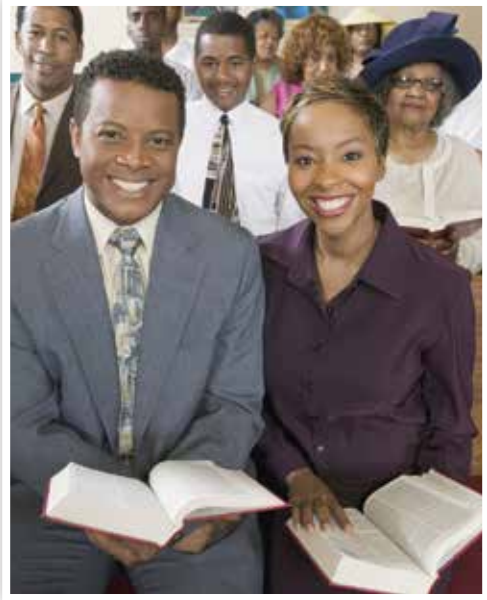
by Chaplain (Colonel) Gary R. Councill



HOLY  
Bible



The Seventh-day Adventist Church teaches the following faith principles about observing the Sabbath: (1) The Sabbath is God's gift of time to all mankind given for the purpose of establishing relationships with Him, His people and one's family. (2) The Sabbath commemorates creation by the Creator; the seventh day is to be remembered and kept holy (sacred). It begins at sundown on Friday evening and ends the following sundown. (3) The Sabbath is eternal. Neither Jesus Christ, the Apostles, or the Scriptures authorize changing the sanctity of the Sabbath from the seventh day (Saturday) to any other time. Sunday worship by Christians developed in the second and third centuries A.D. (4) The Sabbath is universal and can be kept in some manner in any circumstance of life. Sabbath means "ceasing, resting." Sabbath is a time for refraining from man's work and depending wholly on God. Temporal pursuits are replaced with worship, devotional study/prayer, fellowship with family and church, and learning about the Creator by studying nature. (5) The Sabbath is a day for doing good; Jesus said, "It is lawful to do well on the Sabbath."



become discouraged or give up trying. As they grow and develop in spiritual maturity, those living on the experimental edge of faith will also establish personal patterns of relationship with God and others that give meaning to the principles that guide their spiritual life.

Adventist church members endeavor to practice the tenets of faith to the best of their understanding and ability. While a cardinal denominational doctrine

Adventist church members endeavor to practice the tenets of faith to the best of their understanding and ability.

Application or practice of principle requires prayerful thought, balance, and discernment. In the process of applying a faith principle to life, believers may occasionally make mistakes in judgment and experience lapses, but should not

teaches observance of the Sabbath, the Adventist Church maintains no *Mishnah* of Sabbath rules. To intentionally violate the sanctity of the Sabbath is spiritually wrong (sin). Adventists do not pursue secular employment during Sabbath hours.

Those who must perform emergency/necessary duties often voluntarily donate any pay received for that work to the church as an offering. Adventists refrain from engaging in business transactions (shopping), attending athletic events, or watching secular television shows, etc., during Sabbath hours. While individual church members may vary in their interpretation and application of the principles listed above, most hold uniformly to these practices.

Though seldom mentioned in Adventist circles, the Scriptures mention the Children of Israel engaging in activities during the Sabbath hours that many Adventists today would not think “kosher.” Joshua apparently marched the Children of Israel around Jericho during Sabbath hours (Joshua 6) and Jehoiada ordered armed Levites to guard the Temple on the Sabbath (2 Kings 11 and 2 Chronicles 23). Joseph, Daniel, and Esther probably did not spend every Sabbath in a temple. During eminent, temporary

situations, certain essential secular type activities could be performed during Sabbath hours for the following purposes: (1) Sustaining or saving life. (2) Relieving obvious suffering. (3) Assisting victims of natural disaster. (4) Preventing serious threat to public health, welfare, and safety. (5) Actual defensive military combat.

On those occasions when duties must be performed outside the norms of traditional Sabbath-keeping, Ellen G. White, an early Adventist pioneer leader, admonished medical workers in her day to remember to take time to pray and pray for co-workers sometime during the Sabbath hours. See *Medical Ministry*, pages 50 and 214-216. Likewise, believers should take similar steps to prevent their Sabbath observance from becoming casual, then careless. Neither should Sabbath-keeping degenerate into sour legalism or some self-righteous mechanism of works that “earns” salvation.

Sabbath facilitates worship of our Creator and Saviour, Jesus Christ, rather than time. All Christians are to walk in His steps, even as He walked. (1 John 2:6) The Gospels clearly record Jesus observing

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the seventh-day Sabbath and worshipping on that day. Sunday is not an acceptable substitute, and the church nor its clergy cannot give a “dispensation” excusing believers from the Sabbath precepts God has directed for His people as a sign of allegiance and discipleship to Him.

In the process of exercising spiritual integrity around these matters, the following questions can be helpful in determining Sabbath-keeping practices:

- 1 What is the basis for my Sabbath-keeping? Why do I observe the Sabbath? Is my Sabbath observance hereditary or cultural, or is it the result of a relationship with God and my understanding of His will for my life?
- 2 How do I differentiate between spiritual and temporal matters, the sacred and the secular, holy and worldly?

