



In Everything Give Thanks

The final three months of the year always bring a wonderful spirit of celebration as we enjoy the harvest season, the family gatherings of Thanksgiving, and the hope of life and light in the dark days of winter during the Christmas holiday. These remind us of God's abiding presence and His unshakeable love and grace.

No matter what trials and challenges we face either individually or as a nation God is faithfully present in our lives. In many congregations we sing the hymn "Count Your Many Blessings" which has a firm basis in psychological health. Mental health professionals remind us that well-being arises out of the ability to recognize and embrace gratitude for what we have, not grieve over what we do not have. This is especially meaningful to military members who often are far from home and family in arduous and, sometimes dangerous, circumstances.

The spirit of thanksgiving allows us to transcend the temporary, worldly struggles we often face on our sojourn to heaven. God's eternal qualities become much clearer when we see with grateful eyes that which matters most for eternity.

As 2024 comes to a close [I can think of many things for which to be grateful regarding our military ministry.](#)

First, are [Don and Harriet Yelton](#) who took a vision of ministering to the military and developed and led AMEN for 40 years. They were the first to recognize the unique needs and challenges military Christian's face in performing their duties and came up with a plan for churches to address these needs. Their efforts had far-reaching effects not only for connecting military Christians with churches but bringing many to Christ and recruiting numerous preachers throughout the 1970s and 1980s. Additionally, their work organizing food convoys to Poland using military members as drivers during the end of Cold War became a standard for other international relief efforts.

(cont.) →

MILITARY MINISTRY RESOURCES

Center for Christian Studies (CCS)

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Quality theological and biblical resources for churches and Christian leaders to help with growth in biblical literacy, theological understanding, thoughtful worship, spiritual formation, and ethical living.

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Yellow Ribbon Program, Pepperdine Univ.

www.pepperdine.edu/veterans/yellow-ribbon/

Part of the Post-9/11 GI Bill® (Chapter 33), allows higher education institutions to partner with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to cover veterans' unmet tuition and certifiable fees. Pepperdine and the VA match contributions to ensure eligible students have 100% tuition coverage. Recently, the program expanded to include active service members and their spouses.

Did you know that no cost **Veteran Counseling Services** from pastoral counselors are available from God's Word for Warriors? Register at: <http://www.godswordforwarriors.com/contact-10/>

Schedule an appointment by calling (615) 430.3544. We offer in-person and zoom meetings. Referrals to other resources may be made when appropriate.



In Everything Give Thanks (con't)

AMEN's [Key Men and Women](#) are another reason for giving thanks. These brethren are the bedrock of AMEN's ministry, they are the face of God's Church which shows care and compassion to those in uniform. It is their personal interaction which means so much to a Servicemember and their family during the hectic experiences of changing bases, on temporary duty assignments, or during deployments. I continue to get emails from former Key Men who express fond memories of helping Christians connect with God's family throughout the world.

Giving thanks would not be complete without our gratitude for [AMEN's financial donors](#) whose generosity expresses in real terms the Church's commitment to military members. These Christians, many of whom have donated for years, have taken to heart Paul's admonition of Romans 15:26-27 to share materially what they have received spiritually. Our donors are the engine which makes this ministry go by meeting the expenses of advertising in the Christian Chronicle, travel for workshops and seminars, providing books and resources for faith building, etc.

Recognition is owed to the [Elders who have overseen this work](#) for over 48 years beginning with the White's Ferry Road Church in LA; to the Hendersonville NC Church and now the Manchester CT Church. Their understanding and willingness to go beyond traditional ministry models to include caring for military Christians honors our God and Savior.

There are many people who have helped to carry the load of military ministry. I am especially thankful for [Laura Sachs](#) of Sarasota FL who has been our Newsletter editor since August 2023. She has contributed greatly to this important tool to communicate our work for the Lord. Gratitude goes also to [Dr. Tom Seals and the staff](#) of **God's Word for Warriors** which has given AMEN's efforts new opportunities and focus. Finally, I wish to thank my fellow servants who are dedicated to reaching the military community with the Gospel: **Military Outreach** led by Dick Brant; and **Military Outreach and Encouragement** led by Ed Linebaugh. I would add [Chaplain Dr. Gary Payne](#), U.S. Army (Ret) of the Fairfax VA Church, who serves as the Endorsing Agent for Federal Service chaplains and has long inspired Christian service to the military.

The spirit of thanksgiving allows us to transcend the temporary, worldly struggles we often face on our sojourn to heaven. God's eternal qualities become much clearer when we see with grateful eyes that which matters most for eternity.

"And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love." 1 Corinthians 13:13



Key News

Pensacola, Florida

My wife and I have been blessed to serve the military men and women for many years.



My 28 years in the Navy has given me a unique perspective and love of the military. Since I retired in 1995 from the Navy we have worshiped with the Gateway Church of Christ in Pensacola Florida. As an AMEN Keyman we have sponsored many families stationed here and students going to military schools in the area. Our goal is to give our young military members a place away from home. We encourage them to get involved and active with the Gateway Church family.

We need your help to locate those looking for the church in the Pensacola area due to the security issues that protect our service men and women and have made it difficult to locate them. – Terry and Andy Genton

Harding University Lectureship



This photo is of Andy & Cathy Cassidy, longtime supporters of the AMEN Ministry who served as contacts at Fort Leonard Wood. Andy is a retired Army Dentist and now Elder at the Rolla MO

Church of Christ. Cathy was an Army nurse. This faithful couple along with many others enable AMEN to successfully minister to our military Christians and we thank God for their partnership.

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.



 **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)
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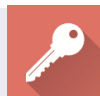
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Editor: Laura Sachs, Sarasota, FL



Steve & Jessie picking up Corry Station and NATTC students each Sunday for services



Key News (con't)

Pensacola, Florida

Steve and Jessie Coffin, both active-duty Navy when they married at Whiting Field in Milton, FL, now live in Pensacola and worship with the Warrington congregation. They have supported AMEN since the early 1970s, inspired by Don Yelton's vision for connecting and encouraging Christians in the military.

Steve's notable experiences, including deployment to VAW-115 onboard the USS Midway (CV-41), highlight the importance of military ministry. He obtained an Ecclesiastical Endorsement, allowing the ship's Chaplain to arrange for Church worship services at 10:00 pm on the Lord's Day, growing to a congregation of about 35. They taught The Plan of Salvation and baptized sailors in a steel treatment tub from the Medical Dept. Steve also preached and fellowshipped with the Filipino congregation of Olongapo, worshipped with brethren in Perth, Australia, & served on Guam while a member of VQ-1.

At Warrington Church, he meets with Chaplains of Corry Station and the Naval Air Technical Training Center aboard NAS Pensacola. They keep pamphlets at those sites and provide rides for students. Many members treat students to lunch after services. Visitor Cards are given to military "guests" to maintain contact while in school. They use Ivan Stewart's Open Bible Study, Jule Miller, and World Video Bible School materials, and provide the "Searching for Truth" DVD to help soul winners.

Most military visitors are unaware of the AMEN program but leave with an appreciation for it. They hand out AMEN material and help military Christians stay faithful, inviting non-member friends to "come and see." They keep in touch with many students who graduate and serve worldwide. It's a blessing!