



AMEN NEWS

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American Military Evangelizing Nations

Spring 2018

THE MINISTRY OF HOSPITALITY

Military Spiritual Formation

The Bible clearly reveals that God seeks spiritual people, a faith community focused not on this world but fixed on our heavenly home (Hebrews 11:16). Being spiritual connects us with God, becomes the basis for serving others, and leads us to live in fulfillment of the eternal hope which Jesus made possible through his sacrifice.

Spirituality is also an essential characteristic for those in military service. In 2011 the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff established the Total Force Fitness program aimed at building resiliency in our warfighters. Total Force Fitness consists of eight domains to achieve personal wellbeing including the Spiritual domain defined as the "ability to maintain beliefs, principles, and values needed to provide support in times of stress." It echoes the words of General George Patton, "Wars may be fought with weapons, but they are won by men. It is the spirit of men who follow and of the man who leads that gains the victory." For the Department of Defense spirituality is not specifically a religious practice, they view it more from a psychological perspective, but the DoD recognizes that religious faith contributes to the overall health and mission effectiveness of the individual.

From the beginning, AMEN has labored to develop the spiritual nature of servicemen and women. Central to this effort are the Key Men and

Women who cultivate spirituality by connecting military personnel with a local church. Establishing community with a local church for worship, fellowship and service should not be underestimated in forming spiritually sound disciples in uniform. But our Locator Service is not a mere directory of church contacts, Key Men and Women play a more important role of military spiritual

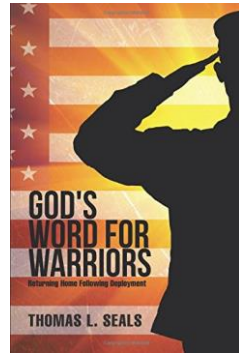
**KEY MEN AND WOMEN
ARE USED BY THE HOLY
SPIRIT IN THE MINISTRY OF
HOSPITALITY**

formation. They are used by the Holy Spirit in the ministry of hospitality (Romans 12:6-7, 13; 3 John 5-8). Christianity is at heart a relational experience between God and people (Hebrews 2:10-11). The message of the Cross centers on the relationship of those reconciled to God by Christ's blood (2 Corinthians 5:17-21). Growing in Christ is a relational effort under the teaching and guidance of spiritual leaders (Ephesians 4:11-13). In order to thrive spiritually in the highly mobile nature of military life disciples in uniform need the hospitality offered by churches near military bases and by military brethren themselves. Not all Key Men or church leaders understand the importance of this hospitality ministry. The role of the Key Man or Woman is to do more than send a contact an email or phone call. They are given the opportunity to spiritually mold a servicemember's life through their hospitality. This is AMEN's vision for "Building the Love of God in the Heart of the Warrior!"

HELPING VETERANS TRANSITION

God's Word for Warriors Trains Church Leaders

Transitioning from military to civilian life has its own challenges, not the least of which affects veterans headed to college. Dr. Tom Seals, Lipscomb University Bible Professor and Chaplain to Veteran Students, has prepared an excellent tool for veterans to make that change in his book *God's Word for Warriors*. The book is the basis for his classes with veteran students and is being used to train church leaders working with veterans outside of university life. Topics include *The Importance of a Faith Community, Overcoming Fear and Guilt, Depression and Suicide, Discovering Peace* and other pertinent topics. An Army NCO writes, "Returning from combat is hard; transitioning back into a civilian role is harder. Dr. Seals eloquently tackles the very real issues today's veterans face after service." Local churches are enthusiastic about the results they are having with veterans in their communities. For more information on this Veterans Training for churches or to buy *God's Word for Warriors* email Tom.Seals@Lipscomb.edu.



Reunion for Lakewood Church (Maxwell AFB) AL

Note from Ben & Cindy Reynolds

There will be a reunion of the Lakewood Church of Christ on May 5, 2018, 2-6 p.m. at the Dalraida Church of Christ Fellowship Hall, 3740 Atlanta Hwy, Montgomery, AL. We would love to see many of our military friends who attended Lakewood between its establishment July, 1960, and its closing September, 1986. There will be light refreshments, a short program, and entertainment. For more information, please contact Cindy (Myers) Reynolds at cindy1153@aol.com, or Mitch Grubb at mmgrubb@yahoo.com.