- 3 What activities, practices, or traditions give spiritual significance and meaning to the Sabbath hours? How would I keep the Sabbath as a patient in the hospital, or as a Prisoner of War? Could I still find meaning in Sabbath observance under austere or difficult circumstances, apart from sitting in a church pew at 11:00 on Sabbath?
- 4 What constitutes “work?” What activities would profane the Sabbath?
- 5 What does “doing the Lord’s pleasure on His holy day” mean? Isaiah 58:13,14.
- 6 What can I do during the Sabbath hours?
- 7 What perceptions about the Bible Sabbath does my Sabbath observance give nonbelievers and/or Sunday-keepers?

The facts of how the Sabbath was changed to Sunday worship are easily memorized and can be quoted to others. Having head knowledge, but not heart knowledge can keep a person from truly gaining the most benefit out of the day of rest that God envisioned for mankind.

Pastor Tim Keller writes, “The Sabbath is about more than external rest of the body; it is about inner rest

opportunity to reconnect with family and with God in an intimate way that might be as complete throughout the rest of the week. It can be a time to connect with community (our church family). It offers us the opportunity to praise and worship a God who loves us so much that He says, “Take a break for the six days that you labor and rest your physical body and restore your inner soul.”



of the soul. We need rest from the anxiety and strain of our overwork, which is really an attempt to justify ourselves—to gain the money or the status or the reputation we think we have to have. Avoiding overwork requires deep rest in Christ’s finished work for your salvation (Hebrews 4:1-10). Only then will you be able to ‘walk away’ regularly from your vocational work and rest.”<sup>1</sup>

Is it practical to press pause on your day-to-day life for a twenty-four hour period and spend time doing something other than marching through the never-ending to do list of life? How can you make this model of Sabbath rest work for you and your family?

In today’s hectic instant response world a Sabbath rest gives us the

This is a day we can slow down. We can breathe deeply and listen closely to family, friends, and God. We have the opportunity to redirect our approach to how to spend the day. We can linger longer with family, focus more on a passage of scripture, spend time in fellowship and worship.

“The rest of God – the rest God gladly gives so that we might discover that part of God we’re missing – is not a reward for finishing. It’s not a bonus for work well done. It’s a sheer gift. It is a stop-work order in the midst of work that’s never complete, never polished,” writes Mark Buchanan. “Sabbath is not the break we’re allotted at the tail end of completing all our tasks and chores, the fulfillment of all our obligations.



It's the rest we take smack-dab in the middle of them, without apology, without guilt, and for no better reason than that God told us we could."<sup>2</sup>

#### I'VE PAUSED-WHAT NOW?

A Sabbath pause does not mean sitting within the confines of four walls of a church for the entire period. "In order to keep the Sabbath holy, it is not necessary that we enclose ourselves in walls, shut away from the beautiful scenes of nature and from the free, invigorating air of heaven. We should in no case allow burdens and business transactions to divert our minds upon the Sabbath of the Lord, which He has sanctified. . . . But the mind cannot be refreshed, enlivened, and elevated by being confined nearly all the Sabbath hours within walls, listening to long sermons and tedious, formal prayers. The Sabbath of the Lord is put to a wrong use if thus celebrated."<sup>3</sup>

A practical way to make time to slow down can start on the first day of the week. Choose to do something each day that will prepare you for a Sabbath break. Use Sunday through Tuesday to complete physical preparations for Sabbath. As Wednesday approaches, begin to think about how you will slow down your daily pace. What doesn't have to be done right now? By Friday morning, begin to turn your thoughts

to worship, rest, and renewal.

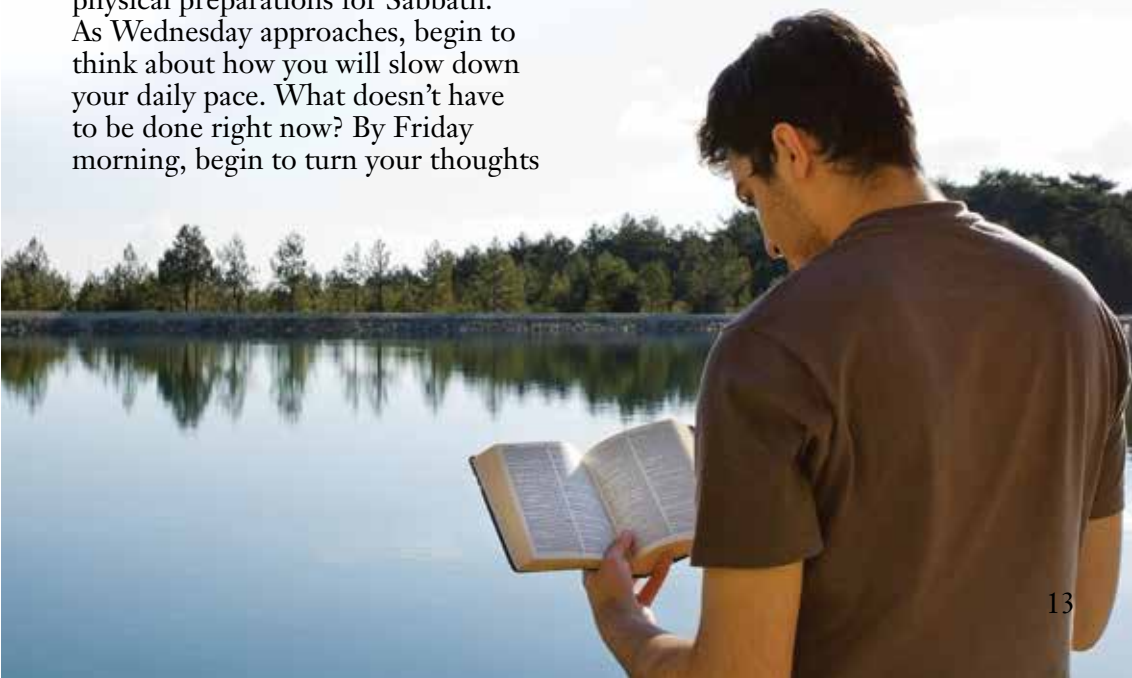
As you plan your Sabbath break include the four areas of how you will worship God (including meditating on God's word, attending a church service, committing scripture to memory, etc.), reconnect with family (a family meal, a walk in the park, actively listening to each other), create fellowship with others (inviting others to break bread with you, encouraging others in the walk with Jesus, etc.), and rest. Allow yourself some time for complete and unstructured time to physically rest.

