AMEN NEWS

Volume 16, Issue 4 | *American Military Evangelizing Nations* | Fall 2018

TRANSITION

Military Life

Anyone who has served in the U.S. Armed Forces knows there are certain truths by which you live. One of these "truisms" is 'hurry up and wait.' Another is the mantra, "change is the only constant." Looking back on my own 26-year Air Force career I remember the several different work uniform combinations we endured. In Basic Training we wore the cotton fatigues with blue name tapes. These were replaced by the black and dark green Woodlands Camouflage of the Cold War Era. When Desert Storm kicked off, we transitioned to the multi-brown "Chocolate Chip" utility combination for desert warfare. This was followed by the digital green Airman Battle Dress Uniform or ABU's. I'm sure those from the Army, Marines and Navy have their own uniform stories to tell. Uniform changes were the most obvious means for recognizing the transition periods of military service. There were other more strategic transitions taking place over my service career. When I became a Christian at Karamursel Air Station, Turkey in 1976 we were deep into the Cold War stance of large European bases keeping a wary eye on the equally large Soviet threat. Anyone remember the routine ***Reforger Exercises*** in Germany? After September 11, 2001 this gave way to the 'asymmetrical' threat of religious terrorism and a greater reliance on Special Operations forces. Another significant characteristic over this period was the increasing presence of military families. The All-Volunteer Force brought more married members leading to the establishment of family-oriented programs designed to help spouses and children make sense of military culture and deployment issues.

Transition also characterizes the ministry of the Church to the military community, most notably in the annual European family retreats. Fifty-five years ago, an Army chaplain kick started what became an annual family retreat to give those military members from the Church of Christ a spiritual growth opportunity. Many still fondly remember the excitement at Berchtesgaden and Chiemsee with their stimulating speakers and warm Christian fellowship. Here military and European missionary families were given mutual encouragement, support and God's love. But the Cold War ended, the military reduced its European footprint, and at the most recent retreat held now in the Bavarian village of Rothenburg on the Tauber there was only a miniscule military presence. Transition happens! The need to provide spiritual growth for military members hasn't diminished, but the means for achieving this requires serious consideration in order to best serve our uniformed Christian brothers and sisters. The Gospel message will always remain as it has been since the days of the Apostles. But for AMEN, bringing the Gospel to the warrior and their families challenges us to look afresh at our efforts to build the love of God in the heart of the warrior.

BRINGING THE GOSPEL TO THE MILITARY COMMUNITY REQUIRES FRESH EYES OF SERVICE

RESOURCES FOR MILITARY MINISTRY

Brown Trail School of Preaching

Brown Trail School of Preaching exists for the purpose of training men for ministry and to serve in the pulpit. We have existed since 1965 in the Dallas/Fort Worth area and have equipped hundreds for the cause of Christ. If you are considering a career in the Ministry, please contact us at **www.Browntrailschoolofpreaching.com**
Roy Gafford, Dean of Students, (214) 240-3486

AMEN TEAM NEWS

West Point Church of Christ, NY.

This Fall the West Point Church of Christ had a number of great activities that furthered the spiritual well-being of the cadets and supporting families. In addition to our weekly Bible Study and Sunday worship we met regularly for lunch, evening fellowships, and social gatherings.

Additionally, on Veteran's Day a large group from the West Point Church of Christ went to the Capitol City Rescue Mission in Albany, New York to help the shelter serve food to the homeless, do construction on a new shelter for single mothers, and sort donated clothing.

The church at West Point is thriving with fantastic cadet leadership and a number of dedicated military and civilian families. We feel very blessed to be able to do the Lord's work in such a beautiful and historic environment and look forward to a wonderful 2019!

By LTC Shane Reeves

Sagamidai Church of Christ, Camp Zama Japan

I can assist any DoD individual/family looking for a church home in the Camp Zama and surrounding area of Japan (Kanagawa Prefecture- about 25 miles southwest of Tokyo). I worship at the Sagamidai Church of Christ, a small church close to Camp Zama. We have a children's service Sunday mornings before the regular worship at 11:30 a.m. followed by a luncheon at the church. The best way to reach me is by email or office phone. The church's phone number is 042-745-1039.

By Rick Tague, Attorney Advisor
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AMEN AT UPCOMING EVENTS

24-26 JAN: Sunset Vision Workshop
Sunset Bible Institute

16- 18 Feb: Fort Sill, Church of Christ Service
Northwest Church of Christ

NEW KEY MEN & WOMEN

The heart of AMEN are the Key Men/Women who provide the Locator Service benefitting numerous military Christians. Many rely on this network of saints to find opportunities for worship, fellowship and learning. There is a great need for Key Men and Women at the following installations:

All U.S. Naval vessels

Recruit Training Command, Naval Station Great Lakes IL

Basic Military Training, Lackland AFB TX

Fort Lee VA

Fairchild AFB WA

Jacksonville NAS FL

McConnell AFB KS

Williams AFB AZ

Dyess AFB TX

Fort Polk LA

Gulfport NMCB MS

Whiteman AFB MO

Kadena AB Okinawa, Japan

Eielson AFB AK

Bagram & Kandahar AB, Afghanistan

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