

A Newsletter for
Seventh-day Adventist
Military-Related
Personnel

For God & **C**ountry

WINTER 2009



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Designated Offering—Religious Liberty
Remember your local tithes and church budget offerings.

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Curriculum Focus for the Month—
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February 7-28 Black History Month

February 8-14* Christian Home and Marriage Week

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Designated Offering—Adventist Television
Ministries *Remember your local tithes and church budget offerings.*

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Curriculum Focus for the Month—
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March 7 Women's Day of Prayer

March 8-14* Adventist Youth Week of Prayer

March 21 Disabilities Awareness Sabbath
Designated Offering—Adventist World Radio
Remember your local tithes and church budget offerings.

+Curriculum resource materials are published in NAD church resource journals—*LEAD*, *Kids' Ministry Ideas*, and *Insight Youth Resource*

* Special materials provided



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Chaplain Gary R. Councell
 Director,
Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries

Respect

Learning the three “Rs” of “reading, writing and ’rithmetic” is foundational for success, but living another set of three “Rs” is just as essential: respect, responsibility, and religion. The latter set of “Rs” determines the quality of relationships with God, others, and us. Respect is defined and required by the Ten Commandments. Respect and love are like twins; both are necessary. One cannot exist without the other. Respect fosters love (reasonable caring), and love is based on respect.

In an age of cynicism, put-downs thinly disguised as humor, sarcasm, and suspicion, voluntary respect is rare. Lack of objective consideration for others results in a critical, judgmental attitude. People seem more prone to be against, rather than for an idea or person. For example, how many substantive ideas or plans surface in political campaigns? Candidates seem more intent on demeaning opponents than presenting a vision for the country. On the street, “disrespecting” someone can get you hurt badly.

Though respect is required in many circles, it must also be earned. Subordinates gladly follow, loyally support, and voluntarily respect competent leaders who genuinely care for them. The same principle holds true in families. The fifth commandment teaches respect for authority, starting at home with children for their parents (Exodus 20:12).

Children learn how males and females treat one another from observing the way their parents respect each other. Boys learn how to be courteous toward females from watching dad’s interaction with women. Girls must feel safe around father and any brothers. Girls learn how to deal with males from seeing how moms relate to men.

When husbands practice the biblical admonition to love their wives vicariously and sacrificially as Christ loved the church (Ephesians 5:25-29), they earn respect from wives and children (Ephesians 5:33). Husbands who place the well-being of wives and children ahead of their own welfare act with loving respect. True respect protects and defends the innocent and defenseless; it is never abusive, because respect treats others as we would desire to be treated (Luke 6:31).

Respect also extends to friends. A Christian does not take advantage of friends by betraying confidences, gossiping about coworkers, or exploiting the opposite sex emotionally or sexually. Respect engenders consideration of others and treats them with civility and courtesy. Courtesy says “please, excuse me, I am sorry” and “thank you,” words that are never out-of-style when sincerely spoken. Opening a door, offering a seat, or making proper introductions may seem old-fashioned or quaint to “moderns,” but reflects an uncommon attitude of caring about others, whether they be elderly or a young mother struggling to manage baby, diaper bag, and purse.

In essence, respect toward others and God stems from the respect you have for yourself, your own sense of self-worth that arises from the value God places on you.

Even your appearance (dress) reveals your attitude toward yourself and others. So give utmost respect to God and others and you will be surprised at how much you are respected in return.

Larry Roth *to Serve as ACM Field Representative*

Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries is pleased to announce the appointment of Chaplain Larry Roth as the newest ACM field representative,” says Gary Councill, ACM director. “Roth will be serving the Pacific Northwest region and joined the ACM staff on November 9, 2008.”



Larry Roth didn't always have chaplaincy as a career choice. “When I was in academy I got in a bit of trouble,” recalls Larry. “I decided that I really needed to get into a different crowd, but I also knew that I wouldn't do it if I stayed at that academy.” With that decision, Larry transferred to Monterey Bay Academy, and it was there he began feeling a call to the ministry.

“What I truly enjoyed studying were the sciences and math,” says Larry. “My scores in these areas were high, but I felt God was calling me to ministry. I struggled with what God was leading me to do.”

The turning point for Larry came when Graham Maxwell was a guest speaker at the academy. Larry met with Maxwell and asked for his opinion about what he should do. Larry explained that his scores were high in science and math but he couldn't shake the feeling of God's calling to ministry.

“I've never forgotten what Elder Maxwell said to me,” recalls Larry. “His words were ‘Look who Jesus called to be disciples—He called a wide variety of people. God can help you to reach people with a science background for Him.’”

With that advice, Larry committed his life to full-time ministry, but chaplaincy still wasn't in the picture. He followed the usual path of academy and college, marriage, and beginning a family. During seminary he was a member of the candidate chaplain program but chose not to enter the Air Force chaplaincy program because of a technicality in their program requirements.