God has given us the opportunity to pause, to look around us and marvel at the work of His imagination and creation through nature and other human beings. How can you press pause more meaningfully in your life each Sabbath?

<sup>1</sup> <http://kellerquotes.com/sabbath-rest/> Accessed on 13 October 2013.

<sup>2</sup> Mark Buchanan, *The Rest of God* (Nashville: W Publishing Group, 2006.), 93.

<sup>3</sup> Ellen G. White, *Testimony for the Church*, Volume 2 (Hagerstown, MD: Review and Herald Publishing, ) 583.



# NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT



*EDITORS NOTE: The following information is being supplied for members of the United States military*

The Fiscal Year 2013 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) includes a section on rights of conscience for service members and military chaplains. Shown below are three excerpts: the law itself (section 533, NDAA FY13), the President's statement regarding section 533, and the House/Senate conferencing report on how they arrived at the final version of section 533. It is important that service members are aware of this Act and how it protects their rights of conscience.

**SEC. 533. PROTECTION OF RIGHTS OF CONSCIENCE OF MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES AND CHAPLAINS OF SUCH MEMBERS.**  
**a PROTECTION OF RIGHTS OF CONSCIENCE.**

1 Accommodation. – The Armed Forces shall accommodate the

beliefs of a member of the armed forces reflecting the conscience, moral principles, or religious beliefs of the member and, in so far as practicable, may not use such beliefs as the basis of any adverse personnel action, discrimination, or denial of promotion, schooling, training, or assignment.

2 Disciplinary Or Administrative Action. – Nothing in paragraph (1) precludes disciplinary or administrative action for conduct that is proscribed by chapter 47 of Title 10, United States Code (the Uniform Code of Military Justice), including actions and speech that threaten good order and discipline.

**b PROTECTION OF CHAPLAIN DECISIONS RELATING TO CONSCIENCE, MORAL PRINCIPLES, OR RELIGIOUS BELIEFS. – NO MEMBER OF THE ARMED FORCES MAY:**

1. require a chaplain to perform any rite, ritual, or ceremony that is

contrary to the conscience, moral principles, or religious beliefs of the chaplain; or

2. discriminate or take any adverse personnel action against a chaplain, including denial of promotion, schooling, training, or assignment, on the basis of the refusal by the chaplain to comply with a requirement prohibited by paragraph (1).

**c REGULATIONS. – THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE SHALL ISSUE REGULATIONS IMPLEMENTING THE PROTECTIONS AFFORDED BY THIS SECTION.**

**EXCERPT FROM THE STATEMENT OF THE PRESIDENT REGARDING FY13 NDAA, ORIGINALLY RELEASED JANUARY 2, 2013**

Today I have signed into law H.R. 4310, the “National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013.” I have approved this annual defense authorization legislation, as I have in previous years, because it authorizes essential support for service members and their families, renews vital national security programs, and helps ensure that the United States will continue to have the strongest military in the world. Even though I support the vast majority of the provisions contained in this Act, which is comprised of hundreds of sections spanning more than 680 pages of text, I do not agree with them all. Our Constitution does not afford the President the opportunity to

approve or reject statutory sections one by one. I am empowered either to sign the bill, or reject it, as a whole. In this case, though I continue to oppose certain sections of the Act, the need to renew critical defense authorities and funding was too great to ignore... Section 533 is an unnecessary and ill-advised provision, as the military already appropriately protects the freedom of conscience of chaplains and service members. The Secretary of Defense will ensure that the implementing regulations do not permit or condone discriminatory actions that compromise good order and discipline or otherwise violate military codes of conduct. My Administration remains fully committed to continuing the successful implementation of the repeal of Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell, and to protecting the rights of gay and lesbian service members; Section 533 will not alter that.

