# AMEN NEWS

Volume 16, Issue 3 | *American Military Evangelizing Nations* | Summer 2018

## TEAMWORK

### Military Spiritual Formation

One of the most distinctive characteristics of military life is the emphasis each Service Branch places on teamwork. From the first day of either Enlisted Basic or Officer Commissioning Training the concept of teamwork is, literally, drilled into each person. I remember clearly that day during my Basic Training when our "Rainbow" flight of colorfully dressed civilian individuals were transformed into the bland uniformity of bald heads, pale green fatigues, black boots standing in formation in an effort to mold us as an Air Force Flight, a team of Airmen. Through academics, formation drills, work parties and agonizing inspections we were taught the importance of relying on each other to escape the wrath of our Military Training Instructor. The fundamentals we learned in Basic became the habits we would need to see us through contingency and combat operations we were to face in the operational world. But the concept of teamwork goes much deeper than a mutual effort to accomplish at task. It is the building of community be they Battle Buddies, Shipmates, Devil Dogs, or Wingmen. This thought was immortalized by William Shakespeare in his play about King Henry V, "*We few, we happy few, we band of brothers; for he today that sheds his blood with me, shall be my brother…*" In military culture teamwork is often a lifelong relational bond, a group identity, truly a band of brothers. It is so important to our military members that it is embodied in the culture through the various Service creeds, especially in phrases which state "I will never leave a fallen comrade behind." Teamwork is the backbone of the Warrior Ethos which is the focus of military training.

> WE MUST BE UNCOMPROMISING IN OUR COMMITMENT TO LEAVING NO CHRISTIAN BEHIND

Teamwork has been the guiding principle of AMEN's ministry since its beginning in 1976. The original vision was to create a team effort between local churches and military members to strengthen the faith of those stationed at nearby installations and their families. In the church we call this fellowship. The Scriptures resonate with the importance of koinonia, our community. Paul sees it in Ephesians 4:16 as a human body working in harmony. 1 Peter 2:5 & 9 illustrates it as a holy temple, a royal priesthood, and a chosen nation. The Apostle John makes it the litmus test of our relationship with God, 1 John 1:3; 3:10; 4:7-8,19-21. Today our network of Key Men and Women is the team we use to provide the spiritual formation necessary to create a healthy, balanced warrior whose faith in Christ Jesus allows them to overcome a myriad of stress filled experiences. I like to think that AMEN is creating a Spiritual Warrior Ethos. In this endeavor we must be uncompromising in our commitment to leave no military Christian behind.

## RESOURCES FOR MILITARY MINISTRY

NOTE: Please note a correction for the phone number of the **Military Outreach Program** of the Bear Valley Church of Christ. The correct phone number is (303) 888-7693. They send a teacher or teaching team to a congregation anywhere they are invited, worldwide.

For information contact Dick Brant, USN (Ret) at thinksouls1@gmail.com or call him at (303) 888-7693. To view their web site go to: 1militaryoutreach1.com

## AMEN TEAM NEWS

**North County Church of Christ** (NCCC) **Military Ministry** in San Diego County CA is led by Key Man and Key Woman Lloyd and Linda Lamere. San Diego County has more than 100,000 active duty Sailors and Marines, with five large installations, and the nation's largest concentration of military personnel, along with many Veterans. Several have visited our church because of the AMEN Locator Service. We provide transportation to our worship service if needed, and often have military families/individuals seek out and attend our services for several years while stationed in San Diego County. During their deployments, we support them with cards and care packages. We also support any family members of NCCC serving in the military in the same manner. Our church is actively involved in the Para Chapel Ministry Council (PCMC), which consists of 74 faith-based organizations and is headed by a Chaplain at Camp Pendleton. This gives us additional opportunities to serve, support and encourage our nearby military.

By Linda Lamere

We have an active congregation located **at Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar**. We'd love to have members worship with us when they come through or are stationed here. We meet at the chapel annex, next to the Base Recreational Area (BRA), at 1000 hours and again at 1900 hours on Sunday.

By Tim Dixon, USAFR, Captain, with Panama Street church of Christ, Montgomery, AL

Congratulations to our **Military Academy** graduates:

U.S. Air Force Academy - Chance Baxter

U.S. Military Academy West Point

Esther Nagila, Samuel Miller, Theodore Lossing, Andrew Holden, Egbezien Obiomon, Jonathan Lara, Camiesha Jackson, and Shelby Jacob

### AMEN AT UPCOMING EVENTS

16 SEP: U.S. Military Academy, West Point NY, worship service

17-21 Nov: Euro-American Family Retreat
Rothenburg od Tauber, Bavaria, Germany

**Euro- American Family Retreat** Military Breakout Classes
Theme: *The Mobility Bag Church, Faith Building on the Move*
Class 1: *Building the Love of God in the Heart of the Warrior* focuses on developing spiritual maturity

Class 2: *Lessons from the Love Lab* explores building relationships for those PCS overseas or deployed.

### 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. Welcome to some of our newest (or rediscovered) Key Men and Women:

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| Al Foxx | Quantico MCB/ FT Belvoir, FT Meyers VA |
| Wayne Hammock | NAS Whidbey Island WA |
| Jared Sloan | Cannon AFB NM |
| Bobby Lumpkin | JB Lewis/McChord WA |
| Jason O'Pry | JB Elmendorf/Richardson AK |
| Gene & Sherry Lazzaro | Warner Robins AFB GA |
| James Baker | FT Rucker AL |
| Riley Anderson | FT Leavenworth KS |
| Nathan Barton MAJ, USAR | Ellsworth AFB SD |
| Elmer Johnson (10th& Broad CoC) | Sheppard AFB TX |

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