His pastoral career took Larry and his family to Oregon and Wisconsin. He also served as the district administrator of the Marshall Islands, Guam-Micronesia Mission.

During his Majuro tenure, Larry would travel between the islands, particularly Majuro and Ebeye. He would stop and visit the military chaplain based on Kwajalein Island. "It was during those visits I began to realize the great opportunities to share Jesus through a military chaplaincy," says Larry.

In 1980 he accepted his first duty as a military chaplain and was stationed in Hawaii. "I thought I'd go in for three years and then return to pastoral ministry," Larry chuckles. "Instead, I spent 23 years working with sailors and Marines."

Shortly after arriving in Hawaii, Larry was faced with a challenge that would test his chaplaincy skills. A group of young Adventists were facing the possibility of court martial because of their Sabbath beliefs.

"I wanted help with working through this situation," recalls Larry. "I asked the Catholic chaplain to work with me. God blessed and we were able to make an arrangement for the men to choose to work every Sunday rather than face court martial. One of those young men eventually led 12 Marines to Christ, and they were later baptized."

Larry sees chaplaincy as another form of evangelism. "It's a way for us to make friends with people and help break down the barriers that people may have erected," says Larry.

The opportunity for evangelism and sharing biblical truth will present itself in

ways that are often unexpected. During a deployment at sea, Larry was meeting with a group of enlisted men who wanted to study the Bible. They began discussing the question of what the gospel is. "I'll never forget the question of one of the hospital corpsman," says Larry. "He said, 'Chaplain, I've been reading in my Bible, and what is the Sabbath that it talks about?'"

"I told him it would take more time than what the group had then to discuss it," says Larry. "I invited him to come to my stateroom later and we would look at his question together."

The corpsman did come, and Larry asked him to share what he had learned in his own personal study. "The corpsman gave a great and complete Bible study about the Sabbath," says Larry.

"We began to meet every Sabbath to worship together, and eventually this young man was baptized. This is evangelism, and I often wonder what would have happened if I hadn't been there serving as chaplain."

During his chaplaincy Larry even found opportunity to use those great science and math skills that he had developed during academy. "During my time with the Coast Guard, I was able to minister to the scientists and engineers because I was interested in many of the scientific things that they talked about."

Larry knows his life could have turned out differently if he had made other choices in academy. "One of the messages I try to tell young people is that God doesn't give up on them when they make mistakes," says Larry.

Larry and his wife, Joanne, currently reside in Kent, Washington. They have a son who lives in Australia and a daughter who lives in Washington.

"I spent 23 years working with sailors and Marines."



Living Life

by the Word of God

Daniel Korie's journey to baptism into the Seventh-day Adventist Church on October 11, 2008, began in his home country of Nigeria.

I was raised a Roman Catholic by my parents, although my grandparents followed a traditionalist faith," says Daniel.



During these years Daniel attended school and eventually went on to study at both minor and major levels of the Roman Catholic seminary system. His love for truth and desire to learn helped him explore many areas of faith.

"My aunt is a Seventh-day Adventist," says Daniel. "As I spent time with her I recognized that she had a life full of contentment even though she wasn't rich in goods of this world."

In 1985 Daniel's aunt gave him a copy of *The Desire of Ages*. He read the story of Jesus and was moved by the account in the pages of the book. Eventually Daniel began to recognize a troubling fact in his life. "I was becoming convicted that I was converted to a church but not to the love of Christ," says Daniel. This realization spurred him to continue his search for truth

and what God's leading was for his life.

"While I was attending seminary, I had the opportunity to study the book *The Great Controversy*," recalls Daniel. As he delved into the historical portions, Daniel began to compare what he was reading with the presentations being made in his seminary classes, particularly about the Reformation and its leader, Martin Luther. "I began to look seriously at my church and its beliefs," says Daniel.

In 1994 Daniel was ordained as a Roman Catholic priest and entered parish work. His ministry also included teaching chemistry and biology and continuing his studies with post-graduate work with an emphasis in canon law.

Daniel discovered other books that added to his faith search. "I read *Patriarchs and Prophets* as well as *Health and Happiness*," says Daniel. "The truths that I found recorded in these books as well as *The Desire of Ages* began to make their way into my weekly homilies."

As God worked in Daniel's life, a new conviction for military chaplaincy began to grow in his heart. Eventually, Daniel found his place as a chaplain in the United States Army. Daniel sees military chaplaincy as a win-win situation. "A chaplain works in a pluralistic society. This provides opportunities to share the love of Jesus in many different ways," says Daniel. "Many people are ready to defend doctrine, but they are not ready to defend Christ."

As Daniel continued his search for truth, he became burdened with the use of relics and statues that were a part of his faith tradition in the Roman Catholic Church. He began to study Mariology to understand what the church was teaching. At one point he was even challenged

to deal with a situation involving these religious symbols. "At one of my duty stations, there were a number of soldiers who were seeking to bring the relics and statues into the main post chapel," recalls Daniel. "I wanted them to understand that the chapel was for all faiths and it wouldn't have been appropriate for these particular symbols to be a part of the chapel furnishings."