*[Drawn from the House and Senate conferencing report, below is the official summary of changes from the original House version (Section 536, H.R. 4310) to the final version (Section 533, NDAA FY13).]*

## **PROTECTION OF RIGHTS OF CONSCIENCE OF MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES AND CHAPLAINS OF SUCH MEMBERS (SEC. 533)**

The House bill [Jun 2012 H.R. 4310] contained a provision (sec. 536) that would require the armed forces to accommodate the moral principles and religious beliefs of service members concerning appropriate and inappropriate expression of human sexuality and would prohibit use of such conscience, principles, or beliefs as the basis of any adverse personnel action, discrimination, or denial of promotion, schooling, training, or assignment. The provision would also prohibit any member of the armed forces from directing, ordering, or requiring a chaplain to perform any duty, rite, ritual, ceremony, service, or function that is contrary to the conscience, moral principles, or religious beliefs of the chaplain, or contrary to the moral principles and religious beliefs of the endorsing faith group of the chaplain; or discriminating or taking any adverse personnel action against a chaplain on the basis of the refusal by the chaplain to comply with any such direction, order, or requirement.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision. The Senate recedes with an amendment that would require

the armed forces to accommodate the beliefs of a service member reflecting the conscience, moral principles, or religious beliefs of the member and, in so far as practicable, would prohibit use of such beliefs as the basis of any adverse personnel action, discrimination, or denial of promotion, schooling, training, or assignment. The amendment would also prohibit a member of the armed forces from requiring a chaplain to perform any rite, ritual, or ceremony that is contrary to the conscience, moral principles, or religious beliefs of the chaplain, or discriminating or taking adverse personnel actions against a chaplain for failing to comply with a requirement to perform any rite, ritual, or ceremony that is contrary to the conscience, moral principles, or religious beliefs of the chaplain.

The conferees intend to accommodate the beliefs of service members, but preserve the authority to take disciplinary or administrative action for speech or conduct that violates the Uniform Code of Military Justice, including actions and speech that threaten good order and discipline.





Instead, you must  
worship Christ as  
Lord of your life.  
And if someone  
asks about your  
Christian hope,  
always be ready to  
explain it.

—1 Peter 3:15



# iWITNESS

If you take find yourself at the junction of State Highways 34 and 64 in north-central Minnesota, you are on Jimmy Hansen's turf. It is here that Hansen serves as the police chief for the Town of Akeley.

From childhood Hansen had an interest in law enforcement. "One of my relatives served as an officer and I had so much respect for that," says Hansen. After college Jimmy worked in excavation before changing careers.

"My first job in law enforcement was in Stewart, Minnesota," says Hansen. "My career has taken me to positions of road office, investigator,

chief of police, and working on one of the Native American reservations here in Minnesota."

Hansen wasn't looking for a move when someone gave him a flyer that described the opening for police chief of Akeley. "My being here is totally because this is where God wants me to be," says Jimmy. "When I came to Akeley I realized that this was a community that was in need of someone who cared enough to share the gospel."

Akeley is a former logging boomtown that once boasted the largest sawmill in the state of Minnesota. In its heyday lumberjacks swelled the population of the area, as they came and went on each freight



train that chugged through the town. Today the mill is gone, but Hansen sees opportunity for outreach on every corner. “Many people in this area are hurting physically, spiritually, and emotionally,” says Jimmy. “My desire is to be more than the guy who enforces the law. I want to bring hope to each of the citizens of Akeley.”

Just over fifty miles from Akeley is the Wadena Seventh-day Adventist Church. “I’m a member at the Wadena church,” says Jimmy. “As the evangelism leader there, I made a request that might be considered unusual. I asked that the church provide the financial backing to provide copies of *The Great Controversy* for me to distribute in Akeley.” This is far outside the

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“I told my church congregation that if they would sponsor the books, I would personally meet with and share a copy with each person in Akeley.”



Wadena church’s territory, but the church members see the need to stretch beyond their borders to tell the story of Jesus to others.

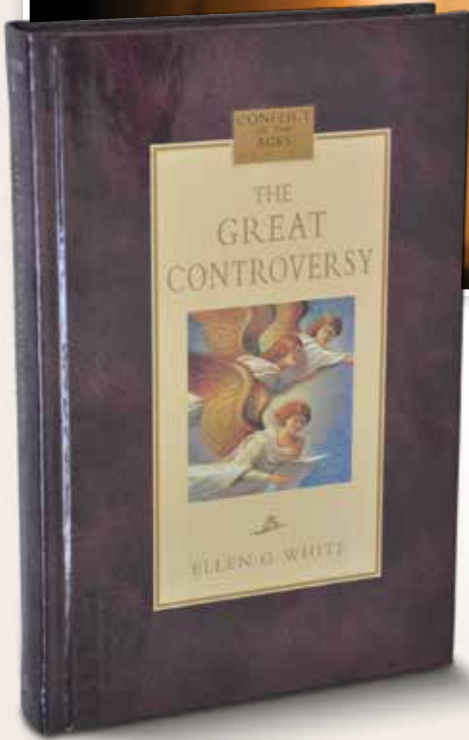
During his stint on the reservation, Jimmy read *The Great Controversy* for the first time. “Although I’d heard about this book all my life I had never taken the time to read it,” says Jimmy. “When I did I saw such a unique message to share with others. I told my church congregation that if they would sponsor the books, I would personally meet with and share a copy with each person in Akeley. They agreed and today fund the cost of the materials for my outreach ministry.”

