

# AMEN NEWS

## American Military Evangelizing Nations

### AMEN Team News

The **Pike’s Peak church (Colorado Springs, CO)** continues to support and encourage U.S. Air Force Cadets and Fort Carson soldiers. **Dave Gorman** an elder at the church and his wife Debbie work hard to provide the cadets with a wholesome homestyle environment to attend and also to encourage consistent attendance to services. The congregation has six active duty military members (and their families) and many retired military as well. AMEN is so proud of the work being done to serve our military here.

**Shane Reeves** from the **West Point church of Christ** reports, "The COVID-19 virus has certainly brought about quite uncertain times both in the West Point church of Christ family and in the United States Military Academy as a whole. Regardless of these setbacks, we have adapted to make sure all members, current and future, are taken care of and have what they need to continue their Christian walk."

See the full report from our brothers & sisters in West Point cont. on page 3.

### Counting the Cost

*“Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.” 2 Corinthians 3:17.* The images coming out of Afghanistan recently are stunning in a way hardly anyone could have imagined. Putting the political aspects aside the human toll, fear and desperation touches all of us to our core. Even more for those who deployed to that battleground against terrorism and know the allied Afghan people firsthand. Thousands of Americans and Afghans are fleeing for their lives from a brutal, fanatical religious regime whose history contains unspeakable acts of cruelty. Too often the price of freedom is blood! For the past 20 years citizen has lived with the average Afghan freedoms, protected by coalition forces, previously unknown during their long, troubled past. Now many are desperate to keep the freedoms they have known, especially women and children. They are so desperate that some have taken the mind-boggling risk of fleeing on the exteriors of the cargo planes only to plummet to their deaths. It was the only hope they had! If there is no other lesson we can take from this it is that we must never become complacent regarding our liberties both political and spiritual.

The message of the Gospel is freedom. Freedom through God’s redemption by the sacrifice of Jesus upon the cross. Freedom through salvation by conquering death through the resurrection of Jesus who left an empty tomb behind. God is passionate about freedom for all of His children. Freedom is precious and we cannot, must not, underestimate the terrible effects of bondage. This is all too clear as we witness the unfolding events of the Taliban takeover and what it means for the future of the Afghan people. Bondage breeds desperation (Cont. pg. 2)

## AMEN News (Cont.)

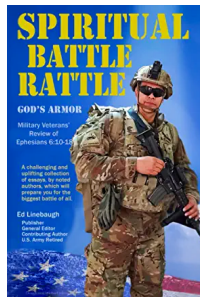
**Tony Black** Key Man for **Fort Huachuca** along with **Elder Mark and Syndi Black** were formerly of the Sierra Vista Church of Christ. They have begun a new Church build focusing on Home Churches to become the Cornerstone Church of Christ in Sierra Vista AZ.

In spite of the COVID 19 restrictions they also continue to minister to the Soldiers at Fort Huachuca. You can see more @ <https://www.cornerstonecoc.com/>

AMEN would like to welcome **Darren Curtis** from the Cabot, AR church as our new Key Man for **Little Rock AFB & Barry Poyner** from the Torch Hill Rd Columbus, GA church as our new Key Man for **Fort Benning**.

## Spiritual Resources

The MORE (Military Outreach & Encouragement) Ministry has published their first in a series of military ministry books. "Spiritual Battle Rattle: God's Armor"



(Military Veterans' Review of Ephesians 6:10-18), it is available on Amazon, or you can contact **Ed Linebaugh (USA Ret.)** [more@minister.com](mailto:more@minister.com) for a copy or more information.

Plans to publish their next book, "Spiritually Wounded Warriors: An Army of One Another" are already underway for the end of the year/early 2022.

in both the political and spiritual realms. Take the Samaritan woman of John 4:4-26. One can feel the heartache of the woman as the secrets of her life are revealed by Jesus. Her confusion over the religious teachings and the failure of the teachers of her day to offer any hope. When Jesus offered her living water, he offered her freedom. Reflecting on this story, I cannot help but recall the faces of the Afghan women herded at the gates of the Kabul airport despairing for their lives. Hope for them was the sight of the American Soldier, Marine or Airman.

Too often the price of freedom is blood! That was true in Kabul when 11 Marines, 1 Soldier and 1 Navy Corpsman lost their lives to rescue those surely marked for death. It was true on Mount Calvary when Jesus was crucified for the sake of the whole world. Evil demands a very high ransom. But there are those willing to take the risks, to put their lives on the line, to make the sacrifices that others may be free. Such is the American warrior and these are the precious souls AMEN is dedicated to serve. The effects of war are deep and long lasting. The Church must not ignore the often-traumatic experiences of our Servicemembers. Connecting military Christians with local churches is important but more needs to be done. One way is AMEN's collaborative effort with the God's Word for Warriors organization who are developing resources for spiritual healing. More on this in the future. Above all let us heed the words of Jesus in John 8:36 "So if the son sets you free, you will be free indeed."

### 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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## Special Report from The West Point, NY church of Christ

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(Continued from pg. 1) In August of 2020, the virus removed our congregation from our normal meeting location in the Interfaith Center. Despite this, we found a new, temporary home in the Old Cadet Chapel. Here we were able to continue services on Sunday mornings and Tuesday evenings as usual. With the help of the West Point families, we also provided rides to and from services for cadets. Supplemental to in-person services, virtual services via Google meetings were created to help those who were unable to attend due to positive COVID status or other circumstances. We maintained a very cadet-dense population even with the uncertainty of COVID restraints. Movie nights and other social gatherings were also held with the adherence to COVID guidelines. The academic year of 2020 tested the unwavering faith and commitment of the West Point Church of Christ.

In this new year, we are confronted with less restraints because of the decline of positive COVID results. However, the Delta variant continues to create minor obstacles. We are back in our original home in what is now known as the World Religion Center. We continue our normal church services and social events outside of church. To cultivate a growing church family, we have a fall retreat planned along with a day trip. These events will allow the cadets to get away from the stressors of classes and military obligations so they may focus entirely on their fellowship and getting to know the church body. This is especially important for the plebe class and those new to the West Point Church of Christ. We continue to grow day by day and strengthen one another as we learn and grow in our faith. The West Point church of Christ truly gives back to its family, and I speak for all when I say we are genuinely grateful.

- Shane Reeves (Key Man)