Eventually another witness of faith crossed Daniel's path on his search for truth. "I met Dr. Felix I-Ikuomola and we began studying the Bible together," says Daniel. As their friendship developed, Dr. Felix answered Daniel's questions.

It wasn't long before they were watching Doug Batchelor and *Amazing Facts* on Friday nights. They "attended" church on Sabbath mornings by watching a Web-based church service on the Internet.

After months of study and friendship, Daniel was perplexed. "I noticed as we studied, Dr. Felix would point me to Bible truth, but he never insisted that I join his church," says Daniel. "I asked him, 'Why don't you want to be

persuasive about your own religion?'"

"I didn't want it to look like our friendship was only to convert you" was Dr. Felix's response.

Without hesitation, Daniel responded, "I want to join your beliefs." His baptism was held on October 11 and he received ecclesiastical endorsement by Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries on November 11, 2008.

Currently, Daniel serves as the chaplain for the 89th Signal Battalion, NETCOM, at Fort Huachuca, Arizona. As he continues to minister to others, Daniel's greatest desire is to live his life solely by the Word of God.

"Many people are ready to defend doctrine, but they are not ready to defend Christ."

DIRECTOR HISTORIC TO DEPLOYED

by Chaplain (Major) James “Dan” Bray



Several of the Seventh-day Adventist soldiers stationed at Camp Arifjan

Chaplain Gary Councill, Adventist Chaplaincy Ministry director, completed a visit to Seventh-day Adventist soldiers deployed in Kuwait October 26-29, 2008. This is the very first time an Adventist endorser visited troops in a combat zone.

Additionally, Chaplain Councill met with several military leaders to thank them for their service and to recognize the role Adventist chaplains and soldiers play in military operations. The visit could perhaps best be described as a series of modern miracles.

First miracle—Endorsers are actually discouraged from making visits to soldiers in deployed areas. There are

security concerns as well as logistical issues that can upset the normal flow of operations and procedures. His visit created none of those potential concerns. The planning process for Chaplain Councill’s visit began three months before his arrival. Adventist chaplains in the theater staffed all the necessary issues. Their credibility with command made it possible to obtain the required approval from the official joint visitor’s bureau. They then coordinated itineraries, visits with commanders, transportation, lodging, meals, a prayer breakfast, and training classes (officer professional development). In addition to Chaplain Councill, a new Adventist Chaplain (CPT) Owen Vazquez joined the group. CH Vazquez just recently came on active duty and within two months was stationed in Africa. His command sent him TDY to Kuwait just to be able to meet with his ecclesiastical endorser.

Second miracle—A prayer breakfast was held for our Adventist service members plus other military leaders and officers. A side room in the dining facility was attractively set up for the event. Chaplain Councill presented a devotional, showed a short movie, and then led a discussion on leadership in

MAKES VISIT AREA



Chaplain Hamilton describes duties at Camp Buehring to Chaplain Council.

the military. From his years of experience as a senior chaplain he shared some lessons learned for leadership in today's military and challenged attendees to exercise integrity. Soldiers were made aware of the rapid changes occurring in our world that impact our lives in ways we cannot fully imagine. But we need not be dismayed. We have nothing to fear for the future, except if we forget God's teaching, leading, and care given us in the past. Soldiers were encouraged to use the gifts, skills, and talents God has entrusted with them for good.



Five Seventh-day Adventist chaplains meet together with ACM endorser and director Gary Council during a historic first-time visit in a combat theater.

Chaplain Council spoke of God's strength and gave assurance that when we seem all alone, Christ is by our side and we can be strong because of His divine strength (see 2 Timothy 4:16-18).

Third miracle—Following the prayer breakfast and training class, Chaplain Bray escorted Chaplain Council, Chaplain (CPT) Ramon Pena, and Chaplain (CPT) Owen Vazquez to Camp Buehring in northern Kuwait about 30 miles from the Iraqi border. Camp Buehring is the staging area where troops gather for the last phases of military training before they head into Iraq or Afghanistan. We had heard of another Adventist chaplain at this camp and we hoped to visit with him. Amid some 13,000 troops on the ground there, the odds against finding a new arrival were very great.

After we parked the vehicle near the chapel, we walked to the door and opened it. There stood Chaplain (CPT) Roy Hamilton on the other side of the door. This was the very chaplain we did not expect to see! And this was all set up by the fact that we were delayed at the main gate because of some confusion with Chaplain Council's identification card. What we as human beings viewed as a delay in our destination turned out

to be exactly what God had planned for us!

