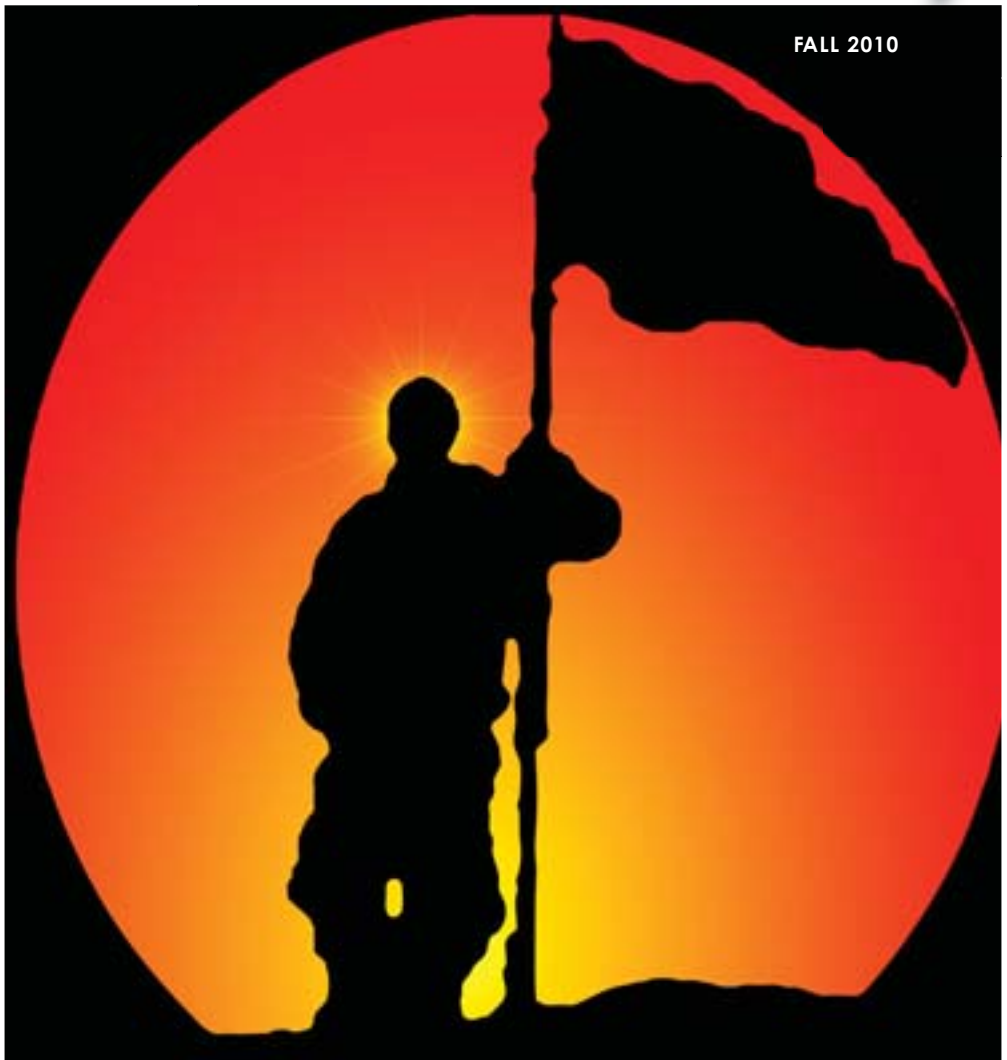


*A Journal for
Military-related
Seventh-day Adventists*

For God & **C**ountry

FALL 2010



Loyal Service



Gary R. Councill
*Director,
Adventist Chaplaincy
Ministries*

Marine Corps Reserve, Navy Reserve, and the U.S. Public Health Service Reserve Corps (not an armed service). In addition there are four civilian auxiliaries: Civil Air Patrol, Coast Guard Auxiliary, Merchant Marine, and the Military Auxiliary Radio System.

Members of the reserve components are assigned to one of several categories for readiness purposes and training. Individuals or entire units can be activated or called up and mobilized to augment the regular forces. Increasing numbers of Seventh-day Adventists have served and are serving in the various reserve components of their countries' militaries.

Service in the reserve components offers several positive options. During times of conscription, it provides an alternative way to fulfill civic responsibility and continue studies in college full-time or retain civilian employment. It can also provide additional income and training for technical job skills. And depending on the laws of the nation, after 20 or more years of service, reservists may qualify for a military pension. Reserve

Much More Than a “Weekend Warrior”

The tradition of citizen-soldiers dates to the 1600s. The ideal embodiment of the reserve components shines in the American Revolution for independence when Colonial forces of mostly state militia defeated the world’s superpower of that era.

Today reserve military forces provide trained units and qualified persons for times when national security or emergencies may require their service to supplement the active-duty regular components.

Each branch of the military has a reserve. For example, in the United States there are eight reserve components: Air Force Reserve, Air National Guard, Army Reserve, Army National Guard, Coast Guard Reserve,



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service can be an outlet for a sense of patriotism or just wanting to belong to a worthwhile organization. For Adventists, being in the Auxiliaries, Guards, or Reserves opens doors into the greater community and helps us “mingle” as we are admonished to do in following Christ’s example of reaching out to others (*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 143).

Calculate the following costs before enlisting to take advantage of the benefits of service in the reserve components. You are paid to be prepared for mobilization, usually during times of distress. Mobilization means uprooting from your education, family, and work, with the possibility of long-term separations. You must maintain physical readiness and attend regular training times and some advanced military schools. When you first join, your basic military training will occur on an active-duty installation.

After basic and advanced individual training, most Reserve units drill one weekend per month (a Saturday and Sunday) and one two-week period during the year. Obviously,

if you are intent on observing Sabbath in traditional Adventist manner, you should not enlist. Commanders rightly will be reluctant to grant you half of the limited-duty time off. Expecting full pay for training half the time is unethical.