Although the books are sponsored, Jimmy doesn’t distribute them en masse. “I want to build a relationship with each person I am going to give a book to,” says Jimmy. “I get to know who they are and what is happening in their lives. When the time is right I introduce them to the book.”

Initially, Jimmy thought he was all alone in reaching the citizens of Akeley. That is until one day when he met Loretta. “Loretta had previously lived in Alaska, where she and her son were tending illegal plants,” says Jimmy. “They were making good money with the sale of the plants, but the son got out of control with his lifestyle. Eventually, law enforcement learned what Loretta and her son were involved in. This run-in with the law led to Loretta being put on probation.”

This led to a time of reflection on Loretta’s part. She had been studying the Bible on her own. “One day when she was in the laundromat, Loretta found a copy of *The Great Controversy*,” says Jimmy. “She read it and was eventually baptized. Today she goes door-to-door in Akeley to meet her neighbors and make friends.”

One day Jimmy received an



“There are very few people in uniform who are giving the message that we have to share. As a Christian, I believe God puts people in our path for a reason.”

emergency call. A woman named Shirley had been injured. “When I went to the house, I learned that Shirley was fearful of law enforcement. She had experienced some negative treatment in the past,” says Jimmy. “I continued to make visits to their home just to make sure things were okay.”

As the barriers were broken down, Shirley began to trust Jimmy, which led to questions about spiritual things. About one and a half years ago Shirley was in the emergency room

at the local hospital. “Shirley literally died on that table because of a heart condition,” says Jimmy. “I tell her, “There is no reason in this world that you are alive other than God wanted you to learn about Him.” Today Shirley and Loretta ride together to church.

Even in this small community, drugs are an increasing problem. “I began talking to one of the worst addicts in the community when I had to take her into custody,” says Jimmy. “Karlene\* had been involved in a bar fight and had broken her probation.” Jimmy knew that Karlene’s children



have suffered because of their mother's drug usage. He checked on them regularly and encouraged them to write cards to their mother while she was in custody.

"Karlene was sober when she received those messages from her children," says Jimmy. "She told me how much she wanted to turn her life around. She asked for Bible studies and began to feast on the Word of God."

Sadly, Karlene's struggles weren't over. She relapsed, but Jimmy sees something that others might overlook. "Karlene is still hurting and she is running and hiding again," says Jimmy. "But now she has the Holy Spirit tucked away in her mind. The Holy Spirit works in these situations. It's not me. There would be all kinds of glitches if it were just me."

Reaching out to loved ones who are affected by the actions of family members is another way Jimmy brings hope to the citizens of the community. "One day we had 15 officers who were involved in a pursuit of a subject," says Jimmy. "At times the female involved was driving at speeds of over 100 miles-per-hour. I didn't know until later that the young woman had gone off of her medications."

When the situation was brought under control and Jimmy met with the woman's parents he learned Tammy\* had become mentally ill at 14. "I met with Tammy's parents when they came to retrieve her belongings out of her impounded vehicle," says Jimmy. "I told them that they were probably wondering how this could end. Then I shared a copy of *The Great Controversy* with them."

Sometime later Jimmy was attending a large farm equipment show. "I unexpectedly met Tammy's parents at the show," says Jimmy.

"Tammy's dad told me, 'Jimmy, you did something that was unorthodox when you gave us that book, but we appreciate the message and the hope that it gave us.'"

Recently Jimmy met Garth.\* "Garth is about 19-years-old," says Jimmy. "Many people would avoid him based on their first impression. His long hair and many tattoos might scare some people away." Jimmy saw an individual that was interested in spiritual things.

"I heard Garth talking to someone about the Catholic Church," says Jimmy. "I invited him to come to my office to talk about this and other things. Garth accepted the invitation and their first visit lasted three hours."

Jimmy and Garth continued to meet regularly. During those times Jimmy shared the story of Jesus and other Bible truths. Garth continued to listen and ponder the things he heard. When it was time for him to leave Akeley to attend college in another town, Garth told Jimmy, "I want to find the Adventist church in the town where I will be studying. I think I would like to be baptized as an Adventist one day."

In a former mill town, an Adventist police chief and his family seek to make a difference. "My wife, Sarah, and my three daughters are so supportive of this ministry," says Jimmy. "There are very few people in uniform who are giving the message that we have to share. As a Christian, I believe God puts people in our path for a reason. We are not told to clean fish. We are told to gather fish. Our hope for a better future is what attracts people. It opens them up to allowing God to clean their lives of the things that weigh them down."

\*Pseudonyms have been used in this article.

# BY BEHOLDING, 2014 CHANGE WILL COME IN

For more than 50 years the National Service Organization, a functional chapter of Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries (ACM), has provided active duty military church members complimentary subscriptions to the *Adventist Review*, *Adult Sabbath School Bible Study Guide*, *For God and Country*, and two journals of their choice. Funding for these gifts comes, in part, from a shared offering taken every year in the churches of North America.