As we were talking, another unexpected surprise awaited us. Yet another Adventist chaplain on this camp walked up to Chaplain Council. Chaplain (CPT) Frantzo Saint-Val had just arrived from Fort Drum a couple of days prior. Apparently, news of our visit had spread fast and CH St.-Val hurried from his tent area to join the small “workers meeting” of Adventist pastor-chaplains. Who could have planned

things better to have a gathering of five Adventist chaplains from Africa, Fort Drum, Camp Arifjan, and Schofield Barracks meet with their endorser in the middle of the desert thousands of miles from home. For the rest of the afternoon and

evening we shared time and a meal together, prayed, and parted renewed in spirit. We were able to fellowship together before these two chaplains left for Iraq in only a few days.

God arranged this meeting better than any of us could have planned it. For the first time in our denominational history, five Adventist chaplains met with their endorser in a combat theater. They were CH (CPT) Ramon Pena, CH (CPT) Owen Vasquez, CH (CPT) Roy Hamilton, CH (CPT) Frantzo Saint-Val, and CH (MAJ) Dan Bray.

Fourth miracle—It certainly is not a daily occurrence for a military chaplain endorser to have an office visit with the deputy commanding general of Army

Central Command. In his visit with Major General Anderson, Chaplain Council briefly summarized the contributions of Adventist chaplains in the military and shared their worldwide work serving as campus, community, corrections, health-care, and workplace chaplains. He thanked Major General Anderson for his leadership and extensive service to our nation.

When they first met, each vaguely recognized each other. In the course of their conversation they discovered

serving together at two previous assignments. One was at Fort Hood, Texas, and the other was in the Pentagon. They exchanged military coins with one another, and a bridge was made from the church to high levels of military leadership.

All these events were staffed and

coordinated to the smallest of details, but God has a way of doing the unexpected and blessing us beyond our finite human capabilities and planning. During these few days of Chaplain Council’s visit, the Lord made Himself known in so many ways and turned good human plans into something much better. Nearly every facet of this tour had an unexpected twist that showed God is in charge. His timing is always perfect . . . it is never late, never early; always on time!

This article was prepared by Chaplain (Major) James “Dan” Bray, 311th ESC chaplain, Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. Dan conducts training for soldiers heading into Iraq and returning home to families to help them make the transitions.



Chaplain Owen Vasquez meets ACM director Gary Council in Kuwait.



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1 October 2008

Joseph R. Allen
Joseph R. Allen
CENL USA
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Lloyd J. Austin III
LLOYD J. AUSTIN III
Lieutenant General, USA
Commanding

Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries and the National Service Organization were recently recognized for their support of military service personnel in Iraq. A certificate and flag, which was flown over the headquarters of the Multinational Corps in Iraq, were presented to Gary Councill, ACM director.



Elder Tom Evans, treasurer for the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists (NAD), is pictured with the certificate and flag. Elder Evans served in the U.S. Army from 1967 to 1969 at Fort Sam Houston and in the finance office at the USAREUR headquarters in Heidelberg, Germany. It is because of NAD support for our military personnel that the church is able to provide pastoral care, supplies, and materials for the spiritual well-being of church members in uniform who are serving their country.





A Turtle Who Rides for Christ

With the roar of the Harley's pipes, a bear of a man pulled up in the driveway on his motorcycle. Dressed in his trademark black leather jacket and pants and American flag bandana, he sticks his hand out and gives a grin. "Hi, I'm Turtle." Most people would take one look at Turtle and assume that he's a bad dude biker. One day, not so far in the distant past, that was true.

At one time Turtle's life was filled with drugs, booze, fights, and trouble everywhere he turned. "It's only by the grace of God I'm alive today," says Turtle.

He hasn't always been known as Turtle. Born into a Seventh-day Adventist family, Rob Turlington attended Adventist schools from grades 1-12. "My parents wanted to instill the love of Christ in me, but I just didn't get it then," recalls Turtle. "I even preached

a sermon when I was 10 years old."

As a teen, Rob couldn't wait to get out on his own and get a taste of life in the "real world." Soon partying and drinking filled his days and nights.

By the time Rob hit his late teens, the Vietnam War was at its height and Rob was drafted as a medic. This gave Rob easy access to drugs, and it seemed that adding them to his repertoire was the normal course Rob should pursue. Those early years of Christian training were far from his mind in the jungles of Vietnam.

At the end of his tour of duty, Rob was ready to get on with his life. "I wanted to get married and start a family," says Rob. "Even with those responsibilities I continued to party, drink, and do drugs."

His actions began taking a toll, and Rob's life slowly unraveled. He grew mean and angry. "No one dared cross me

because of my temper,” Rob says. “I was miserable but didn’t even recognize it.”

As a part of his lifestyle, Rob joined the Veterans Motorcycle Club. He found other veterans who were just as strung out as he. “By now I had acquired Turtle as my biker name,” says Rob. “I was drinking at least a quart of booze every night and doing cocaine and meth.” To pay for his habit Rob began dealing drugs. It was the next step on the path and Rob took it willingly. The only thing that was important now was to get his next fix.

“I wasn’t as smart as I thought,” Rob recalls. “Eventually, undercover police were following me, hoping to make a bust. I know now I avoided being arrested only because God had a bigger plan for my life.”