Some reservists have worked out mutually satisfactory arrangements over faith concerns. Commands have permitted Adventists to train at alternate times and thus fulfill their obligations, (i.e., two Sundays, a Sunday and another day, etc). Occasionally ACM receives calls from Adventists and unit leaders over accommodation of religious practice issues (primarily Sabbath observance). Our advice: Rather than be a problem, become so valued in your unit that the unit will value you. Find a way to practice your faith in uniform without compromising your spiritual values. Faith that motivates superior duty performance wins affirmation and becomes a credible witness. Thank you for your service.

LETTERS TO FOR GOD & COUNTRY

Your letters to For God and Country are always welcome. Please share short, specific, and timely thoughts with us. You should include your complete address and phone number—even in e-mail messages. Letters will not be published unless we have this information. Letters will be edited for space and clarity only.

Please note that any inclusion of a letter to this section does not imply that the ideas expressed are endorsed by either the editors of For God and Country, the directors of Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries, or the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

Send correspondence to: Letters to the Editor, Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries, 12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, MD 20904-6600. Internet: editor@VerbalOxygen.com

There's no envelope in our mailbox. There's no "You've got mail" message on our computer. It's been too long since we've heard from you. Won't you please write? We want to hear from you.

The Editors

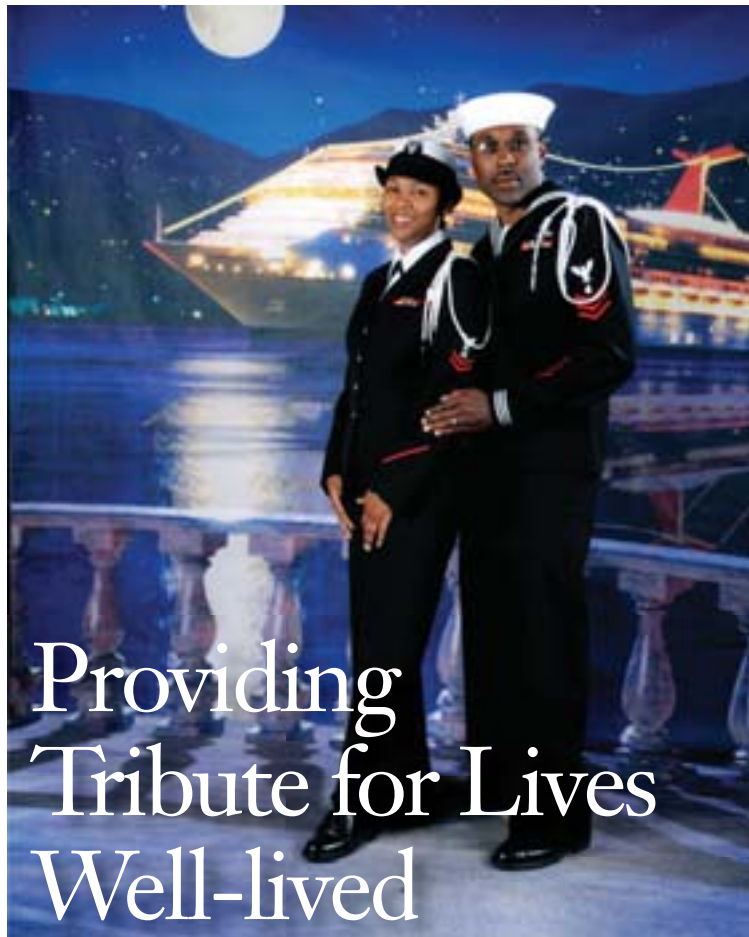
The caisson passes by bearing the flag-draped coffin.

Precision movements are executed upon command. "Taps" is played. Honor and respect for the life and work of a veteran is demonstrated. Through it all, Nadine and Mark Miller provide watchful care and attention to even the smallest details in their duties of military honor guard as part of the Navy Ceremonial Guard.

"I have always been attracted to military service," said Nadine. "I had a career in banking, but around my thirty-third birthday I realized the opportunity to join up was slipping by. It was 'now or never,' and it was then I made my decision."

Mark and Nadine met while attending high school in Jamaica. "Our friendship grew, but Mark eventually joined the military," said Nadine. "We drifted apart, but we still felt deeply about each other." Eventually Mark and Nadine renewed their friendship and were married.

At 17 Mark met a Navy recruiter who suggested he take a mock exam. "I couldn't believe I passed with flying colors," said Mark. "The training that I received in gas turbine technology has helped me with other careers since then."



Providing Tribute for Lives Well-lived

After 12 years in the Navy, Mark decided he wanted to pursue other opportunities. He's worked at an aircraft museum where he restored B-17s and B-25s. Both the Orlando International Airport and Walt Disney World have benefited from his previous training.

When Nadine made her decision to join, her preference was to investigate the Air Force Reserves. "When I learned that the monthly drills would be in South Carolina, I had to rethink my choice," said Nadine. "Logistically, it made more sense for me to choose the Navy with the drills being at MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa.

Nadine thinks in terms of logistics,

since she has served as a logistics specialist. Currently she is also assigned the position of assistant administrative petty officer for her 75-member unit in Tampa.

After a time away from the Navy, Mark decided that he wanted to don the uniform again. He currently serves in a construction battalion with the Seabees. Together Mark and Nadine also serve with the Navy Ceremonial Guard a minimum of three times a week, primarily at the Sarasota National Cemetery.

"I've attended about 300 funeral services," said Nadine. "My role is to fold the flag at the end of the ceremony. Families are so appreciative, and to be a part of paying tribute to their loved one is very rewarding."



Mark and Nadine Miller provide Navy Ceremonial Guard duties and pay tribute to fallen warriors.



Nadine Miller escorts a caisson during a military funeral.

Both Mark and Nadine find opportunities to share their faith and are ready to answer questions that members of their units might have.

"There is something known as Navy tongue," said Mark. "While I was in the Navy, I would request that instructors and others watch their language around

me. For the most part, everyone respected my position."

Mark also realized that many people notice the lifestyle choices that he makes. "Those are opportunities to share my beliefs," Mark said. "I've had a number of people tell me, 'I've tried to change, and it doesn't work. Please pray for me.'"

