



Shine Like Stars

On June 6th we observed the 81st anniversary of the D-Day Invasion where over 160,000 Allied troops landed in Normandy France. The greatest armada ever assembled began what historians have called the Great Crusade to liberate Europe from Nazis tyranny and most importantly to preserve Western Civilization.

The sunrise on June 6, 1944, witnessed not only the liberation of Europe but the survival of the Judeo-Christian tradition which has shaped the Western world for two millennia. The renowned

German theologian and martyr Dietrich Bonhoeffer recognized that the Nazis Party's view of racial superiority and iron-fisted authoritarianism could never co-exist with the Bible's teachings on universal redemption. So the Allied landings at Normandy launched the battle for the soul of Western Civilization. Over eight decades later we are still in awe of what these young men from all walks of life; farm boys, shopkeepers, teachers, engineers, students, etc. forever changed the destiny of humanity. NBC newsman Tom Brokaw rightfully stated in his 1998 book that these were the Greatest Generation, a designation hard fought and well deserved.

World War II brought an end to the totalitarian regimes and their assault on the world, but such evil has not disappeared. It has gone dormant! The beliefs and values derived from the Bible continue to face threats from a new array of tyrants. There is a new generation of warriors descriptively known as Millennials (born 1981-1996) and Gen Z (born 1997-2012) who now take up the mantle as liberty's guardians. They had to overcome many challenges which the Greatest Generation did not face. Faith, family, and the Biblical values which formed the bedrock of earlier generations are either blurred or absent today. They are told by those with influence that their nation is racist and unjust, that masculinity is toxic, that self-gratification is a priority, and feelings rather than objective truth are the rule of life. Recruiting rates have fallen in recent years revealing that many young people would not consider military service as a desirable choice in life.

...shine like stars in the universe as you hold out the word of life...

Philippians 2:15-16

(cont.) →

Military Ministry RESOURCES

Center for Christian Studies (CCS)

www.Christian-Studies.org

info@christian-studies.org

12407 N. Mopac Expy.

Ste 250-530 Austin TX 78758

Quality theological and biblical resources for churches and Christian leaders - biblical literacy, theological understanding, thoughtful worship, spiritual formation, and ethical living.

Essential for church renewal, they offer online video courses, the Journal of Christian Studies, "Theological Table Talk" podcast and live on-site instruction at your congregation.

No cost **Veteran Counseling Services** from pastoral counselors are available from God's Word for Warriors. Register: <http://www.godswordforwarriors.com/contact-10/> or call (615) 430.3544 to schedule Zoom or in-person meetings. Referrals to other resources may be made when appropriate.

Editor's Note



2LT Aeryn Sachs (U.S. Army) returned home in June to commission her brother Christian as a 2LT in the U.S. Air Force.

Christian is attending medical school through HPSP, committing to four years of active duty after graduation followed by four years IRR.

We are very proud parents!



Shine Like Stars (con't)

Fortunately, the situation appears to be turning around with a renewal of patriotism and a spirit of service manifesting itself in one of the most capable generations in history. Data this week reveals that each of the Service Branches have exceeded their goals for new recruits entering the military.

What does this mean for the Church? There exists a tremendous opportunity to bring the good news of Jesus Christ into the lives of the next generation of warriors. It has long been the premise of AMEN and other military ministries that our troops need a strong spiritual foundation to sustain them throughout the military experience. This spiritual foundation must address the unique needs and challenges which come with military service. Military ministry is crisis ministry!

Its purpose is to show the love and presence of God to those whose every decision and action carries life or death consequences. For the Lord's Church to be effective with these young people, it must recognize the distinct culture of the military community and appreciate how our warriors think and understand the priorities of life. For this new generation of defenders, the Church must decide how it can fulfill the words of the Apostle Paul in Philippians 2:15-16 "...shine like stars in the universe as you hold out the word of life...." Our military ministries have just the resources to enable the Church to fulfill this important part of Christ's Great Commission.



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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Contact Us

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AMENMINISTRY of the churches of Christ



www.amenministry.org

Editor: Laura Sachs, Sarasota, FL



Key News

West Point, New York

West Point Church of Christ was blessed to farewell two 2LTs this year.

- **2LT William Luker** reporting to Ft Benning for IBOLC & Ranger school enroute to Ft Drum. His hometown is Angola, IN.
- **2LT James 'Doug' Justice** reporting to Ft Benning for IBOLC & Ranger school enroute to Ft Drum. His hometown is Gatlinburg, TN.

Grafenwoehr/Vilseck Germany

I arrived on February 27 and in-processed with my unit, 15 EN BN, on March 17. While there are no churches of Christ affiliated with the military nearby, I searched surrounding communities for a church to attend. The post chapel offers only a general Protestant service on Sundays, though I discovered that years ago, the Grafenwoehr chapel held church of Christ services. As service members relocated, the service was discontinued. Given the large community— the largest overseas U.S. Army base—I am surprised by the absence of a church of Christ.

My top priority is to support believers in the armed services and find fellowship. I also want to serve as an AMEN Ministry contact & a church of Christ representative while working to reestablish a service on post. My 3-year assignment ends in February 2028, and I hope to connect with other church of Christ members who may already be here or arriving in the future, ensuring they have a place for worship and fellowship.

AMEN does great work supporting believers in the armed forces and the church of Christ globally; I would love to contribute in any way possible. -- Charles J. R. Reeves

2LT, EN

HHC, 15 EN, 7 EN BDE

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Grafenwoehr, DE

APO, AE 09114

Faith, Recreation and Renewal Retreat

The AMEN retreat for military ministry was held on May 16-18 at the Retreat at Center Hill Lake in Smithville TN. Originally planned as the *Spiritual Boot Camp* for incoming Armed Forces recruits, the event was changed to the *Faith, Recreation and Renewal* retreat when not enough recruits registered to attend.

It was decided to open the event up to any military Veterans offering an opportunity to build camaraderie and explore the need for ministry opportunities to build spiritual resilience for Servicemen and women. Christians from Arizona, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Alabama and Connecticut shared their stories and insights on living faithfully while in uniform.

Presentations included:

- *The Christian and War* by Dr. Tom Seals;
- *Moral Injury and PTS in Warfighters* by Laurel Bowman;
- *Spiritual Armor from Ephesians 6:10-18* by Ed Linebaugh;
- *Spiritual Vectoring: Managing Transition and Marriage Enrichment Principles* by Dennis Saucier.

A roundtable discussion on the future of military ministry offered several key concepts for improving our service to military Christians.

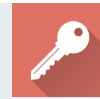


Rear L to R:

Laurel Bowman, Tom Seals, Tracy Mussett, Bryan Weale, Syndi Black, Tony Black, Darren Crowden, Ed Linebaugh, Ben Rogers

Front L to R:

Mark Black, Donna Black, Dennis Saucier, Paul Rogers



Key News (con't)

Virginia Beach, Virginia

Omar Flores has been a member of the Bayside Church of Christ since 2012. He serves as a deacon, leading the Spanish ministry, known as Iglesia de Cristo de Bayside. He has been married for 29 years to Delia Flores, and they have three sons. The Flores family is a military family where their oldest son served in the Army. Omar and his family are originally from the Dominican Republic.

The congregation has both English and Spanish speaking members and includes military members. Omar has graciously agreed to become another Key Man to help military service members know there is a Spanish-speaking Church of Christ nearby.

Bayside Church of Christ

5025 Shell Road

Virginia Beach, VA 23455

757-460-4754



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.