Rob partied harder trying to find some semblance of happiness and peace in his life, but all he felt was nothingness.



“The Holy Spirit was working on me during this time,” says Rob. “A line from a song I’d learned in church would flit through my mind. Or I’d recall a memory verse I’d learned. I just wasn’t ready to have any part of it.”

Then one night a dream changed everything. In the dream Rob was surrounded by the sensation of an explosion. “I’d heard loud explosions in Vietnam,” says Rob, “but this was louder than anything I’d ever heard there.”

Suddenly, surrounded by a light that was so pure and white, Rob was sure he’d been blinded.

Terrified, Rob sat up in bed and cried out, “Not yet, Jesus! I’m not ready!” He’d grown up believing in the second coming of Christ and was sure that it was happening at that moment. “After the dream, I partied harder for the next two months than I’d ever done before,” Rob recalls. “I think I was trying to wipe it out of my mind.”

One morning Rob woke up, looked in the mirror, and didn’t recognize himself. “My dad always told me that if I got to that point in life I had a lot of changing to do,” says Rob. That’s the day he went cold turkey. He didn’t go to the bar. He didn’t buy his nightly supply of drugs. He went home and sat on the couch. Rob continued this routine for the next three days.

By the third night he was so jittery he didn’t know what to do. “I was sitting on the couch when I heard the words ‘Get on your knees and ask for forgiveness of your sins,’” says Rob.

Falling to his knees, he cried out, “Please Lord, give me peace! I’m tired of the bar fights, drugs, and alcohol. I need peace!” At that moment Rob felt like a wave washed over his body. For the first time in years he felt peace. He was able to sleep that night for the first time in many weeks. He knew his parents, brother, and sister had been praying for him for years. At last he felt the Holy Spirit in his life.

“I immediately began to make changes in my life,” said Rob. “I’d already given up drugs and alcohol;

now I felt the need to attend church.”

Even though Rob had a tough-guy exterior, the church members welcomed him and began to get to know him.

During his years of partying and drugs, Rob had joined an international motorcycle club named the Veterans

Motorcycle Club. Since all members of the club have served in the military, they feel a brotherhood with each other. Rob believed that with the change in his life, he would need to resign from the motorcycle club.

“I was serving as a national officer in the Veterans Motorcycle Club. I wasn’t sure the guys would want me around anymore since I wasn’t going to be doing drugs or drinking and I wasn’t going to party on Sabbath.”

Writing about his conversion in a letter, Rob offered his resignation, but his “brothers” wouldn’t accept it. Instead, they told Rob they wanted him to continue to be in the group. “In fact,” Rob said with a chuckle, “when we have club meetings throughout the United States, they find an Adventist church for me to worship in on the weekend.”

In 2004 Rob reached another turning point in his life. “I wanted to share what I’d found in Christ with my biker brothers,” he said. “I had an impression that I was supposed to buy 50 Bibles and begin distributing them.” Searching the Web, Rob found the International Bible Society’s website. “They had a New Testa-

ment with a picture of a motorcycle on the cover and the title *Hope for the Highway*,” says Rob. “They even came 50 Bibles to a case!”

When the box of 50 Bibles ran out, Rob asked his local church to help support the project, and they did so willingly. Today Rob has distributed over 1,100 Bibles to bikers all over the United States.

The changes in Rob’s life made an impression on his club, too. It has never had a lay chaplain during its 25-year history. That changed

about 18 months ago when the local chapter voted to create the position and asked Rob to fill it. Then Rob was asked to become the club’s national lay chaplain.

Recently, due to the death of a member in the national club, Rob was asked to speak at the funeral service. “Being able to tell my ‘brothers’ about the hope we can have in spite of tragedy meant everything to me,” says Rob.

Rob isn’t sure what’s next in his ministry. “This ministry is God-led,” says Rob. “I just wait to see where He takes me.” As Rob mounts his Harley and flashes his grin, it is hard to believe that this biker dude could ever have been mean and angry. Wherever he’s led, Turtle will go willingly, and he’s sure to bring change along with him. As Rob says, “If God can clean up the mess in my life, I’ve got to share that with others so they have a chance, too.”



Rob Turlington takes to the road to meet other members of the Veterans Motorcycle Club.

A NEW TESTAMENT VIEW OF SOLDIERS

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

Except when soldiers carry out King Herod's orders to kill baby boys in Bethlehem, the New Testament portrays soldiers in a positive light doing good. When soldiers asked John the Baptist what they should do, the evangelist did not tell them to "get out of the military." Instead, he encouraged them to perform their duties better (Luke 3:14). None of the inspired New Testament writers say, "Don't join!" Neither do any of them condemn military service.

Jesus commended a centurion for possessing greater faith than found in all Israel (Matthew 8:5-13; Luke 7:1-10; and John 4:46-54). At Golgotha, a pagan Roman Army officer was the only one to acknowledge the crucified Jesus as the Son of God (Matthew 27:54; Mark 15:39; and Luke 23:47).