Recent trends have prompted a need to reassess subscriptions. Many magazines are returned due to address changes. Military personnel leave



the military and do not inform ACM or the publisher. The costs of the journals and postage continue to rise.

To help ease delays in delivery, ACM has been sending bulk mailings of some journals to Adventist chaplains and/or Distinctive Faith

**NOTE:** All current subscriptions will end on 31 December 2013. If you desire to receive any of the church journals listed, you must inform ACM as soon as possible to either reinstate and continue a subscription or start a new subscription for 2014. The subscriptions will be paid by ACM for only one year. If you desire the subscriptions to continue or wish to change which journals you receive, you must send ACM a written request for those subscriptions of church journals you wish to receive in 2014 and each succeeding year thereafter—no request, no journals.

ACM is offering to send the *Adventist Review* and *Adult Sabbath School Bible Study Guide* to any eligible church member plus up to two free subscriptions of their choice from the list below:

*Guide*  
*Insight*  
*Message*  
*Our Little Friend*  
*Primary Treasure*  
*Signs of the Times*  
*Vibrant Life*



Group Leaders (DFGLs) overseas. These individuals have been asked to make the magazines available to attendees of the Adventist Military Chapel Worship Groups (AMCWGs). This method has helped get the magazines into the hands of readers.

Individuals will need to request desired subscriptions annually. The only exception to this is for subscriptions to *For God and Country*. Subscription requests can be done via e-mail to [deena.bartel-wagner@nad.adventist.org](mailto:deena.bartel-wagner@nad.adventist.org), or [acm@gc.adventist.org](mailto:acm@gc.adventist.org), or by using the form on page 28. Subscriptions are not perpetual. Because you have requested a journal once, please do not assume that it will continue being sent to you for as long as you are in the military. Your requested subscriptions are valid for only one year and need to be renewed by your written request.

To be eligible for ACM paid subscriptions you must be a Seventh-day Adventist Church member in an Adventist church in the North American Division and in one of the following military related categories:

- All active-duty military stationed anywhere (overseas or stateside)
- DoD civilian employee of the military services stationed overseas

- DoDEA teacher or principal stationed overseas
- Military exchanges (AAFES, NEX, etc.) worker overseas
- Government contractor overseas
- Spouse living overseas with their non-Adventist military husband or wife

ACM will continue to send bulk mailings of the *Adult Bible Study Guide*, *Insight*, *Guide*, *Primary Treasure*, *Our Little Friend*, and the *Adventist Review* to the AMCWGs meeting overseas. If you are regularly attending one of these groups, you can obtain your Sabbath School journals from them. DFGLs, remember to order the journals needed for your group as far in advance as possible. The publishing houses require four to six weeks' notice before changes in address or numbers take effect.

Your understanding and cooperation will greatly assist ACM to provide effective support for you while you are representing your church and serving your country. As always, ACM is open to your comments and suggestions on ways we can provide timely support of religious materials for your use.

## ADULT

### *Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus*

by George Knight

In this daily devotional George Knight shows the true meaning of Christ's life, not just as a story, but as inspiration for our everyday lives. Beholding Jesus in both His earthly and heavenly roles will change us into His likeness.

Hardcover



includes *Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus* and *Our Father Cares*.

## WOMEN

### *Breathe*

Ardis Dick Stenbakken, editor

Take the time to let your spirit breathe in and breathe out the presence of God with daily inspiration from women like you. Just *breathe*.

Hardcover

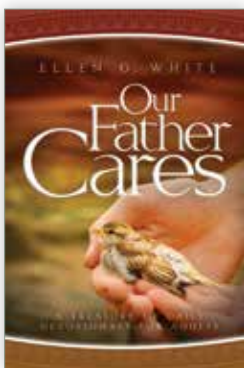


## EVENING

### *Our Father Cares*

by Ellen G. White

These selected readings focus on God's great love for us, reflecting the fact that He is deeply interested in every aspect of our daily lives. We invite you to read each day's devotional with His great love for you in mind, trusting that as you meditate on each passage you will come to appreciate more than ever how much God cares for you.



## YOUNG ADULT

### *How to Feed the Mediavore*

by Heather Thompson Day

This generation is connected to virtually everything thanks to the media. But the author issues a challenge to think about what truly matters in life: Jesus needs us to connect with Him so He can save us, but there's no app for that.



### *Devotional Boxed Gift Set*

This attractive, boxed gift set



## TEEN

### *Portal*

by Mark Witas



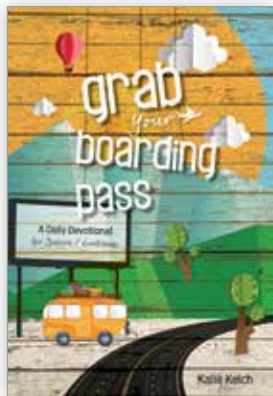
Could Abraham, Esther, and Solomon relate to dorm-room pranks or shiny new sports cars? Do ancient Biblical characters have something to say to teenagers

today? Join Mark Witas as he finds these answers from Genesis to Revelation.

