



## WHO NEEDS MILITARY MINISTRY?

*"My food," said Jesus, "is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work...Don't you have a saying, 'It's still four months until harvest'? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest." John 4:34-35 NIV.*

Often when I travel around visiting churches near military installations, I am amazed at how often I get the "deer in the highlights" look from brothers and sisters when discussing military ministry. Even more disturbing is when I ask brethren to be contact persons, our Key Men and Women for the Locator Service, I sense an attitude of almost indifference. For many the response goes something like this, "We have regular worship services and Bible classes, isn't that enough?" "Just send us their name and we will email them with our service times." Who needs an in-depth ministry uniquely designed for military members? This response may be due to the reality that the military exists to conduct war and that makes many Christians very uncomfortable.

Military ministry is nothing less than the practical application of our profession of faith in the Lord's Supper.

What is unquestionable is that most in our fellowship just don't see the need for being specific in our care for military Christians. I am not alone in this as I've heard from others involved with the military who are, "deeply concerned about the lack of Spiritual interest that the brotherhood has for families and loved ones serving in the military worldwide." What opportunities are missed when we fail to understand the unique needs of those who risk their lives in the U.S. Armed Forces. We need to heed Jesus' words to the disciples in John 4:34-38 that the military fields, like the Samaritans in their day, are ripe for the harvest.

Military ministry must confront several distinctive issues if it is to effectively serve those in uniform and their families. Not the least is the issue of a Christian going to war, a debate which has raged from the earliest years of the Church. We must face the fact that many Servicemembers may be dealing with the effects of combat trauma. Most of these combat veterans carry the scars of war silently, deep within their souls. (cont.) →



## WELCOME KEY MAN

### Ocean Springs Church of Christ

Ocean Springs, MS serving Keesler AFB.

**Jerry Merriman** Great Falls Church of Christ,  
Great Falls, MT serving Malstrom AFB.

## MILITARY MINISTRY RESOURCES



### God's Word for Warriors

'Intersection on Military and Civilian Culture'

(615) 964.7450

--or--

[www.godswordforwarriors.com](http://www.godswordforwarriors.com)

### Spiritual Battle Rattle: God's Armor



### Spiritually Wounded Warriors: An Army of One Another



Both books available on Amazon or contact Ed Linebaugh (USA Ret.) directly at [more@minister.com](mailto:more@minister.com)

## CARE PACKAGES

Spring Brook Hills Church of Christ (Dewitt, MI) sends morale packages to members of the Church from Michigan area. Contact Jeff Murray with names & addresses at (517) 945.2155 or [fop70@aol.com](mailto:fop70@aol.com).



## ON THE LOOKOUT



If you have photos of past Euro-American Retreats at Berchtesgaden please Email pics (jpeg or GIF) to AMEN.

## **Military Ministry? (cont.)**

Another important issue is understanding the culture of the military overall and recognizing the distinctive sub-culture of each Service Branch as it effects their faith walk and quality of life. Servicemembers grapple with the isolation of months at sea aboard naval vessels; lengthy periods of family separation for armor or infantry units while in field training; isolation that comes sitting alert in a missile silo or standing watch at radar site; etc.

Then there is the stress that comes with frequent short notice deployments or the endless, demanding routine of exercises and inspections. The Church should also consider the impact on life for the families who wait at home. Military ministry recognizes these realities, seeks to empathize to find ways to support those called to bear the burden of national defense. If God calls some as servants of justice and protectors of the innocent, the Church must be willing to support them in their faith.

Military ministry is nothing less than the practical application of our profession of faith in the Lord's Supper observed each Sunday. At the table we proclaim hope and healing through Jesus Christ and his sacrifice. Focusing on the unique needs of military Christians is our way of extending the grace of Christ to those exposed to the worst humanity has to offer.

*The section Military Ministry Resources has valuable material that can be used in Bible classes or small group meetings to address topics military members need to talk about but won't find in traditional Bible school. As long as sin leads to international conflict and violence the Church needs military ministry.*



**Help the Ministry** by donating monthly or one-time to provide workshops, books, and travel to promote the spiritual wellbeing of our Servicemen and women.

[www.amenministry.org](http://www.amenministry.org) (Donation Tab)


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## **Contact Us**


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 AMENMINISTRY of the churches of Christ

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## **Key News**

### **Y**ear End Report 2023

- Recruited nine Key Men: Wash. D.C. area; Malstrom AFB; Everett Naval Sta.; FT Meade/JB Andrews, Keesler AFB; TN Nat'l Guard; Newport Naval Sta, VA.
- Three Key Men pending: Shaw AFB, San Diego MCRD, Ramstein AB
- 7 Locator Requests:
  - 3 - Air Force
  - 1 - Marine Corps
  - 1 - Navy
  - 1 - Civilian to Japan
  - 1 - Veteran to Hungary, Kyrgyzstan
- Travel to Southeast Bases to promote program and inform on available workshops at NTTC Pensacola, Orlando, Parris Island MCRD, & Fort Jackson
- Conducted two Marriage Enrichment Workshops for New London Submarine Base, Coast Guard Academy & CT National Guard. One is pending for approval at Parris Island MCRD
- Offered God's Word for Warriors six-week course online in November.
- Negotiated visitation tour to Aviano Air Base Italy, postponed due to operational schedule.
- In conjunction with my position as Coast Guard Auxiliary Chaplain I conducted visitation and counseling at Long Island Sector and New London Stations, served several days underway on USCGC Eagle.