Later, the very first Gentile convert to the Christian faith was another Roman Army



officer named Cornelius, who then formed the first Christian church in his own home (Acts 10).

At grave political risk another commander, Claudius Lysias, rescued Paul from a mob in Jerusalem and assassination plots. Then on the way to Rome, Julius trusted the prisoner Paul more than his own guards and sailors, thereby sparing 276 persons from certain death. See Acts 27 for the story.

Apparently, the Gospel writers deeply respected soldiers and often used allusions and metaphors to the military when illustrating the Christian life. Even Jesus

is portrayed as a commander of heaven's armies when He comes again. "I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war. His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. 'He will rule them with an iron scepter.' He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS" (Revelation 19:11-16, NIV).

ADOPT-A-MARINE MINISTRY *Yields* *Bible Studies in* *Iraq*

by Pastor Shawn Shives
EOD Officer, USMC,
Retired



Captain Tim Shives with his international Sabbath study group in Iraq

Early last year, Pastor Shawn Shives and his wife, Nephlen, decided to try to make a difference in the lives of the Marines assigned with their son, United States Marine Corps Captain Timothy Shives, who was stationed in Iraq. Their reason for this decision? “We missed our son greatly,” says Pastor Shives. “I remembered that Tim once told me in an e-mail that he felt badly because he was getting more cards and letters than his junior Marines. Some of them never receive any mail from home.”

So Pastor Shives started the “Adopt-a-Marine Ministry” by asking members of the Loganville, Georgia, Seventh-day Adventist Church to pray for, write letters to, and send care packages to the young Marines away from home and serving in Iraq. Over 30 families from the church signed up to adopt the 15 Marines assigned in Captain Shives’ unit in Al Asad, Iraq.





Captain Tim Shives with a mayor of an Iraq city

The program made a big difference in the lives of these Marines who are serving half a world away from their homes. Captain Shives noted that the letters and packages were greatly appreciated by his Marines, and some even began to attend Sabbath services that he was holding in the local base chapel.

Captain Shives stated that he was extremely impressed by the faithfulness of the letters and

packages coming to his Marines. “There is no other Marine unit in Iraq that received the volume of mail that my Marines received—thanks to the good folks at the Loganville church,” says Captain Shives.

The Loganville church sent not only mail, phone cards, and cookies, but each family involved in the ministry included the same

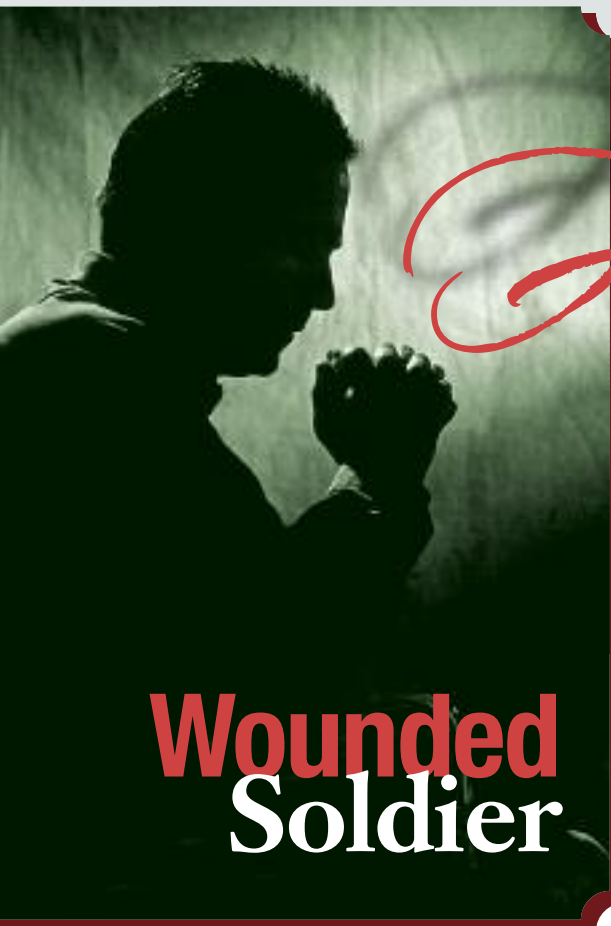
monthly sharing book in their packages. The books were selected by Pam Reifsnnyder, a Loganville member and manager of the Decatur Adventist Book Center.

“The sharing books were a huge success,” reports Captain Shives. “By giving each Marine the same book each month it gave them something to talk about during work and in their free time.”

The Loganville members also decided to enroll their Marines in the Discover Bible School. Captain Shives observed his Marines sitting around on break, doing the lessons together in small groups and discussing the answers.

“We are happy that these young Marines have served their country and God has spared their lives,” says Pastor Shawn Shives. “We are also excited that God used a church thousands of miles away to minister to these young Marines.”