RESOURCES FOR MILITARY MINISTRY

The Bear Valley Church of Christ offers the **Military Outreach Program** designed to send a teacher or teaching team to a congregation anywhere they are invited, worldwide. The length our teacher spends with your congregation can be from a few days to a few months.

- You select the subject or subjects to be taught.
- You select the dates and length of stay.
- We provide all training materials.
- We provide transportation costs to your location.
- You provide local transportation, housing, and meals.

For information contact Dick Brant, USN (Ret) at thinksouls1@gmail.com or call him at (303) 888-7696. To view their web site go to: 1militaryoutreach1.com

NEW KEY MEN & WOMEN

The heart of AMEN are the Key Men/Women who provide the Locator Service benefitting numerous military Christians. Many rely on this network of saints to find opportunities for worship, fellowship and learning. Welcome to some of our newest (or rediscovered) Key Men and Women:

1LT Reagan Garner	Barksdale AFB LA
Jack Hayes	Moody AFB GA
Bob Morris	Fort Sill OK
Phil Dunn	Fort Campbell KY
Leighton Bestman	Darwin Australia
Bopelo Boitschwarelo	Darwin Australia
Col (Ret) Gordon Jantz	Vance AFB OK
Dave Bedingfield	Maxwell AFB AL
David Srygley	NAS Corpus Christi

AMEN TEAM NEWS

Mark Dearlove, Army medic assigned to U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels Germany and the Vilseck church Key Man was selected to serve as the First Sergeant for the 557th Medical Company at Baumholder, Germany.

Perry Kocher and **Kevin Grindstaff** Key Men at Fort Jackson SC each received a Certificate of Appreciation by Major General John Johnson, Commanding General, on April 27th in appreciation for their support to the Religious Services Office.

Dietmar (Warner) Deutschewitz is a member of the Kaiserslautern Church Outreach Committee. He is a native German speaker and is one of the grounds and building keepers. Recently, he diligently kept in contact with a brother who was caught up by Satan. His persistent emails, texts and phone calls helped restore the brother to the Lord.



Also, from Kaiserslautern is **Herbert Doyle** who was honored for his dedication and longevity in his Non-Appropriated Funds job. His recognition was both a financial and spiritual boost. He has served here for over 15 years and is the longest serving member of the K-Town church.



From Ahmand Brown, Kaiserslautern Church of Christ

Brunswick Naval Air Station, Maine was closed by BRAC with the **Brunswick Church of Christ** losing most of our military families. We still have a small group of Navy personnel stationed at Bath Iron Works while they wait for the best ships in the Navy to be built for them. A new ministry COFFEE FOR OUR TROOPS was started in 2013 in answer to a request from a soldier in Afghanistan. We send boxes of coffee, snack items, baked goods, and other requested items while the units are away from home. The nucleus of the group is located in Mid-Coast Maine, with other supporting partners in several other states. The program has afforded our church and the local community to continue to support our troops. The effort has grown from 10 boxes to 4 units in 2013 to 296 boxes to over 40 units in 2017. Donations are accepted, contact **Rick** or **Donna Porter** at: towercottage@bellsouth.net. On Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/groups/587621574729923/>

From Richard Porter, Brunswick Church of Christ

Northwest Church of Christ, Fort Sill, OK. **Mark Sexton** has passed Key Man duties to **Bob Morris**, age 91. Mark continues to be completely involved in the weekly worship services, spiritual growth, and sharing of the gospel of Christ to soldiers in BCT as well as the weekly BCT Soldier Prayer Request and Encouragement Program. They estimated reaching 3,000+ soldiers in training in 2017 with over 200 trainees obeying the gospel and being baptized into Christ. Their worship services could double in 2018 as they may receive additional space & allowances to offer simultaneous worship services for the anticipated increase of BCT trainees to Fort Sill.

From Mark Sexton, Northwest Church of Christ

AMEN AT UPCOMING EVENTS

4-5 May: New England Lectureship
Mansfield, MA

3 Jun: 94th Maintenance GP Workshop
Dobbins Air Reserve Base, GA

17-21 Nov: Euro-American Family Retreat
Rothenburg od Tauber, Bavaria,
Germany

AMEN News

The 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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