"I try to show Christ in the way I live," said Nadine. "When the guys start talking rough around me, I just tell them, 'You know, you are really hurting my ears,' and they clean up their lan-

guage pretty quickly."

Mark and Nadine are active in their local church in Port Charlotte, Florida. Nadine has served as the vespers coordinator while Mark works with the audiovisual needs for the church. He also has an outreach program for youth that helps to groom them for life using

biblical principles.

Mark and Nadine have an abundance of plans for the future. Mark is scheduled to deploy to Afghanistan and Nadine to Kuwait. When she returns, Nadine plans to finish her nursing degree and then apply to the officer corps.



Robert Johnson, left, celebrated Memorial Day by remembering those who have served their country faithfully.

Serving Those Who Served

Robert Johnson, founder of Veterans for Christ, has a passion to facilitate outreach and ministry to those who have served their country.

S*emper Fi.* Always Faithful. These words summarize former marine Robert Johnson's passion of ministry to veterans in need of assistance. Johnson provides faithful service to those who have served their country but may need some extra care now.

"I had a pretty rough start in life," said Johnson. "I was born in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and grew up in a hard neighborhood. My parents divorced when I was 13.

"My life would be so different if it weren't for the people who took an active interest in me," said Johnson. A



pastor in the neighborhood mentored Johnson. At the same time a staff sergeant, who knew Robert's background, inspired Johnson to do something important with his life. Chaplain Sammy Price and Bernice Lewis also provided positive and life-changing influences.

"I was attracted to the Marines even though I had a lot of people telling me I wouldn't make it," said Johnson. "That made me even more determined to succeed."

Johnson's experience in the military was positive and helped him to see the opportunity to give back to those who

have faithfully served their country. “I first realized the need of a ministry to veterans in our area when I met Jim,” said Johnson. “I had recently moved to the Dallas area and wanted to be involved in some type of outreach.”

Johnson began volunteering at a local nursing home, where he met Jim, a decorated Vietnam veteran. As their friendship grew, Jim told Johnson that he wanted to attend church with him. “There were physical challenges in making this happen,” said Johnson. “Sadly, before we were able to make the proper arrangements, Jim died.”

Following Jim’s death, Johnson met with the nursing home supervisor. “I couldn’t believe it when the supervisor told me that Jim talked about me constantly,” said Johnson. “What was even more surprising was Jim’s request that I be given a picture from his personal effects.” It portrayed Jim meeting with Former President George H. W. Bush. “I was so moved that Jim wanted me to have this picture rather than it going to his family,” said Johnson.

The impact of meeting Jim led Johnson to meet with several veterans in his local church, the City Temple Seventh-day Adventist Church in Dallas, Texas. Recognizing their duty as Christians and former brothers-in-arms, the first steps were taken to form the Veterans for Christ (VFC) organization.

“I couldn’t have done this on my own,” said Johnson. “Several vets from

my local church were instrumental in the beginning stages.” These included Alex Horton, pastor; Charles Wiley; Carl Ealey; James T. Hunt; Roy Reed; Joseph Weithers; and Orville Brown.

Today VFC has numerous programs that provide services to vets in the Dallas area. “Two of our major events are to recognize Memorial Day and Veteran’s Day,” said Johnson.

The day-to-day ministry is very personal and targeted to those vets who are most in need of an extra hand. Deliveries of care packages are often accompanied by personal visits and

prayer. If veterans need a flag to fly from their home, it is provided. Lawns are mowed. Home maintenance is performed. “Our work on the homes helps keep the value up, and this in turn makes the vets feel valued,” said Johnson.

Once a quarter a community breakfast is sponsored for

any veteran who wants to attend. Johnson uses this to meet people in the community and learn of any unmet needs.

Johnson utilizes young people to help with the projects, because it gives him the opportunity to talk with them about the sacrifices that military services members have made and continue to make.

VFC also expanded into the area of offering seminars on coping with anger and the affects of PTSD. “We coordinate with representatives from local VA hospitals and have them speak on these issues,” said Johnson.



The Veterans for Christ organization provides care packages to vets who are in need of a little something extra to fill their pantry shelves.

Surrendering after six years of being on the run finally brought peace to the heart of Wanda Acevedo. It wasn't the authorities that Acevedo was fleeing from; rather, it was the calling that God had put on her heart.

"I knew from the time that I was 17 years old that God was calling me to the ministry," says Acevedo. "College confirmed that for me, as well as challenged me."

At one point Acevedo began praying that if God wanted her in the ministry, He would have to give her some signs. "I felt that one of the signs that would confirm my call to ministry was if several people would encourage me to attend the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary (SDATS) to study for my Master of Divinity degree."

Acevedo received that confirmation from several individuals, including some pastors who knew her well. She packed her bags, made the journey from her home in Puerto Rico, and enrolled in the seminary program. "During my time there I became frightened that I was on the wrong path," says Acevedo. "I knew how difficult it is for women to find their niche in pastoral ministry, especially in Puerto Rico. I trusted in my own strength, packed my bags, and returned home."

As God so often does with many of us, He continued to work on Acevedo's heart, wooing her to follow His plan for her life. "It's an honor when God puts His eyes on you and calls you to the ministry," says Acevedo. "When He calls you, He calls you for life. He will not take away that call. Instead, He just keeps believing in you."

After a personal crisis, Acevedo knew that she had to trust God with the details, and she returned to the SDATS for her theological training. As she began to pray about returning to the seminary, Acevedo learned that her academic record was still active even though it had been five years since she'd last attended classes. One Sunday she received a phone call that changed everything.

"Someone from the school called and said that if I was going to enroll for classes

that fall, I had to be there by Wednesday. I quit my job and left Puerto Rico with just \$200 in my pocket," says Acevedo. "God was going to have to work out my housing, my financial situation, my enrollment, and everything else that was needed to make this work. He was faithful and provided all those things and more."

