Fall 2020 Volume 18, Issue 4

AMEN NEWS

American Military Evangelizing Nations

AMEN Goals for 2021

As we enter the holiday season and the closing of the year I for one will not be sorry to see 2020 placed on the history books. The plans for this year unexpectedly collapsed both from a ministerial and personal experience. Locator Requests dried up, travel plans were abandoned, workshops and preaching events evaporated due to COVID 19. Yet the year offered hope as churches and individuals sought new ways to proclaim the salvation of our Lord Jesus and maintain our sense of community. My hope and goals for the new year with a prayer to end the pandemic include the following:

- My first priority is to personally visit Key Men/Women, servicmembers and churches building relationships and promoting AMEN's services. I desire to visit sites in U.S., Europe and Pacific including Guam, Okinawa, Japan and Alaska to meet and recruit contacts and promote the ministry.
- Continue to upgrade and expand the Key Man contacts network utilizing the web site interactive map features, provide training, and advice on working with the military community.

(Cont. pg. 2)

Defending Life, Liberty & The Pursuit of Happiness

As a devoted New Englander Thanksgiving is one of my favorite holidays seeing as the events which sparked this celebration happened in my own geographical backyard. I relish the joy of giving thanks with family and friends before the blustery winds of winter come knocking. For me Thanksgiving is not merely a prelude to Christmas nor the day before the materialistic convulsions of Black Friday. It has a special charm of love, warmth, and family togetherness which celebrates the blessings of the closing year. This was even more important when my deployments to Korea and Kuwait put hundreds of miles between me and my loved ones.

There are important principles which make Thanksgiving Day an essential celebration to the American people. It is the unique blend of the spiritual and the political aspects which define who we are as a nation and what America means to the world. That November feast day in Plymouth Massachusetts between English Pilgrims and Wampanoag Indians was a harvest festival to commemorate the survival of the English colonists. These Pilgrims formed the Mayflower Compact recognized as the first expression of self-government in the New World. The break between the Old European World ruled by royalty and clerics would in the pristine wilderness of America transition to a "government of the people, by the people and for the people." Kingdoms and empires would give way to a democratic Republic with the Declaration of Independence serving as a beacon for people craving liberty.

> "From this spiritual idea was born the belief that the authority of government came not from kings but directly from God"

Those early colonists like the Pilgrims carried within their breasts an idea that America should be a city on a hill to witness to God's grace as spoken by Jesus in Matthew 5:14-16. (Cont. pg.2)

2021 Goals Cont.

- Market the Locator Service to better inform Servicemembers about the usefulness of this tool in connecting with local churches Stateside & Overseas
- Establish & train Key Men at USA, USMC, USAF & USN Basic & Technical Training bases
- Develop and conduct spiritual growth retreat/workshops focused on Military and Veteran members to help them cope with important transition points like deployments, redeployments, military marriage relationships, & returning to civilian life
- Develop a spiritual growth training class for church leaders to use with military members or veterans in their congregation using Dr. Tom Seals *God's Word for Warriors* training materials
- Improve administration regarding publicizing program, using AMEN News; fund raising to cover retreats & workshops, equipment, travel; identifying resources to expand spiritual growth opportunities; recruit Subject Matter Experts like retired chaplains, counselors, etc.

A Call to Serve

At the heart of the AMEN Ministry is our locator services. Made possible by **Key Men & Women** who serve Active Duty, Reserve, National Guard, and Veteran members locate a church of Christ family, or help them seek Christ. As a **Key Man/Woman** you will receive training to serve in this capacity. If interested in serving please email us at: **amen.ministry@comcast.net**

God's grace and His provision enabled them to first survive and then thrive in land 3,000 miles from the class restricted societies of Europe. From this spiritual idea was born the belief that the authority of government came not from kings but directly from God to each person who was created in His image. A spark of liberty was formed in Plymouth Massachusetts that would become a consuming fire in the Revolutionary War and be sustained through the Civil War and the World Wars of the 20th century. America is the great political experiment whose founding concept is that every person is of equal value because he or she is made in the image of God.

