AMEN NEWS

American Military Evangelizing Nations

Academy Graduates

- **ENS Sean Jernigan** (U.S.S. *Jason Dunham,* Mayport, FL)
- **2LT Stephen (Chase) Demoss** (Camp Casey, Korea)
- **2LT Ebakoliane Obiomon** (Ft. Hood, Texas)

COVID-19 Update

All AMEN Ministry travel and events have been cancelled till restrictions have been lifted.

A Call to Serve

At the heart of the AMEN Ministry is our locator services. Made possible by **Key Men & Key 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: amenmilitaryministry@gmail.com

A Shelter in the Time of Storm

As I write these words the Coronavirus pandemic continues to test our endurance in a world we could hardly envision just a few months ago. There is hope as fewer cases and deaths are reported daily but some may wonder whether we will ever return to a sense of normalcy. This event reminds me of the apostle Peter's encouragement found in his First Epistle to our brethren in the ancient province of Asia Minor. BLUF, bottom line up front, suffering brings unexpected reward. Our trials bring a clarity of understanding we could never get when everything is going well. Bounty and prosperity often obscure our vision of God's love and of the goodness of others. Where once we were enthralled with the lifestyle of athletes and Hollywood celebrities, we now realize how physicians, nurses, medical techs, truckers, grocery clerks, janitorial staff, teachers, and others we hardly noticed in our daily routines contribute far more to our quality of life. And as we transition from the stay-at-home restrictions, we realize how little control we possess and all we can do is wait upon the Lord. But waiting is not meaningless as people find creative ways to show support, caring and love for each other. Cardboard hearts, handmade signs, internet video songs, car parade celebrations, food donations, on-line streaming to name a few convey messages of hope while we are "Alone, Together." In the end it is these loving acts which will defeat any evil. And not to be forgotten are our Servicemen and women who remain diligent against foreign aggressors while laboring under the pandemic restrictions.

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AMEN Website Upgrades

The COVID 19 pandemic has caused us to rethink ways of doing ministry and connecting with one another. In spite of the lockdown technology and the internet have provided opportunities to worship and encourage one another when our physical presence has been restricted. During these past few months, we have made changes to the AMEN website which will enhance the way we care for our military Christians. First, the address to the new site is now **amenministry.org** instead of the amenministry.info. Our email address has changed as well to amenmilitaryministry@gmail.com. And you can reach us at our new phone number (860) 501-9813. Brother Patrick of Patrick Keller Consulting has done a remarkable job with our web design updates. One very useful tool is the Key Man/Woman drop down menu on the About Tab where the Locator Service contact information can be sent directly from the web site. The interactive map can locate a Key Man/Woman anywhere in the world where you can send information directly to your selected location. And the Donation Tab provides a safe, secure means of contributing to this ministry. While the means for conducting ministry will adapt to current events the Gospel message of God's grace through Jesus Christ will always remain the same in serving our military Christian community.

Stop Movement Orders have halted combat zone redeployments, needed training requirements, and change of duty station assignments for the majority of troops. Essential worship services conducted at Basic and Advanced Training Centers have closed. This is devastating to the new recruits dealing with the stresses of Boot Camp. Frontline defenses like the U.S.S. Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71) was lost to our naval vigilance in order to deal with a rampant COVID 19 infection. Overall, we have to come to grips with the need to isolate ourselves from each other while trying to maintain our emotional and spiritual connections. Much of our work at AMEN has been placed on hold until our nation can open up again. But the need for making connections continue to come into us. Not long ago I received a request for a church connection for a Navy nurse deployed on board the U.S. Naval Ship Mercy assigned to Los Angeles. Utilizing the networking opportunities that characterize our ministry I was able to find some resources from a retired Marine Corps Sergeant Major in Texas, a Navy hospital corpsman in San Diego, and an Air Force bomber pilot in Louisiana to offer to this sister in Christ. Peter is insightful when he states that the testing of our faith reveals a proven and genuine trust in the power of the risen Christ, 1 Peter 1:6-9. Thanks to military brethren, Key Men and Women, donors and supporters AMEN continues to share God's love to those in 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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