



AMEN NEWS

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American Military Evangelizing Nations

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ORDER OUT OF CHAOS

Dr. Jordan Peterson is professor of Psychology at the University of Toronto, author of the 12 Rules for Life, and worldwide lecturer on psychology and religion. I recently listened to one of his podcasts on Genesis regarding the Scripture's presentation of the balance between order and chaos and was challenged with the thought that humans need chaos in their lives to realize their full potential. The apostle Peter stated this in 1 Peter 1:6-7, *"In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed."* The thought is each individual must confront the chaos in their life, which is struggle and even suffering, to fully appreciate who they are and what they are capable of becoming. A life of comfort will only serve to allow our talents and self-perception to atrophy robbing us of the blessings of a life well lived and a faith grounded in the promises of Christ. My Marine friends put it more simply, "Pain is weakness leaving the body."

The very nature of military life is to immerse oneself in training, discipline, and overcoming hardship to meet mission requirements as a team.

The nature of military life is to confront the chaos of struggle, engage it, learn how to overcome it and persist until it is overcome. For many military service brings about an increased sense of accomplishment, stronger self-discipline, and a more refined understanding of one's capabilities. But this process of transformation is not an easy one. It takes commitment, hard work and sacrifice to bring about a resilient faith and well-ordered life. This is why Peter says it is greater worth than gold.

THROUGH THE CHAOS OF
STRUGGLE COMES THE FRUIT
OF STRONGER FAITH

The Church has an important role to play here as the ability for a Servicemember to attain a disciplined and resilient life depends on developing a strong

spiritual foundation. Jesus made this clear when he said, *"If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it."* Luke 9:24 Yet this spiritual journey is not one that should be traveled alone. The very nature of the Lord's Supper, or Communion, testifies that the Christian community has an obligation to support one another against the forces of chaos and darkness. God has provided organizations like AMEN, Military Outreach (M.O.), Military Outreach and Encouragement (M.O.R.E.) and God's Word for Warriors to serve as resources for the local body to care for and support those

serving in the Armed Forces. Just as the apostle Paul used the Greek poets to present the Gospel to the Athenians in Acts 17:28 so these military ministries offer the means which speak to the experiences of those in uniform. Our military brethren deserve our best efforts in proclaiming the gift of eternal life.

AMEN ON THE MOVE

As a member of the Coast Guard Auxiliary Chaplain Service I had the privilege to sail for 11 days with the crew of the Cutter Barque Eagle the sailing vessel from Maryland to CT. God provided opportunities for counseling, leading worship and mid-week devotion.



RESOURCES

Church of Christ Endorsing Agent

The Fairfax Church of Christ oversees the work of military, VA, and Bureau of Prison chaplains. In order to provide an opportunity for qualified persons to serve in the military chaplaincy or act as “lay leaders” for congregations meeting in military facilities, the Armed Forces Chaplain Board recognizes the Church of Christ in Fairfax, Virginia as the endorsing organization. Dr. Gary Payne, LTC, USA (Ret), is the endorsing agent. For information on becoming a Federal chaplain or being authorized to lead Church of Christ meetings on installation contact him at 703.631.2100/info@fxcc.org.

M.O.R.E. Books for Warriors

"Spiritual Warrior" series of books: (a) *Spiritual Battle Rattle: God's Armor, Military Veterans' Review of Ephesians 6:10-18*. (b) *Spiritually Wounded Warriors: An Army of One Another*. Both books are currently available on Amazon or through InLine Publishers, LLC (“InLine With God’s Word”) at InLinePublishers@writeme.com. (c) The third installment in this series (currently in the early stages) is *Spiritually Strong Sisters: Stories of Faith and Fellowship in the Military*. Email Ed at more@minister.com

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 Dennis Saucier, Director
 Phone: 860 327-7051
 Address P.O. Box 353 Hebron CT 06248
 Website: www.amenministry.org
 Facebook: AMENMINISTRY of the churches of Christ

AMEN'S UPCOMING EVENTS

- 19 Apr: USCG Sector Long Island Wellness Day, New Haven CT
- 08 Jul Uniformed Services Marriage Workshop, Manchester CT
- 07 Sep God's Word for Warriors On-line class begins

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 our newest Key Men

There is a great need for Key Men & Women for:

- Fairchild AFB WA
- McConnell AFB KS
- Williams AFB AZ
- Dyess AFB TX
- Fort Polk LA
- Whiteman AFB MO
- Eielson AFB AK
- All U.S. Naval vessels
- Recruit Training Command, Naval Station Great Lakes IL