Six Years on the Run

*It wasn't the authorities
that Acevedo was fleeing from.*



Chaplain Acevedo prays with troops at the airport before their deployment to Iraq.

When Acevedo finally returned to the SDATS, the feelings were overwhelming for her. "I felt relief for finally being at peace with my decision," says Acevedo. "I also felt fulfilled and excited as I watched God open doors that seemed to be firmly locked shut with no key in sight."

In 2001 Acevedo entered the chaplaincy candidacy program while she was studying at the seminary. "As a teenager I had been

interested in the military,” says Acevedo. “The thing that kept me from joining was that I didn’t want to have to fight.”

There were other benefits that Acevedo identified, and as she learned about military chaplaincy she was attracted to the opportunity to do ministry in such a setting. “Working as a chaplain gives me an opportunity to

ally from there. I was able to pray with and minister to the general and other soldiers who were deeply affected by this loss.

Today Acevedo is testing her skills as she is deployed to Iraq. “One of the challenges as a deployed chaplain is that you don’t know exactly what duties you will be assigned until you arrive,” says Acevedo.



Chaplain Acevedo with a Seventh-day Adventist worship group in Iraq

reach out to people of many different cultures and religions,” says Acevedo. “For my ministry, I am accepted because I’m a chaplain. My being a woman doesn’t get in the way as it might if I were in a parish ministry in Puerto Rico.”

Acevedo has experienced several firsts as a female chaplain. She was the first woman chaplain at a Seventh-day Adventist hospital in Puerto Rico. Other firsts included being the first female Army Reserve chaplain in Puerto Rico and the first female Adventist military chaplain.

Acevedo faced a challenging role when she was called upon to minister to a general who had lost his assistant. “The general and his assistant had made a trip to Iraq, and unfortunately the assistant lost his life during the trip,” says Acevedo. “The assistant was a St. Croix citizen and was the first war casu-

Isolation and transitions will be something that Acevedo will face at the beginning of this deployment. “I won’t be staying with my unit and will have to meet and work with new people,” says Acevedo. “This can create feelings of loneliness, but I know that God will be with me as I walk this next portion of the path He has set for me.”

As others, particularly women, consider the possibility of military chaplaincy, Acevedo gives these words of encouragement: “Please join us. We need bilingual people to help the families, especially with the female spouses,” says Acevedo. “Many of our Hispanic-speaking troops have families who don’t speak English. They can be very isolated, and a chaplain can provide much-needed support to them. If God calls you, He will provide you with what you need most.”

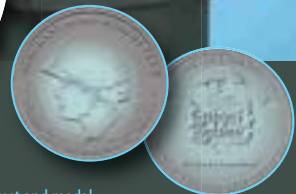
Serving With EXCELLENCE

SSG Carl Butler was recently inducted into the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club. This prestigious honor is the highest award given to non-commissioned officers.

A person's reaction to life-altering events can often change the course of that individual's choices. Following the death of his brother, U.S. Army SSG Carl Butler decided that he wanted something more out of life. "I wanted to be able to support myself," recalled Butler. "I decided that joining the military was a good option."

Raised as a Seventh-day Adventist in Belize, Central America, Butler wanted to connect with other believers in the Army. Although his intentions were good, life was busy, finding other believers wasn't always easy, and the ties to his faith and God gradually began to loosen.

Eventually Butler was deployed to Iraq, where he was stationed in Tal Afar in the ancient Nineveh region. "I remember the very first convoy and what a surreal experience it was for me at that time," said Butler. "All I could murmur was 'God, can You put a bubble over this whole unit



Artwork: Audie Murphy crest and medal
copyright Richard L. Rogers (USAG-J).

while we are on patrol?”

Although his spiritual life had diminished, Butler would eventually discover that God had continued to work on his heart. Marriage to his wife, Elizabeth, brought Carl to a startling realization. “Although I’d been raised a Christian, it was in name only,” admitted Butler. “I hadn’t been paying attention to a lot of spiritual things. Elizabeth and I had many unanswered questions.”

With a move to USARAK-Fort Richardson in Alaska, the Butlers began to seek answers. “Chaplain Tom Evans was instrumental in getting me back on track with my spiritual life,” said Butler. “When we had questions, his response was ‘Let’s see what God says.’ For me that was life-changing.”

Chaplain and Mrs. Evans drew the Butlers into their circle and nurtured them spiritually. “They became like a second family to us,” said Butler. “Their compassion and joy in sharing Jesus with us led to Elizabeth’s baptism in 2009.”

Butler recognizes today how God has led and blessed him during his military career. His role as a small group leader at Fort Richardson has given him great opportunity to teach young soldiers. “I have the privilege of giving them tools to be the best NCOs they can be,” said Butler.

Mentoring these young soldiers brings unexpected rewards. “One day Elizabeth and I were walking in the park,” said Butler. “I’ve worked with hundreds of students, but that day one of them approached me and told me

how my instruction helped him make changes in his life and how important that was to him. It pleased me to hear that my contributions make a difference.”

Butler’s commitment to excellence has drawn the attention of his superior officers. He was selected to be among an elite group of soldiers being considered for the Audie Murphy award, the highest award an enlisted soldier can receive. Each candidate must appear before a board of five sergeant majors and successfully demonstrate their effectiveness at leading other soldiers. The board must be unanimous in its vote to recommend a candidate for the award. Butler successfully completed the interview and received the honor of being inducted as a member of the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club in January 2009. “Receiving this prestigious award was truly the pinnacle of my military career so far,” said Butler. “There wasn’t much time to prepare for the meeting with the board, but God blessed me as I gave my answers.”

Today Butler is participating in the Army’s Green to Gold program and working toward his commissioning as an officer in the U.S. Army.

Butler’s work as a small group leader in the military is a natural fit with his outreach ministry to the youth in his local church. He realizes the impact he can have on young lives through his work with them. “It’s important for me to be a living example to others around me,” said Butler.



Elizabeth and Carl Butler found life-changing answers to their Spiritual questions through the faithful ministry of others.