## JUNIOR/EARLITEEN

### *Grab Your Boarding Pass*

by Kalie Kelch



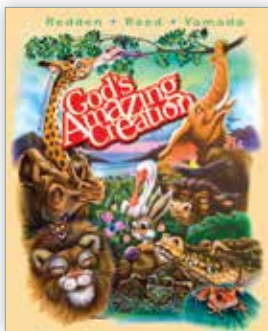
How would you like to swim with beluga whales in the Arctic? Munch on chocolate from Hershey, Pennsylvania? Cheer on cowboys at a Western rodeo? Then grab your

boarding pass for a yearlong tour of North America—and an eternal trip to heaven.

## PRIMARY

### *God's Amazing Creation*

by Vicki Redden, Dee Litten Reed, and Joelle Reed Yamada



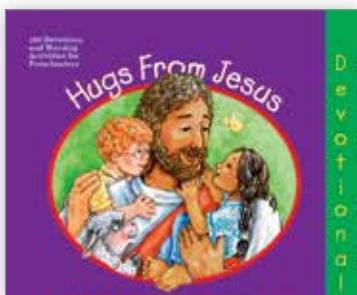
Monkeys and chickens, flowers and rainbows—all reveal something about the Creator. Delight and intrigue children with true stories

and facts about nature while teaching them lessons about God.

## PRESCHOOL

### *Hugs From Jesus*

by Sally Pierson Dillon



Make spiritual lessons exciting for your child with these devotionals that include simple object lessons and hands-on activities certain to awaken your child's imagination and love for Jesus.

## DEVOTIONAL BOOKS

Adventist active-duty military personnel are eligible to receive a free devotional book, courtesy of Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries. Guidelines for eligibility are noted on page 23. Single service members, as well as the other employee categories listed on page 23 may choose one free devotional. Married service members may choose two devotional books.

- ADULT – *Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus*
- EVENING – *Our Father Cares*
- WOMEN – *Breathe*
- YOUNG ADULT –  
*How to Feed the Mediavore*
- TEEN – *Portal*
- JUNIOR – *Grab Your Boarding Pass*
- PRIMARY – *God's Amazing Creation*
- PRESCHOOL – *Hugs From Jesus*

## MAGAZINES

Each year NSO will send Adventist active-duty members and select government employees who meet the eligibility guidelines a one-year subscription to two magazines from the following list. Please check the appropriate boxes. When you place your subscription request, you will also automatically receive a subscription to *Adventist Review*, the *Adult Sabbath School Bible Study Guide* and *For God and Country*.

- Guide*
- Insight*
- Message*
- Our Little Friend*
- Primary Treasure*
- Signs of the Times*
- Vibrant Life*

## 2014 ORDER FORM INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Fill out the personal information section. This form is fillable on your computer.
2. Select the free devotional book. You may contact ACM if you would like to purchase others.
3. Select two free magazines.
4. Mail form (and check, if you are purchasing any items, made payable to NSO) to Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries at the address below. You may also email it to Dina Muldoon at [Dina.Muldoon@nad.adventist.org](mailto:Dina.Muldoon@nad.adventist.org).

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you on active duty now?  No  Yes

Are you in military-related service overseas?  No  Yes

Where are you serving? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a Seventh-day Adventist Church member?  No  Yes

Local conference holding membership? \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail this form to the address listed below or e-mail [dina.muldoon@nad.adventist.org](mailto:dina.muldoon@nad.adventist.org). Put the words "Subscription Request" in the subject line. Subscriptions are not perpetual. You must renew on an annual basis.**



National Service Organization • Adventist World Headquarters  
12501 Old Columbia Pike • Silver Spring, MD 20904



# 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!**

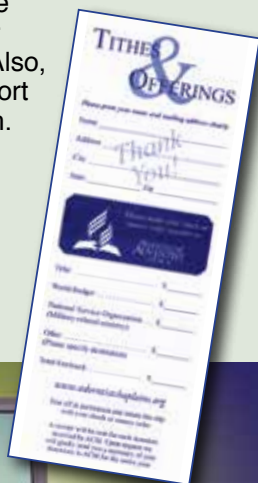
# Online Giving

**H**onoring 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](http://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.



**TITHES & OFFERINGS**

Please print your name and mailing address clearly.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: Thank you! \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Special Service (Optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Officer (For tax-exempt status): \_\_\_\_\_

Other (Specify amount): \_\_\_\_\_

Date Received: \_\_\_\_\_

[www.nad.adventistchaplains.org](http://www.nad.adventistchaplains.org)

Use only if a donation you want to be recorded in the records of your union.

Approved by the North American Division and printed by the NSO. Please refer to the NSO website for more information on the NSO's role in the church.



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

# NEWS NOTES

## PROMOTIONS

**CH Evan D. Adams, USN**, was recently promoted to Lieutenant Commander. Adams serves as the Command Chaplain at the School of Infantry (West) at Camp Pendleton, California. Adams wrote, "I was honored to have my daughter Amanda (Cadet Ensign, NJROTC) be a part of the promotion ceremony. This photo was taken at Caruso Memorial Chapel at Camp Pendleton just after Amanda slid on my shoulder boards."



Chaplain Adams shares a celebratory moment with his daughter, Amanda.



Chaplain Johnson is currently in Djibouti.