The U.S. Armed Forces exist to defend this Republic against all enemies, foreign and domestic. Their mission is nothing less than to ensure that the ideals of liberty are not extinguished from human history. To fail is to succumb to the tyranny of despots, warlords or anarchists who would strip away the value of the individual and deny the God of creation. America's defense is both political and spiritual. The AMEN Military Ministry has existed for 42 years to meet the spiritual needs of our Servicemen and Women. This is often a difficult, rigorous way of life filled with the challenges of family separation, austere living conditions, loneliness and disruptions brought on by deployments and base assignments. Not the least is the experiences of trauma, injuries and the mental struggles of combat. AMEN takes seriously the task identified in our name to evangelize nations. Servicemembers need the Gospel to address their unique needs, challenges and opportunities. Thanks to military members, church leaders and financial supporters AMEN will carry out Jesus's call to make disciples among those who wear the uniform.

About AMEN News

AMEN News is published quarterly for members of the church of Christ serving in the U.S. Armed Forces and for those interested in military ministry. AMEN is a missionary effort of the Manchester Church of Christ, Manchester CT.

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KeyMan/Woman Locator - New Interactive Locator Map

Internet technology has proved a valuable tool during this pandemic and has a place in our ministry to the military community. Here is one of the newest features to help connect military Christians with local churches. This interactive map helps instantly identify Key Men/Women at specific installations.

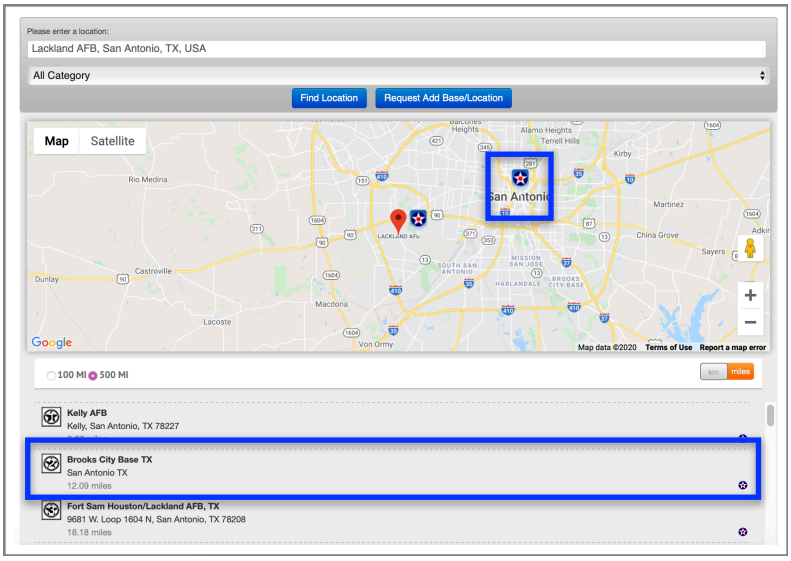
Go to: **AMENMinistry.org**

Click on **"Keyman Locator"** in the menu at the top

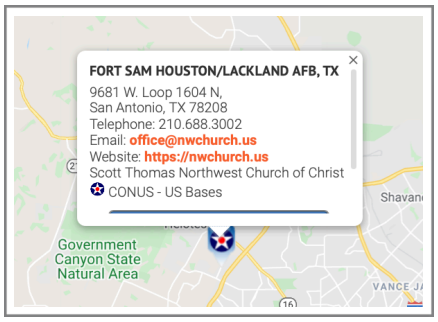


Next, type in the base you are looking for and click **"Find Location"** to search.

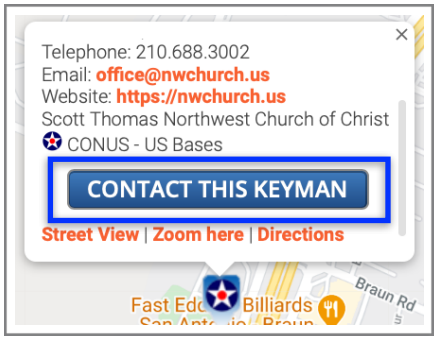
- Results will show on the map (star icons)
- Results will also show in a list underneath the map



You can click the star icon on the map, or the location in the list to bring up more information.



Scroll down in this box of information to find the **"CONTACT THIS KEYMAN"** button.



Use the form that appears to contact the Keyman of your choice.

