



TELLING GOD'S STORY

Military Spiritual Formation

In a couple of months, people the world over will observe two very significant religious observances in the traditions of Passover for Jews and for many Easter Sunday. Each of these religious traditions are rooted in the powerful Biblical stories of God's loving acts of salvation where God brought life out of death. What sets apart the faith of Abraham from all other religious beliefs is the telling of the story of God's acts on behalf of humanity. This is the Gospel, the Good News, that Jesus Christ is the lamb of God who died, was buried, and resurrected to a new and eternal life which he offers to all who would receive his grace. This is God's story and He wants it to become our story.

AMEN's mission is to unite God's story with the stories of our military community. Every Soldier, Marine, Sailor, Airman and Coast Guardsman

has a unique story molded during their military service. Military life is a transforming experience. Those entering through either enlisted basic or officer commissioning training are never the same person upon leaving the military. Our goal for AMEN is to be a part of that transforming experience

by

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proclaiming God's story of the Gospel and helping people develop their own faith walk with Jesus. Each branch of the Armed Forces recognizes that spiritual formation is important to developing a healthy, wholesome individual and contributes to the success of the mission. AMEN's efforts are to ensure that the Gospel of Jesus is a part of that spiritual formation for the warrior and his or her family. It is a huge task, it challenges our abilities and

NEW KEY MEN & WOMEN

The heart of AMEN are the Key Men/Women who provide the Locator Service benefitting numerous military Christians for over 40 years. Many rely on this network of saints to find opportunities for worship, fellowship and learning. Welcome to some of our newest Key Men and Women:

- Doris Hunter Nellis AFB NV
- Richard Cox Peterson AFB CO
- Matt Simmons USAF Academy
- LTC Shane Reeves West Point
Military Academy
- Rex Davis Fort Bragg NC
- Thomas Martin JB Lewis -McCord
- Clover Stephenson Stuttgart GER
- Paul Fisher Ft Leonard Wood MO
- Larry Phelps Guam
- Clifton & Ashlee Helpingstine &
Kenny & Amanda Wood
RAF Lakenheath UK
- Timothy Lane Camp Humphreys
Republic of Korea
- CSM Dennis Webster (USA, Ret)
Fort Hood
- Philippe Frerot Bahrain
- Lt Daniel Barnes, Los Angeles AFS
- John Ericksen Pikes Peak Church
John Meade, Pueblo CO
Fort Carson, USAF Academy,
Peterson AFB CO
- Ryan Ferguson Yakima WA

resources, but it is one that must never be neglected. We owe this to the men and women who sacrifice so much to protect our freedoms, our way of life, and help bring peace to the world. We are so very grateful for your encouragement and support to this mission work to those of the Armed Forces.

Some of our work in 2017 included processing over 250 locator requests for Soldiers, Marines, Airmen, and Sailors going to training and overseas bases. The first AMEN marriage workshop was held in early June at the Groton Church of

Christ serving the New London Submarine Base and the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in Connecticut. This past summer we conducted a comprehensive review of our Key Man roster resulting in numerous changes and highlighting areas where we need to recruit contacts. I am happy to report that we have recruited 33 new Key Men and Women some of whom are listed in this newsletter. We were able to network with missionary contacts for soldiers deployed to Poland and Romania. We aided military members to begin worship services at Camp Arifjan,

Kuwait; Joint Base Djibouti, Africa; and NS Rota, Spain. We also conducted a tour of churches in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic regions to promote AMEN and recruit Key Men in New York, Massachusetts, Delaware, Virginia, and North and South Carolina. Many times, Christians have expressed how grateful they are to have something like AMEN to help them find a church when duty calls them to a new location. You are the reason people have come to rely upon AMEN and we thank you for your partnership with us.

MILMINS CONFERENCE

Church of Christ Military Ministries Discuss Spiritual Care

On 4 March 2017, the three military ministries associated with the Church of Christ came together at the invitation of the Bear Valley Church in Denver CO to pray, discuss, and determine how to be of greater service to military brethren around the world. Representing **Military Outreach** of the Bear Valley Institute was Dick Brant, Dave Chamberlain, and John Phillis. **Military Outreach and Encouragement (M.O.R.E.)** of the Mayfair Church in Huntsville AL was represented by Ed Linebaugh and Mel Caraway. Dennis Saucier represented the **AMEN Ministry** of the Manchester CT Church. The half day conference included introductions of the ministry leaders, descriptions of the distinct services each ministry offers to military Christians, and how to respond to the current environment facing the U.S. Armed Forces like the deployment of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team to Eastern Europe. **Military Outreach** provides teachers or teaching teams by invitation to any congregation

worldwide from a few days to a few months using the training program taught in their school of preaching. **Military Outreach and Encouragement** seeks to build up military Christians by sending them cards, letters, morale packages, distributing Biblical materials and praying for the troops and their families. **AMEN Ministry** focuses on connecting military Christians with local churches stateside, overseas, onboard naval vessels and at deployed locations. It is expanding its services by offering spiritual growth workshops and retreats. Other items discussed included supporting soldiers deployed to Eastern Europe; the possibility of offering a spiritual retreat for Christians assigned to Pacific Rim installations; supporting the endorsement process of the Fairfax VA Church for chaplains and Distinctive Faith Group Leaders; and ways to market the respective military ministries. All attending agreed to commit themselves to meeting the spiritual needs of today's military community.

Building the Love of God in the Heart of the Warrior!

AMEN TEAM NEWS:

IN MEMORIAIM, Brother Robert Prater passed away on 20 April 2017 in Erlangen Germany. Missionary Bob McDonough of Partners in Progress stated, "Bob was a good friend and soldier of the cross." He was a longtime supporter of the U.S. Military in Germany and of the AMEN ministry.

Congratulations to LTC Stephen Wolf on his retirement from the USAF on 19 June 2017 at Sheppard AFB TX. Stephen is our Key Man for the Edgemere Church of Christ. LTC Wolf served as the commander of the 82nd Aerospace Medicine Squadron, 82nd Medical Group, Sheppard AFB prior to his retirement. He is the new Outreach Minister for the Edgemere Church focusing on Prison Ministry, Military Ministry, and Missions.

Perry Kocher, Key Man at Fort Jackson, SC, completed a medical missions trip to Jinotega, Nicaragua in support of Mision Para Cristo. Perry is a retired dentist and has been traveling to Central America for many years to assist the local dentist care for people in one of the more remote villages.

A promotion ceremony for Mark Dearlove, Army medic assigned to U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels Germany was celebrated on 8 January 2018. Mark is the Key Man for the Church meeting at Rose Barracks/Vilseck, Germany.



Military families attending the Euro-American Family Retreat, 18-22 November 2017 in Rothenburg od Tauber, Germany. Sponsored by the Missions Resource Network. Dr. Everett Huffard of Harding University spoke on being followers and leaders of Christ.

AMEN News

After a 20-year hiatus we are happy to bring back the AMEN News published quarterly for members of the Church of Christ interested in ministering to members of the U.S. Armed Forces. AMEN is a missionary effort of the Manchester Church of Christ, Manchester CT.

Dennis Saucier - Director
Chaplain, Lt Colonel USAF (Ret)

Diane N. Saucier, Co-Director
Military Wife and Mom

860 372-7051

P.O. Box 353 Hebron CT 06248

Email: amen.ministry@comcast.net

www.amenministry.info

Facebook: AMENMINISTRY of the churches of Christ