**CH Washington Johnson** was recently promoted to Commander in the United States Navy Reserves. Johnson is currently serving at Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti, Africa.

Johnson wrote the following: "The Executive Officer of Camp Lemonnier reaffirmed my oath and the Deputy





Chaplain Johnson serves with a multi-national team in Djibouti.

Commanding General of Horn of Africa pinned the Oak Leaf.” Johnson’s work at Camp Lemonnier has an international flavor as he works alongside officers from several nations including Korea and Ghana.

### SMALL WORLD, STRONG CONNECTIONS

Samuel DuPlessis and Vance Ngirkiklang recently experienced just how small today’s world can be.

“During my deployment in Northern Iraq-Kirkuk-Kurdistan, we ran daily missions in the northern Agricultural Region. On each mission (outside-the-wire) we had a four-MRAP Security Team with the Civil Affairs (Special Forces) Team,” says DuPlessis. “SSG Vance was the Senior NCO on the missions, and he provided my CA Team with all the Security Assets. We interacted fairly regularly during Security Briefings at FOB Warrior, in the Province of Kirkuk which is 28 percent Sunni, 42 percent Kurdish, 25 percent Arab, and five percent Christian.

Following their deployments, Duplessis and Ngirkiklang lost

contact with each other. That is until DuPlessis arrived at Brooke Army Medical Center at Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

DuPlessis continues his story. “During one of our informal morning chats at the Soldier and Family Center, we talked about the areas of deployment in the Iraq Theater of Operation. Somewhere in the conversation, we dropped the words Kirkuk and FOB Warrior. Then we recognized each other. We were now without all the body armor, weapons, Kevlar, goggles, and battle stress. Our minds were a bit clearer. Through the conversation, we learned something else that we had in common . . . our Christian faith as practicing Seventh-day Adventist Christians. Vance is originally from Palau. His family is now with him at Fort Hood, Texas. He is a Squad LDR at the WTB (Warrior Transition Battalion). My dear friends, this is a small world. God allowed our paths to cross again and for the conversation to continue long after the Iraq war.”



After serving together in Iraq, DuPlessis (right) and Vance Ngirkiklang (left) have crossed paths again in Texas.

# DID YOU PROVIDE SUPPORT IN THE AFTERMATH OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2001?

**D**id you work or volunteer to provide disaster interfaith, mental health, or other support services related to the September 11, 2001 attacks? These may have included faith-based services such as crisis counseling, outreach, public education, case management, or other volunteer support services. Locations where you may have worked include Lower Manhattan (south of Canal Street), Ground Zero, Staten Island Landfill, NYC Chief Medical Examiners Officer, or at the barge loading piers.

## **ELIGIBLE FOR WTC HEALTH PROGRAM BENEFITS**

If you volunteered and meet the criteria you may be eligible for FREE World Trade Center Health Program benefits. These benefits include:

- Annual medical examinations
- Treatment services for approved health conditions that cause problems such as:
  - Trouble breathing with wheezing, like asthma
  - Being less able to do what you normally do without becoming short of breath
  - Frequent sinus problem or a constant cough
  - Frequent nose and throat irritation
  - Stress-related illness, anxiety, and depression

- Medications for WTC-related health conditions

## **I WORKED IN THOSE LOCATIONS. WHAT'S NEXT?**

Applications for acceptance into the WTC Health Program are being accepted through the end of 2013. Applications are available by:

- Calling 1-888-982-4748
- Email [wtchealthprogram@icfi.com](mailto:wtchealthprogram@icfi.com)
- On the WTC website at [www.cdc.gov/wtc](http://www.cdc.gov/wtc)

## **DO I REALLY NEED THESE SERVICES?**

All responders who are potentially eligible need to be enrolled in the program. You may not be experiencing physical or mental health problems now. Even if you don't think you need services, you should enroll in case you experience future problems.

This program is administered by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health.



provide proof that accommodating you would cause him an undue hardship, file claims with both the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) and the appropriate State Agency.

*What if my boss informs me that my schedule has been changed and I'm now to work on Friday night or Sabbath?*

As soon as you are informed that you are scheduled to work on Friday night or Sabbath, ask your supervisor for an accommodation for your religious beliefs. If your oral request is ignored or refused, put your request in writing. Your local conference or union Religious Liberty Department can help you.

## THOUGHTS TO PONDER

Here are some questions you should ponder about religious accommodation. If you are not seeking it now, you may need to do so in the future. Developing your thoughts (and writing them down) is a helpful exercise in helping you to solidify your personal beliefs.

- What makes my need for religious accommodation any different than that from another person's need?
- Do I live my life in a way to justify the request of religious accommodation?
- If I receive the accommodation, how will I treat this opportunity? How will my actions possibly affect others who are requesting the same accommodation in the future?

1, 2. [www.adl.org](http://www.adl.org) Accessed on September 30, 2013.

3. These questions were taken from the Northwest Religious Liberty Association. <http://www.nrla.com/article/38/mediation-services/faqs-about-sabbath-accommodation>

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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](mailto: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.

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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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“A world without a Sabbath would be like a man without a smile, like summer without flowers, and like a homestead without a garden. It is the most joyous day of the week.”

Henry Ward Beecher



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