AMEN NEWS

American Military Evangelizing Nations

AMEN Team News

We welcome **SGT Michael Westerfield (Ret U.S. Air Force)** to the team as Key Man at Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida.

Military Resources

Military Outreach

The **Bear Valley church of Christ's ministry "Military Outreach"** is designed to send a teacher or teaching team to a congregation anywhere they are invited worldwide. The length of time our teacher spends with your congregation can be from a few days to a few months. Director Dick Brant, USN Retired invites you to learn more about their services on their web site at: 1militaryoutreach1.com. You will find a weekly sermon outline, an online library, and other bits of help or email him at: thinksouls1@gmail.com. Contact him for list of topics and details.

Relocation Assistance

Steve Weatherly runs a janitorial and cleaning service in Amarillo TX. He has offered help for military and veterans to find work and assistance in relocating to the area. You can contact him at: P.O. Box 7157, Amarillo, Tx 79114 (806) 251-1243

Finding Consistency in Time of Uncertainty

One of the most important principles of military planning includes a concept called the "Fog of War" introduced by the Prussian military analyst Carl von Clausewitz. The Fog of War refers to the various ways uncertainty can determine the outcome of a desired mission effort. In his book, *On War,* Von Clausewitz observed, "War is the realm of uncertainty...action (is) wrapped in a fog of greater or lesser uncertainty." For military members this reality is summed up in the saying that the first casualty of battle is your plan. Simply put, war is chaos and the victor is one who can quickly adapt to an ever-changing if seldom fully understood situation. A rigid, dogmatic "we've always done it this way" is a surefire recipe for defeat and death.

Which brings me to the COVID-19 Pandemic of 2020. If ever there was a fog of war this pandemic is it. No one in our lifetime has ever experienced such a cataclysmic event which has touched every aspect of our lives and had such a devastating impact. Our nation, yea the world, was caught unprepared for the speed and breadth of the coronavirus and recovery efforts are still adjusting to a shifting situation. We can also say that the Church was caught flat-footed and many congregations struggled to maintain community life and worship in responding to the virus' spread.

> "We hold firmly to the core of truth, the Gospel, while seeking ways apart from the familiar norms to promote life in Christ."

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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**

Covid-19 Updates

The **West Point church of Christ** is back in full-swing albeit a little different this semester. In order to practice social distancing, we are meeting on Sundays and Tuesdays in the Old Cadet Chapel – a building erected in 1836. Smaller, more frequent sponsorship engagements have allowed us to get to know the new cadets. The church has 5 new members.

–Bryan Jonas, MAJ, USA

The **Pikes Peak church of Christ** expects restrictions to be eased soon at the U.S. Air Force Academy. New cadets have been restricted to base since late June. We encourage all the cadets by providing a home away from the academy. Most find it difficult to get away right now, but the upperclassmen can take advantage of this occasionally during weekend daytime hours. Online meetings began last March and continue for those unable to attend the in-person services that began in June.

This is Fog of War, albeit a spiritual conflict no less. To overcome the uncertainty we are in Von Clausewitz notes "A sensitive and discriminating judgment is called for; a skilled intelligence to scent out the truth." In other words, we hold firmly to the core of truth, the Gospel, while seeking ways apart from the familiar norms to promote life in Christ. Many churches have adapted to the changing environment and discovered tools for reaching Christians and non-Christians. Technology has made possible spiritual and emotional connections when health concerns have driven people into physical isolation. Uncertainty does not mean defeat.

Like many other ministries the AMEN Military Ministry has been hit hard this year. Requests for our Locator Service and travel plans to network with churches at military bases have dried up due to pandemic restrictions. But rather than waiting for the fog to clear I am using this time to find ways to more effectively meet the needs of our military Christians. It is expressed in our vision to *Build the Love of God in the Heart of the Warrior*. Transition remains our central focus through the Locator Service connections with local churches. But transition has a broader meaning by building stronger individual spirituality enabling Servicemembers to become more resilient in a fluid and demanding environment. Utilizing military specific workshops, Bible classes designed for the warfighter, and using the latest technology AMEN assists our military Christians to grow into the image of Jesus and possess a faith testifying to the Gospel's power for salvation, 1 Peter 3:15. I will outline specific efforts in future quarterly newsletters and on our Facebook page at:

"**AMENMINISTRY of the churches of Christ**".

The best way to overcome the Fog of War is to be flexible and to adapt to an ever-changing environment while remaining focused on the mission of making disciples of Christ.

Covid-19 Updates (cont.)

The **church of Christ at NSA Bahrain** resumed meeting together on Aug 16th. COVID-19 safety measures include: temperature checks, a sign in for contact tracing before entering, maintaining social distance, and wearing face masks at all times. All safety measures are in place at the Defense Department School as well. The church is doing well and are actively praying for brethren world-wide.

–Philippe Frerot

The **Anchorage church of Christ (Joint Base Elmendorf/Fort Richardson)** continues to livestream services due to local health mandates. We have a ladies, men's, and youth bible midweek study via zoom each week. In person worship is undetermined at this time and Active Duty military may continue to face restrictions based on local command policy. For updated information on services and classes contact me at jonopry@icloud.com or visit web site at anccoc.org.

–Jason O'Pry

The **Carriage Oaks church of Christ (Barksdale AFB)** was mandated in March to shut down by the Louisiana governor due to COVID. Worship services met virtually using Zoom and Facebook Live. Active military members were restricted per command guidance. When the governor loosened restrictions the Carriage Oaks congregation began meeting in the building again. Safety precautions include: spacing procedures, wearing masks, and using individually sealed communion cups for the Lord's Supper. We miss gathering for game nights, Bible studies, and other social events with our brothers and sisters. Worshipping God properly is our priority and our elders have done a great job leading the congregation through this difficult time. I am especially concerned for our young adults who do not have Bible classes to attend due to the limited meetings. Active military while at work are implementing COVID procedures and using team structures to minimize contact with each other.

–1st LT Reagan Garner

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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