



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



Changing Nature of a Key Man/Woman

"Cheers" was a popular 1990's sitcom that opened with a reflective theme, "Making your way in the world today takes everything you've got...taking a break from all your troubles sure would help a lot...sometimes you want to go where everybody knows your name." In other words, we need a place to belong, call it home, a family.

This speaks to the role of an AMEN Key Man or Key Woman who for over 48 years have been instrumental in our ministering to the military. A strong faith requires the support of a Christian family, not an easy task for our military brethren with their frequent moves and far away deployments. The difficulty of finding a church home led Don and Harriet Yelton to begin AMEN in 1976 with the Key Man network as the centerpiece of their efforts.

While the need has remained consistent for almost five decades, the nature of our Key Men and Key Women must evolve to meet the circumstances and the demographics of today's warriors.

When AMEN began our nation was in the midst of the Cold War characterized by vast numbers of military personnel stationed on large bases scattered around the world. There were well established Churches of Christ at many bases overseas, some with hired preachers. But all of this changed with the collapse of the Soviet Union, installations closed, and the American military presence was drastically reduced. Today we see a smaller military with fewer bases operating at a more demanding operations tempo of frequent deployments to select hot spots.

AMEN Key Men/Women make up our Locator Service serving as the points where military Christians connect with the local church and begin to form bonds with God's family at that location. At its beginning the Key Man network was the primary source for finding information on military churches especially overseas. We had over 300 Key Men on our roster and numerous requests for our Locator Service.

(cont.) →

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IN MEMORIAM

Wayne Taylor, Clear Lake, CA

Gift received from Don and Harriet Yelton



EVENTS

"Faith and Transition" **begins Sept 10**

[Course Registration](#) or call (615) 964-7450

Harding University Lectureship **Sep 29-Oct 3**

Come by AMEN Booth to say HELLO!

Copperas Cove Church of Christ

(serving Ft. Cavazos, fka Ft. Hood)

Nov 9 Veteran's breakfast Presentation

Nov 16-18 Presenting AMEN Ministry & Sermon

MILITARY MINISTRY RESOURCES



God's Word for Warriors

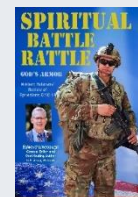
'Intersection on Military and Civilian Culture'.

(615) 964.7450

--or--

www.godswordforwarriors.com

Spiritual Battle Rattle: God's Armor



Spiritually Wounded Warriors: An Army of Another

One



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

Bible Study Resources



<https://worldbibleschool.org/>

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Changing Nature of a Key Man/Woman (con't)

But times have changed with the end of the Cold War, the arrival of the Internet, and the more secular makeup of today's society. To remain viable the role of an AMEN Key Man/Woman today must adjust to the opportunities for military ministry today.

Since COVID most of the Locator Service requests have dried up. There are various factors for this, foremost is that the Active-Duty force does not know AMEN exists nor how it can benefit them in their military experience. Also, the Internet makes information readily available where military Christians can instantly find all they need to know about a church at their new base. Then there is the changing demographics of today's Servicemen and women most of whom are either non-religious or are opposed to organized religion. Loyalty to a specific church identity is a thing of the past. Finally, many Key Men are not promoting this ministry or even open to exploring the needs of the military members and their families. Sometimes it feels that military members are invisible to civilian church members.

Like the Apostle Paul who had a vision from the Holy Spirit to seize opportunities in Macedonia, our Key Men/Women are in a position to touch lives of Servicemembers where they are. The Locator Service remains an important tool of AMEN but ministry needs to grow in other areas which addresses the spiritual challenges and prospects of today's warfighters. AMEN's services are expanding into computer on-line courses on topics such as the Christian and Use of Force, Moral Injury, PTSD and Suicide, Restoring Family and Church Relationships. We offer on-site workshops for military and veteran specific topics as an effective outreach to the local area.

The Spiritual Boot Camp retreat coming next May is a proactive means to prepare young adults for the beginning of their military experience. All of these and more should be promoted by Key Men/Women as a means of demonstrating the congregation's care for Servicemembers. Even though we are not receiving as many Locator Requests as in the past, Key Men/Women remain a vital link to building God's love among our military Christians. Let us then embrace the Lord's direction in Matthew 9:37-38 to send workers into his harvest.



Key News

Sagamihara, Kanagawa, Japan

– Hello everyone. The Sagamidai Church of Christ is located between the US military Camp Zama and the US military Sagamihara Housing Area, a 10-minute drive from both locations. The US military Atsugi Naval Air Facility is 20 minutes away.

When I acquired Japanese citizenship, I took the Japanese name of Asagiri Takio. My name from birth is John Wesley Wilson. At church, I am called "John-san."

My wife, Megumi, has been a Japanese citizen from birth. She taught piano for US military families for 15 years and used to interpret for US military friends when they went shopping.

People who participate with us include Brother Rick, a lawyer at Camp Zama; Brother Lane, a pilot, and his family; and Brother Patrick and his family. Brother Patrick works at elementary school on the US military Sagamihara Housing Area.

We have a monthly "special lunch of the month." For those who cannot easily bring food, we prepare it at our meeting house.

My wife and I can both speak English and interpret to make it easier for US military people to be a part of the church here.

Lately, during worship, a young Filipino brother interprets everything but the sermon. At the age of 69, I still get to preach and interpret sermons.

Considering the national defense environment around Japan, we also thank Jesus for our US military brothers and sisters who have come to help protect Japan.

– John Wesley Wilson



EDITOR'S NOTE: Happy Wedding Anniversary to John and Megumi (August 17). 44 YEARS!!

 **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 (Donation Tab)
AMEN Ministry, P.O. Box 353, Hebron, CT 06248

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.




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