AMEN NEWS

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PEACEMAKERS

In the Sermon on the Mount (Matt 5-7) Jesus stated blessed are the peacemakers for they are the children of God. There is no greater need in today's world than for peacemakers. It seems like there is too much strife, anger and pain in almost every aspect of life today. Absent is clear, rational thinking coupled with emphatic listening of opposing views.

When Jesus talked about peacemakers, he was not describing weak, vacillating or cowering people willing to go along just to get along. As the Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6) he was seeing people who stood with faithful conviction drawing strength from God to bring about the Kingdom of Righteousness. In Jesus the humiliation of the cross gave way to the vindication of the resurrection and the conquest over sin and death. Jesus is the ultimate peacemaker, Ephesians 2:14-18. I agree with Rubel Shelly in his study guide of the Beatitudes when he says, "peace is not the cessation of mere hostility…." Taken from the Hebrew word shalom peace means completeness or wholeness. This wholeness is only made possible when one is reconciled to God and reconciled with oneself which becomes the foundation for reconciliation with others.

Becoming a peacemaker takes dedication, perseverance and intentionality to achieve the state of wholeness. Such is the admonition in Psalm 34:14, "…seek peace and pursue it." AMEN's work is to assist our Servicemen and Servicewomen to become peacemakers. Our singular focus is on bringing the Gospel to members of the military community providing reconciliation with God through Jesus Christ. To achieve inner peace for the warfighter AMEN provides services that will build up the individual's spiritual resilience especially resulting from combat and traumatic situations. Our Locator Service seeks to establish worship and fellowship opportunities by connecting members with a local church body. We are expanding this faith building through workshops in Bible knowledge, spiritual growth, and maintaining one's faith in the complex world of military life. A promising tool is the curriculum in Dr. Tom Seals book *God's Word for Warriors.* Achieving peace with others is accomplished by cultivating a sense of community both within the body of Christ and with those in the world. AMEN seeks to develop this important dimension of faith drawing upon the strengths and struggles connected with military life. For over 45 years AMEN has worked to bring God's reconciliation and grace to those in the Armed Forces who serve as peacekeepers. The Gospel is the most effective way of changing hearts and minds uniting a diverse world into God's Kingdom of Light, Colossians 1:12-13.

> TO BE A PEACEMAKER TAKES DEDICATION, PERSEVERANCE AND INTENTIONALITY

RESOURCES FOR MILITARY MINISTRY

God's Word for Warriors (GWFW)– is a program developed by Dr. Tom Seals, former Professor and Chaplain to Veteran Students at David Lipscomb University. This is a very good tool to work with Military Members and Veterans in your local community as part of your church's outreach efforts. The topics are designed to address the experiences of military life helping the member become a stronger Christian, adjust to civilian life and become a valuable asset to the Church. Studies include Christian and War; Importance of a Faith Community; Facing Relationship Problems; Overcoming Fear and Anxiety; Guilt and Forgiveness; Depression and Suicide; Discovering Peace, etc. GWFW offers Train the Trainer classes in person or via on-line. Contact Dr. Seals or Jim Humphrey at (615) 964-7031 or email at jim@godsword-forwarriors.org. Check out their web site at: www.godsword-forwarriors.org

Military Outreach Program of the Bear Valley Church of Christ. They will 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 phone number (303) 888-7693. To view their web site, go to: 1militaryoutreach1.com

Katheryrn Maddox Hadad has conducted a ministry to Muslims including Afghanistan for 11 years. She is looking to contact church with members who have served in Afghanistan for assistance to encourage new Christians. You can contact her at katheryn@inspirationsbykatheryn.com

AMEN TEAM NEWS

West Point Church of Christ We continue to meet and worship. The only thing that changed due to COVID is our location, we now meet at the Old Cadet Chapel located in the West Point Cemetery at 1230 on Sunday and 1930 on Tuesday. This allows us to maintain social distance. We have been doing very well in terms of both physical and spiritual growth. We have had four baptisms since September and a number of ongoing Bible studies.

U.S. Air Force Academy, Pikes Peak Church of Christ, Colorado Springs CO. The cadet wing is still restricted from attending in-person worship services and bible classes. We see them in our homes on occasion, but there are no over-night stays. We do our best to be an encouragement to them and they seem to taking all in stride.

AMEN AT UPCOMING EVENTS

9-11 Jun: Chaplain Endorser's Conference, David Lipscomb University

19-20 Jun: New England Men's Retreat, Kent CT

Other locations as COVID restrictions are lifted

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:

Riker Noriss	Sheppard AFB
Burkburnett Church	Wichita Falls TX

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