It's a Family Affair

C/1Sgt Jeremiah Daul; C/Amn Katherina Daul; CH (CPT) Kevin Daul, US Army and CAP chaplain; 1Lt Carol Daul, deputy commander of cadets, Fort Leonard Wood Composite Squadron, Missouri Wing, Civil Air Patrol USAF Auxiliary

The Civil Air Patrol (CAP) is a family affair for the Daul family. Jeremiah, Katherina, Carol, and Kevin are all involved in the CAP squadron at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri.

“Our son, Jeremiah, had a longtime interest in flying and planes,” said Carol. “When he was 12 years old, we attended a Military Appreciation Day while we were stationed in Hawaii. He learned about CAP and wanted to join.”

With Jeremiah’s involvement it wasn’t long before Carol was being asked to help with the program. “I thought it would be a good opportunity to be involved,” said Carol. “I didn’t realize at the time where that would lead.”

Carol was asked to be the deputy commander in charge of cadets. The local CAP program was small, with only six cadets actively attending the

meetings. Wanting to revitalize the program, Carol took on the task of arranging activities including glider flights and various training flights. The cadets also had a chance to climb aboard a C-130 Coast Guard search-and-rescue plane.



C/1Sgt Jeremiah Daul conducting squadron uniform inspection for the Fort Leonard Wood Composite Squadron, Missouri Wing, Civil Air Patrol

Enthusiasm among the cadets grew, and soon the squadron had 20 active participants regularly attending the weekly meetings and other activities. The Wheeler Squadron color guard and drill team eventually went on to win the Hawaii CAP color guard competition.

As a foundation of the CAP program, cadets learn discipline and leadership skills and are exposed to a variety of training and educational programs. They are taught to think independently, to work as a team, and to have respect for others. Cadets who are 18 years old can choose to participate in the international air cadet program and train in other countries. "The program is cadet-led, with adult support," said Carol. "I have enjoyed watching my children and the other cadets grow as leaders as a result of their involvement in CAP."

In October 2008 the Daul family was transferred to Fort Leonard Wood, where Kevin serves as a U.S. Army chaplain. "When I learned that there was need of a deputy commander of cadets, I agreed to lead out in that capacity once again," said Carol. "Our squadron has participated in some unique opportunities. Probably the most exciting so far was the chance for everyone to ride in a Black Hawk helicopter."

The 30-member squadron is very involved in aerospace education and the science of flight and rockets, as well as the physical fitness program. "We have an average monthly attendance of 70 percent participation," said Carol. "This compares with other squadrons that see an average participation of about 50 percent."

Jeremiah has worked and studied hard for his cadet role in CAP. He is almost ready to attain officer rank.

Twelve-year-old Katherina joined as soon as she met the age requirement. "There are so many opportunities that CAP offers," said Carol. "Jeremiah is able to explore his love of airplanes and flying. Our daughter, Katherina, is attracted to the leadership aspect and is learning more about search-and-rescue operations. Kevin uses his chaplaincy training to teach the character development class, which includes discussing how to deal with moral and ethical situations."

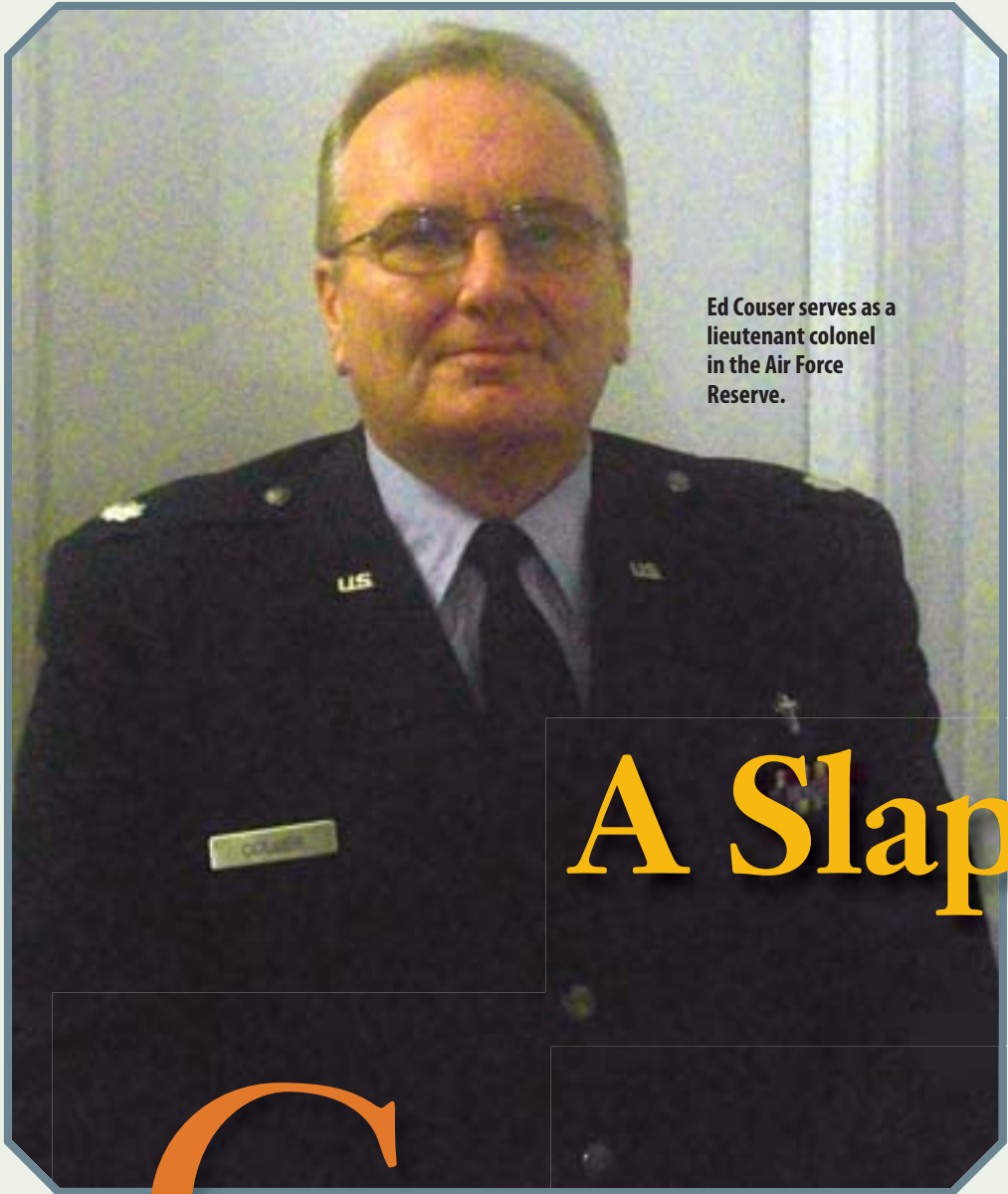
Seeking God's guidance in mentoring the cadets, Carol uses lots of prayer