• Since this article was written, Captain Shives and his unit have returned home. He’s back at Camp Pendleton and has already started Bible studies with a neighbor. Sharing Jesus is a way of life for Tim, and he’ll do it wherever he lives and works.



Wounded Soldier

Former Sergeant Major of the Army (SMA) Jack Tilley was with a group of people visiting wounded soldiers in Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Washington, D.C. He saw a Special Forces soldier who had lost his right hand and suffered severe wounds to his face and side of his body. The SMA wanted to honor him and show him respect without offending, but what does one say or do in such a situation that will encourage and uplift? How do you shake the right hand of a soldier who has none?

He decided to act as though the hand was not missing and gripped the soldier's wrist while speaking words of comfort and encouragement to him. But there was another man in that group of visitors who had brought his wife with him who knew exactly what to do.

This man reverently took the soldier's stump of a hand in both of his hands, bowed at the bedside, and prayed for him. When he finished the prayer he stood up, bent over the soldier, kissed him on the head, and told him that he loved him. What a powerful expression of love for one of our wounded heroes!

What kind of man would kneel in such humility and submission? He was the wounded soldier's commander-in-chief, President George W. Bush.

Note: This story was told by the SMA at a Soldiers' Breakfast held at Red Stone Arsenal, Alabama, and recorded by Chaplain James Henderson.

A photograph of a woman in a yellow shirt holding a baby in front of a dark door with a stained glass window. The woman is smiling and waving. The baby is looking towards the camera. The scene is set outdoors, likely at a home entrance.

THE SILENT RANKS

**I wear no uniforms, no blues or army greens.
But I am in the military, in the ranks rarely seen.**

**I have no rank upon my shoulders.
Salutes I do not give.**

**But the military world is the place where I live.
I'm not in the chain of command, orders I do not get.**

**That my husband is the one who does this I cannot forget.
I'm not the one who fires the weapon,
who puts my life on the line.**

**But my job is just as tough, I'm the one who's left behind.
My husband is a patriot, a brave and prideful man.
And the call to serve his country, not all can understand.**

**Behind the lines I see the things needed
to keep this country free.**

**My husband makes the sacrifice, but so do our kids and me.
I love this man I married, soldiering is his life.
But I stand among the silent ranks known as
THE MILITARY WIFE.**

The Hui Spirit, March 2003

Well Done, *Good and Faithful Servants*

Chaplain (LTC) Tom G. Evans has been selected for promotion to Colonel. He is number 7 on the list, but will not pin on the eagles for about another year.



▶ **Chaplain (CPT) James Hall** was ordained at Stevensville, Michigan, on 22 November. Chaplain Hall completed the Chaplain Captains Career Course at the U.S. Army Chaplain Center and School at Fort Jackson on 12 December 2008. He and his family head for a tour of duty in Bamberg, Germany, in January.



▶ **Chaplain (CPT) Jorge Torres** was ordained at the Florida Conference camp meeting during Memorial Day weekend, 2008.

Captain David Girardin, CHC, USN, is currently attending the Industrial College for the Armed Forces at Fort McNair, Washington, D.C. Only one senior chaplain every three years receives the honor of being selected to attend that prestigious year of schooling.

Chaplain (1LT) Tanya Bindernagel has been sworn in as the first Adventist female chaplain on active duty in the U.S. Army. She is assigned at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, for her first duty assignment.



▶ **Chaplain (LTJG) Adrienne Townsend** graduated from the Navy's chaplain school and is now assigned at MCAS Beaufort in South Carolina for her first duty assignment.

Chaplain (1LT) Carlos Molina has graduated from the Chaplain Officer Basic Course at USACHCS.

Congratulations to the following chaplains who have received ecclesiastical endorsement from Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries.

Chaplain (CPT) Kyron Bell

Chaplain (CPT) Daniel Korie

Congratulations to the following individuals who have been approved as chaplain candidates by Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries.

Edgardo Rivas

Jeremiah Williams



The following personnel have been appointed Distinctive Faith Group Leaders:

T/Sgt. Kerri L. Marroquin, AMCWG on Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar

Paula Garcia, AMCWG on Camp Eggers, Afghanistan.

Challenge yourself to advance as a person.
—Unknown

IN MEMORIAM

A FALLEN ADVENTIST HERO



LANCE CPL. CASEY L. CASANOVA,

from McComb, Mississippi, was assigned to the Marines, Combat Logistics Battalion 1, Combat Logistics Regiment 1, 1st Marine Logistics Group, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, California.

She died on May 2, 2008, in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Lance Cpl. Casanova was a field radio operator and was on her first deployment to Iraq. Casanova was killed along with three other Marines when their vehicle struck a roadside bomb near Karma, Iraq.

New Directory of Chaplains



A new *Directory of Seventh-day Adventist Military Chaplains* is being prepared and will be available in the coming weeks. This resource is available to all Seventh-day Adventists who are active duty members of the military. In order to receive directory copy and future copies of *For God and Country*, please make sure that Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries has your current point-of-contact information. You can send updated contact information to acm@gc.adventist.org.

