

# AMEN NEWS

## American Military Evangelizing Nations

### AMEN Team News

Key Man **COL Shane R. Reeves (U.S. Army)** reports that the West Point church of Christ continues to thrive spiritually and physically. They are working on a number of extracurricular activities planned before summer break including a spiritual retreat to the Half-moon church of Christ in Upstate NY. Anyone planning a visit to West Point is encouraged to talk with Shane and the church there.

**Paul Fisher** Key Man of the Waynesville church of Christ reports on the worship service @ Fort Leonard Wood in the North Iowa Chapel. The congregation saw strong attendance for the 1st of March that concluded with 13 baptisms and 6 requesting prayer. Praise God for the increase!

### COVID-19 Update

#### U.S. Military Academy

All religious services suspended on post. Further, all cadets are off post and locked down at home.

- Shane & Kimberly Reeves, West Point Church of Christ Key Man

#### U.S. Air Force Academy

1st, 2nd, and 3rd year cadets were encouraged to go home and continue studies online. Most have already left ahead of the imposed travel restrictions. Seniors are required to stay and at this time are still able to leave the academy grounds.

### Choosing to Connect in Times of Isolation

March 1st marked the start of the fifth year that Diane and I will serve as directors of the AMEN Ministry building upon the visionary work of founders Don and Harriet Yelton. The date also marks the 44th anniversary of the beginning of AMEN thanks to the insight of the Elders of the White's Ferry Road congregation. For the past four and half decades the commitment of AMEN has never wavered which is to build up the spiritual welfare of Christians in the U.S. Armed Forces and to preach the Gospel to the military community. Since the beginning, AMEN has been about connection through the Locator Service and its network of Key Men and Key Women scattered throughout the world. The essence of the Gospel is that Jesus came to connect us to the Father and to unite believers within His body, the family we call church. Christian faith is about relationships not simply doctrinal statements. Grace is lived out in face to face encounters, the sharing of lives, peer to peer commitments, handshakes, a warm and inviting introduction to the local church family. No wonder Jesus said in John 13:31 that loving one another is the manifestation of saving faith. This is the work of AMEN over the years from Stateside training bases, to outposts in West Berlin, to the rice paddies of Vietnam, the mountain ranges of South Korea or Afghanistan, to ships upon the seas of the North Atlantic or the Western Pacific and elsewhere. Countless lives have gained hope and salvation from this service to Jesus Christ. I am inspired when I hear from military Christians how they benefitted and were a part of the AMEN family going back through the years to the Cold War days of the

“Connection is still vital to the spiritual growth of today’s warriors.”

## COVID-19 Update (cont.)

Pikes Peak congregation will continue by online streaming only until further notice. As long as cadets can still leave the academy, Debbie & I will have them in our home for the online worship service. We have established a YouTube channel that will be active beginning Sunday morning March 22 at 9:00 am. MDST for bible class and 10:00 am for the worship time.

- David & Debbie Gorman, Pikes Peak Key Family

### U.S. Naval Academy

COVID-19 has basically shut down Maryland and surrounding areas. Telework and social distancing has become the new norm. Midshipmen have been told to stay away until NET 28 March 2020. We have closed schools, colleges, public places and churches.

- Kevin Jackson, Annapolis Church of Christ Key Man

### Fort Sill

March 15th AM the Fort limited us to a three-person team, but we did have services on post. The previous week, the graduation services permitted no family and friends in attendance. That is for a sixty-day period. The Northwest Church elders announced that we will have no services until 3 April. There are live streamings available, and some on line study lessons for us to use. The prisons are on lockout for services, too.

- Nick Stewart, Northwest Church of Christ Key Man

### Fort Jackson

Services have been cancelled on Fort Jackson until farther notice. Graduations will continue but a Stop Movement Order is in place for Active Duty, GS Civilians and families for travel to Advanced Individual Training, PCS & TDY.

- Perry Kocher, Fort Jackson Church of Christ Key Man

1970's. Connection is still vital to the spiritual growth of today's warriors. Relationships are challenged by the technology of the internet, social media and digital programming. Information is vast and instantaneous but also carries the danger of creating an individualistic self-reliance leading to isolation. We may be more knowledgeable and better informed than previous generations, but technology can leave us feeling alone. Digital screens increasingly replace the presence of personal heart to heart conversation. Information is not a substitute for intimacy. I have gained a lot of insight from the writings of those who separated or retired from the military, especially the combat veterans. They frequently recount how they miss the connections, camaraderie and sense of purpose they shared with their fellow warriors. Their mission assignments united them and propelled them with a singleness of purpose, experiences often lacking in civilian life. AMEN's vision of Building the Love of God in the Heart of the Warrior reflects a commitment to connecting our servicemen and women in the faith of Christ. Future efforts will focus on making connections for a new generation of warriors at the Services Basic Training, Technical School and Military Academies. We seek to highlight the importance of spiritual and moral leadership vital both to the military's mission accomplishment and to the success of the Church's mission to make disciples. Unifying believers in the love of God is the means by which our Christian servicemembers will experience a fulfilling life in and out of uniform, John 17:20-23.

#### About AMEN News

AMEN News is published quarterly for members of the church of Christ serving in the U.S. Armed Forces and for those interested in military ministry. AMEN is a missionary effort of the Manchester Church of Christ, Manchester CT.

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