CH (CPT) Kevin Daul providing character development counseling to a Civil Air Patrol cadet

to deal with situations. "It's important to know how to help cadets learn to face problems, but they must also recognize how to be polite and firm as leaders," said Carol. "There have been difficult moments that I had to rely solely on God for solutions."

Although initially Carol's involvement in CAP was to be a part of something her children were interested in, she has discovered benefits that she hadn't expected. "This has opened my eyes to the opportunities I have to connect with people outside my own faith group," said Carol. "Many of them are seeking Bible truth, as well as healthy-living principles. This is a wonderful way to minister to others outside of a traditional church setting."



Ed Couser serves as a lieutenant colonel in the Air Force Reserve.

A Slap

GOD, YOU ARE GOING TO HAVE TO SLAP ME IN THE HEAD TO SHOW ME WHAT YOU WANT ME TO DO,”

said Ed Couser as he sat on a plane bound for Albany, New York. Ed’s life had reached a crossroads, and God had surprises in store.

Following high school Couser signed up for courses at a local community college. He felt he needed something more, and the Air Force seemed to be the answer for Couser. “During boot camp in San Antonio I met a couple of young adults who made an impression on me,” said Couser. “I noticed something different about them, but my friends told me to stay away from them because they were ‘Jesus freaks.’”

After boot camp Couser was sent to Alexandria, Louisiana. While there he was befriended by a young man who reminded him of the young adults in San Antonio. “I asked him what made him different, and he told me that Jesus had changed his life,” said Couser. “He made an appeal to me to give my heart to Christ, but I rejected it.”

The moment stuck with Couser,

leave Couser without answers to his questions. One day he met with Chaplain Bill Hall. “When I told Chaplain Hall that I had many questions, he responded that he would be happy to help me dig deep into the Bible to find answers,” said Couser. “He asked me what I had learned so far in my study.”

Couser began to explain his belief in the Sabbath, the state of the dead, the Second Coming, and healthful living. “Chaplain Hall just sat and listened,” said Couser. “I didn’t know at the time that he was an Adventist pastor, as well as an active-duty chaplain.”

When Couser finished his explanation of what he had learned, Hall responded that he believed the same things. “That began our in-depth study of the life of Christ,” said Couser.

Several months later Couser decided to attend a series of evangelistic meetings. “I went the first night, and then I

in the Head

however, and a couple of weeks later he did pray for Christ to take control of his life. “I bought a Bible and studied it on my own for the next year and a half,” said Couser.

As he began to believe the things he read in the Bible, Couser was troubled by the fact that there were so many different churches that taught so many different things. He asked numerous pastors, but was unable to find a satisfactory answer to his questions. During his personal study Couser learned about the Sabbath and that people who die are asleep. “My studies even led me to begin to transition to a vegetarian diet,” said Couser. God wasn’t going to

wasn’t able to return again until the last night,” said Couser. “The evangelist made three altar calls that night. He told the congregation that he was impressed that there was someone who needed to respond to the call. I finally went forward and joined a baptismal class.”

After his baptism Couser learned that he had been selected for officers training, but several people in the local church encouraged him to return to college and finish his education. “I made a trip to Keene to see if that was where God wanted me to be,” said Couser. “After that I decided to check out Atlantic Union College [AUC].”

It was during the plane ride to AUC that Couser told God he needed evidence of what he was supposed to do. “When I arrived at AUC, I went to the main building and didn’t find anyone to talk with,” said Couser. “Finally I found a man who asked if I needed help.” Couser explained that he was thinking about attending the school.

“Within minutes the man told me that I could work for him and that he’d arranged for a place for me to stay. I knew God had just given me the word that I was going to attend AUC.”

Couser returned to base and informed his commander of his decision, and two weeks after his discharge from the Air Force he returned to AUC to begin his studies.

Couser eventually interned in New York and attended seminary. In 1986 he was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Air Force Reserve.

“My experience in the Reserve has enriched my ministry,” said Couser. “The training I have received and the relationships that I have formed in both areas have served to sharpen my ministry and counseling skills.”

His counseling skills are often called upon when tragedy or overwhelming feelings consume those who are placed

under his care. “One day a young man who had been to Iraq and Germany came to me,” said Couser. “He told me he had seen things he couldn’t believe and that he needed help.” Those are

the times when pat answers are not enough.