What's New With You?

For God and Country is designed for you, our readers. We are looking for news, stories from the field, and other items of interest. Your contributions can be sent to the editor at: editor@VerbalOxygen.com. Include digital photos (as jpeg files) as well as identification of people in the photos.

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



Resources

SpiritFlash—www.SpiritFlash.org—*features videos for ministry and spiritual growth*

Sacred Hearts Ministry—www.sacredheartsministry.org—*is a place to learn about marriage retreats that are a truly memorable experience*

Go Bible—www.gobible.org

Answers for Me—www.answersforme.org—*features vegan and vegetarian recipes*

BetterSermons—www.bettersermons.org

Focus on the Family—www.FocusOnTheFamily.com—*a source for many family and relationship topics*

Bible Gateway—www.BibleGateway.com—*a source for multiple Bible translations*



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 for joining the NAD Military Church. To request a transfer of your membership, complete and return the following form to Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries.

Mail the completed form to:
NAD Military Church Clerk,
Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries,
12501 Old Columbia Pike,
Silver Spring, MD 20904 USA

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

REQUEST FOR TRANSFER OF CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

PERSONAL INFORMATION:

Name _____

Home Address overseas _____

Overseas mailing address _____

Home e-mail _____

Telephone _____

GOVERNMENT or MILITARY-RELATED SERVICE

- Government agency _____
- Military service _____
- Civilian government employee
- Teacher for children of
government or military
- AAFES worker
- Contractor
- Family member

Overseas nation where serving _____

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

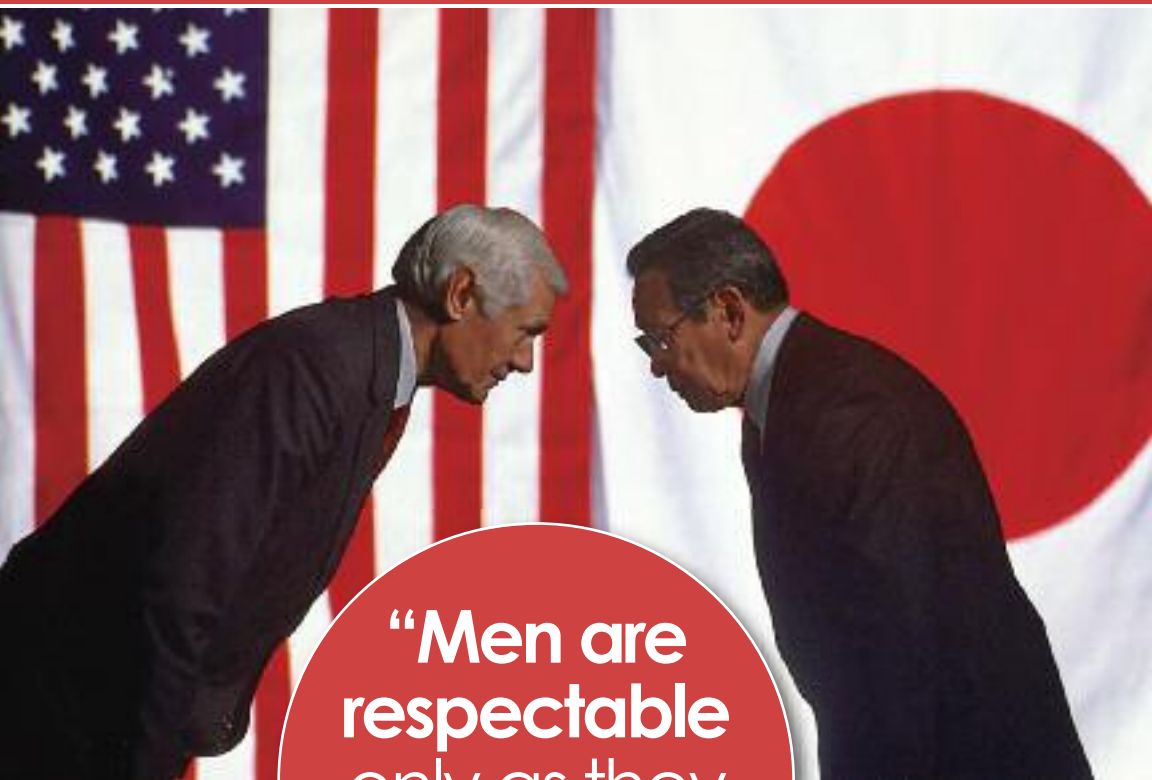
(Where your current membership is held)

Name of church _____

Church address _____

If you do not know the complete address, you can check online for it at the following website:

<http://www.nadadventist.org/article.php?id=55>. Or if you give as much information as you can remember, the NAD Military Church clerk can find it and complete the action.



“Men are
respectable
only as they
respect”

—*Ralph Waldo Emerson*

For
God &
Country

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