



## Ministry of Presence

In Mark 1:38 Jesus described the scope of his ministry, "Let us go into the next towns, that I may preach there also, because for this purpose I have come forth. (NKJV)" The significance of our Lord's statement is echoed in the words of the Apostle John, "That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us...1 John 1:1-2 NKJV Israel's prophets predicted a time when God would dwell among His people which Matthew stated was fulfilled in the babe of Bethlehem called Immanuel, Matthew 1:22-23. Presence is everything when it comes to giving hope to a lost and dying world.

The Ministry of Presence as a visible reminder of the Holy often provides more comfort and healing than any sermon can give.

Throughout my career as an Air Force chaplain the guiding directive for our efforts was to serve as a Visible Reminder of the Holy. Among the duties we performed like leading worship, offering classes, counseling, and giving prayers at various functions the most important work desired by commanders, Senior NCOs, and fellow Airmen was to be out among the troops. Unit leaders wanted their chaplain to be on the flightline, in the shops and offices, on patrols and onboard air missions; wherever their people were. In the Air Force and Army we call it Ministry of Presence; the Naval services call it Deckplate Ministry. I can honestly say there were times when being present and visible had more impact on a Servicemember than anything I could have said. Being a Visible Reminder of the Holy through actual engagement with another person changes the whole dynamic of a situation. We see this revealed in Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan woman John 4:4-26; the healing of the leper Mark 1:40-42; blind Bartimaeus Mark 10:46-52 and many other occasions.

(cont.) →

Ready to settle?

## Military Ministry RESOURCES

### Center for Christian Studies (CCS)

[www.Christian-Studies.org](http://www.Christian-Studies.org)

[info@christian-studies.org](mailto: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.

## 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).





## Ministry of Presence (con't)

It is just as vital interacting with Soldiers, Marines, Sailors, Airmen, Coasties and Guardians (US Space Force) that having God's representative there with them far from home, in austere locations, day or night in crisis or sorrow provides a comfort no sermon could give.

From the beginning the AMEN Military Ministry was about being connected for military Christians. Forty-nine years ago, the Yeltons built a vast network of Key Men committed to being present for transient military families. Finding and integrating with a local church family was rightly understood as vital for the Servicemembers' spiritual well-being. To be alone, isolated, and ignored often resulted in spiritual death! AMEN's Key Men and Women have been, and always will be, about connection through a Ministry of Presence. In our planning for the future greater emphasis will develop how AMEN can impact military Christians in a more meaningful way. A strategic planning team is assessing how AMEN can achieve a greater sense of connectedness with our military Christians. Nothing less will do than to have a vibrant Ministry of Presence.



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



## Contact Us

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AMENMINISTRY of the churches of Christ

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## Key News

### Rothenburg ob der Tauber, Germany

#### Euro-American Family Retreat

One of the spiritual highlights of a military assignment to Germany is the annual Euro-American Family Retreat in Rothenburg ob der Tauber in Bavaria Germany held each November before the Thanksgiving holiday. Navy LCDR Maccon and Ashlee Buchanan with the Naples Italy Support Site Church of Christ report on their first visit to the retreat.



"Hey y'all! We just got back from the 2025 Euro-American Church of Christ Retreat in Rothenburg ob Der Tauber, Germany. What an INCREDIBLE and spiritually nourishing experience. It was four jam packed days of worship, fellowship, food, and fun. We met tons of Saints; missionaries, evangelists, and workers for the Lord, representing 21 nations, all committed to worshiping in Spirit and in Truth. The singing was out of this world. There were additional workshops and performances from the kids. It was encouraging and reassuring that God's holy Word can create unity among so many different cultures. And the drive over the Alps and back really blew us away. We're already planning to return next year as well as a few other retreats across Europe."

For information on future retreats visit [Euro-American Retreat | Facebook](#)




Offers a Course on Intersection of Military and Civilian Culture

According to an internet search only 6% of Americans have military service, or about 18-20 million out of a population of about 342 million citizens. While most Americans honor those who serve in uniform, many civilians are not familiar with the uniqueness of military culture. By culture we are referring to the value system, worldview, traditions, mannerism, clothing, and personal relationships of a specific group of people.

It is evident that military personnel and their families experience a culture all their own which is often not clear to the civilian populace. Churches having a military presence either with Active Duty, National Guard or Reserve, and Veterans can better minister to them by understanding military culture through the course offered by God's Word For Warriors of Nashville TN.

Contact them at:

 615.964.7450

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

Building a bridge between civilian and military culture can open doors for sharing the Gospel by answering the needs of Servicemembers where grace is most needed.



GOD'S WORD FOR  
WARRIORS