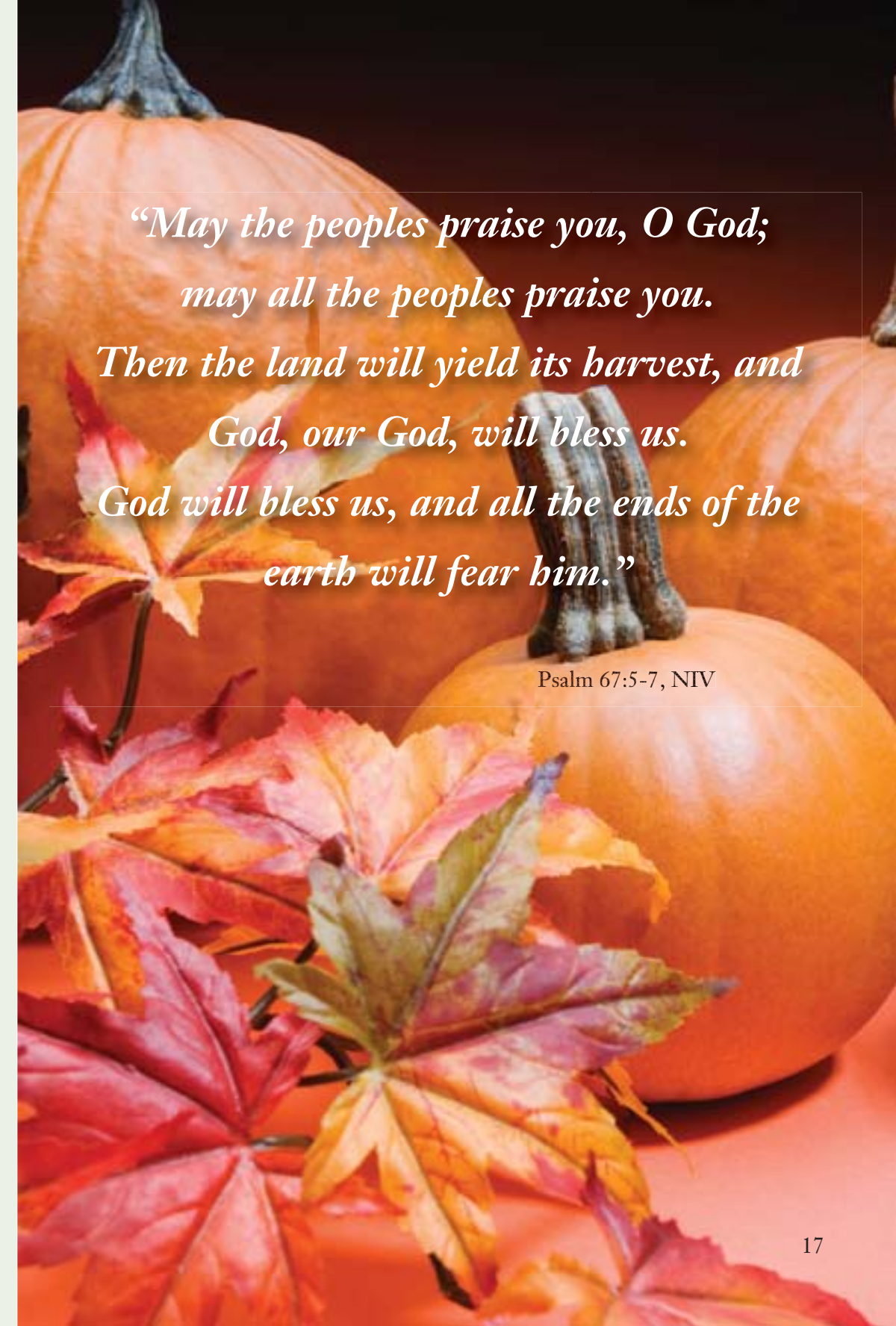
Recently Couser met with a young marine who had finished boot camp. Arriving at Wright-Patterson AFB, where Couser is a wing chaplain, the marine confessed he was feeling pretty bad about himself. “He told me he had come home to say goodbye to his family,” said Couser. “Then he planned to take his own life. I asked him if he would take a walk with me. During that time the marine poured out his fears and feelings. By the end of the walk he was ready to agree to a

30-day treatment program. Those are the moments that are rewarding.”

Couser has received good support from conference administrators and local church boards as he serves both in parish ministry and in the Reserves. “I continue to praise God for His wooing spirit in my life,” said Couser. “Three times He placed people in my life to draw me to Him. Now I have the opportunity to share His love with others.”



The combat-stress training and other training that Ed Couser has received has honed his skills as he works in family-support programs, interventions, and counseling military service personnel.



*“May the peoples praise you, O God;
may all the peoples praise you.
Then the land will yield its harvest, and
God, our God, will bless us.
God will bless us, and all the ends of the
earth will fear him.”*

Psalm 67:5-7, NIV

Armor Building Resources for 2011



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 Group Leaders (DFGLs) overseas. These individuals have been asked to make the magazines available to attendees of the Adventist Military Chapel Worship Groups (AMCWG). 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 dina.muldoon@nad.adventist.org or acm@gc.adventist.org, or by using the form on page 21. 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.

NOTE: All current subscriptions will end on 31 December 2010. If you desire to receive any of the church journals listed on the next page, you must inform ACM as soon as possible to either reinstate and continue a subscription or start a new subscription for 2011. 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 2011 and



each succeeding year thereafter—no request, no journals. ACM is offering eligible church members up to four free subscriptions of their choice from the list below:

- Adventist Review*
- Adult Sabbath School Bible Study Guide*
- Guide*
- Insight*
- Message*
- Our Little Friend*
- Primary Treasure*
- Signs of the Times*
- Vibrant Life*

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 *Adventist Sabbath School 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.

Spending Time With Jesus

2011 DEVOTIONAL BOOKS

ADULT

From the Heart
Ellen G. White

Woven throughout every message is Ellen White's earnest desire to lead searching hearts and minds to Jesus. You'll find guidance and encouragement as you prepare for His soon return. Hardcover. 978-0-8280-2512-6. US\$15.99



EVENING

We Shall Be Changed
Christy Robinson, editor

Significant change doesn't usually happen overnight! You'll be inspired by the words of men and women who are experiencing character growth—the really important transformation—here and now. Hardcover. 978-0-8280-2505-8. US\$15.99



WOMEN

Love Out Loud
Ardis Dick Stenbakken, editor

During moments of joy and seasons of heartache, you can still see and hear God's love in action—His love "out loud." Listen in as women from around the world shout His praise. Hardcover with dust jacket. 978-0-8280-2514-0. US\$18.99



YOUNG ADULT

Honestly, I'm Struggling Stretched, Challenged, and Changed
Heather Bohlender with Chris Blake

Cambodia was the last place Heather wanted to be—once she finally got there. Follow this student missionary as she struggles with cultural barriers, her own expectations, and finding, knowing, and trusting God. 978-0-8280-2449-5. US\$14.99



TEEN

Fusion:
Where You and God Connect
Melissa and Greg Howell
With Contributions From Seth Pierce



What would life be like with God? This daily devotional, full of humor and Bible truth, guides teens through the Bible in a year, showing them how to connect with God for real. 978-0-8280-2547-8. US\$15.99

JUNIOR

Sweeeet!
God's Awesome Plan for You
Jan S. Doward



From Genesis to Revelation, kids discover that God has big plans for their lives—just as He did for Moses, Abraham, Peter, Paul, and all the rest! 978-0-8280-2510-2. US\$15.99

PRIMARY

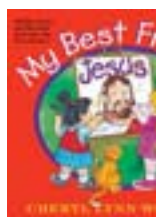
Hiking With Jesus
James Feldbush



Kids take a daily "nature hike" through the Bible, uncovering nature nuggets from every book of the Bible, as they study God's creative wonders. Hardcover. 978-0-8280-1584-4. US\$15.99.

PRESCHOOL

My Best Friend Jesus
Cheryl Lynn Woolsey



Explore Jesus' life and teachings with your child! Simple lessons and worship activities, including hands-on activities and crafts, bring Jesus' object lessons to life. 978-0-8280-1308-6. Hardcover. US\$15.99

DEVOTIONAL BOOKS

Adventist active-duty military personnel are invited to select two devotional books that will be sent to them free of charge. Other Adventist military-related personnel stationed overseas may order one free devotional book.

- ADULT—*From the Heart*
- EVENING—*We Shall Be Changed*
- WOMEN—*Love Out Loud*
- YOUNG ADULT—*Honestly, I'm Struggling, Stretched, Challenged, and Changed*
- TEEN—*Fusion*
- JUNIOR—*Sweeet!*
- PRIMARY—*Hiking With Jesus*
- PRESCHOOL—*My Best Friend Jesus*

MAGAZINES

Each year NSO will send Adventist active-duty members a one-year subscription to two magazines from the following list. Please check the appropriate boxes.

- Adventist Review*
- Adult Sabbath School Bible Study Guide*
- Guide*
- Insight*
- Message*
- Our Little Friend*
- Primary Treasure*
- Signs of the Times*
- Vibrant Life*

2011 ORDER FORM INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Fill out the personal information section.
2. Select two free devotional books and any you would like to purchase.
3. Select two free magazines.
4. Mail form and your check made payable to National Service Organization (NSO) to Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries at the address below.

Name: _____

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 or acm@gc.adventist.org. Put the words "Subscription Request" in the subject line. Subscriptions are not perpetual.



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

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

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

For your convenience go to www.AdventistGiving.org/?OrgID=AN11AD to make your online contribution.

Members are still encouraged to support the local expenses of their base chapel program. Military members serving in countries in other world divisions should contact their conference/union leadership or the division ACM director for further guidance in this area.



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



Calendar

OCTOBER Curriculum Focus for the

Month—Adventist Heritage

- October 2 Children's Sabbath
- October 3-9 Health Education Week
(*Vibrant Life*)
- October 16 Spirit of Prophecy Sabbath
- October 23 Pathfinder Sabbath

NOVEMBER Curriculum Focus for the

Month—Health

- November 6-27 Native Heritage Month
- November 6 Stewardship Sabbath
- November 7-13 Week of Prayer
- November 20 Human Relations Sabbath
- November 27 Welcome Home Sabbath

DECEMBER Curriculum Focus for the

Month—Christian Hospitality

- December 4 Bible Sabbath



Designated Offerings

OCTOBER

- October 2 Local Church Budget
- October 9 Voice of Prophecy
- October 16 Local Church Budget
- October 23 Local Conference Advance
- October 30 Union Conference Designated

NOVEMBER

- November 6 Local Church Budget
- November 13 Annual Sacrifice World
- November 20 Local Church Budget
- November 27 Local Conference Advance

DECEMBER

- December 4 Local Church Budget
- December 11 Inner City
- December 18 Local Church Budget
- December 25 Local Conference Advance

THIRTEENTH SABBATH OFFERING—2010

- December 25 Haiti Earthquake Relief and Reconstruction



Executive Editor: Gary R. Councill *Chaplain (Colonel) U.S. Army, Retired* • Editor: Deena Bartel-Wagner editor@VerbalOxygen.com • Design and Layout: Bill Kirstein *Review and Herald® Publishing Association* • Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries Gary R. Councill, *Director/Endorser* • Mario Ceballos, *Associate Director* • The *For God and Country* journal is published by the National Service Organization (NSO), a chapter of Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries (ACM). It is mailed free of charge to Seventh-day Adventist men and women serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. If you would like to be added to our mailing list, e-mail ACM or call 301-680-6780. Comments and/or articles are welcome and should be sent to the editor at editor@VerbalOxygen.com. Include your full name, complete mailing address, telephone, e-mail address, and current digital photos with all submissions. Items submitted by mail will not be returned unless accompanied by a self-addressed stamped return envelope. CONTACT US: Adventist World Headquarters National Service Organization/ACM, 12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, MD 20904, U.S.A. Phone: 301-680-6780; fax: 301-680-6783; e-mail: acm@gc.adventist.org; URL: <http://nad.AdventistChaplains.org>. The National Service Organization is the official military-relations office of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Its primary mission is to provide pastoral care and religious resources to support the spiritual well-being of Seventh-day Adventist military-related personnel. Unless otherwise credited, all photos © Thinkstock 2010. Texts credited to NIV are from the *Holy Bible, New International Version*. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan Bible Publishers. Adventist® and Seventh-day Adventist® are the registered trademarks of the General Conference Corporation of Seventh-day Adventists®.

Valor

is stability,
not of legs and arms, but of
courage and the soul.



—Michel de Montaigne

For
God & **+**
Country

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