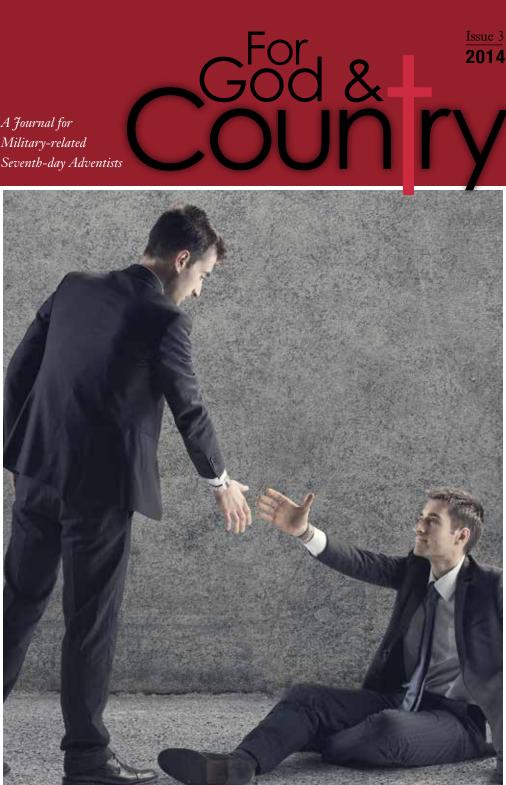
2014

A Journal for Military-related Seventh-day Adventists





SERVANT LEADERSHIP

by Gary R. Councell
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Chaplain (Colonel), U.S. Army (Retired)

dventism produces leaders.
Our emphasis on education
results in a membership more
educated than the average population.
We are a practical people whose values
of courage, faith/trust, integrity, loyalty,
respect, responsibility, self-discipline
and selfless service comprise the
qualities of character found in leaders.

Yet, far too often, Adventists are content to shirk leadership roles, especially in the public arena, and simply be passive citizens. Passive citizenship may pray for civic leaders, pay taxes, and be neighborly, but its influence for good is limited. Instead of being "the light of the world," the "light is hid" (Matthew 5:14-16).

In some countries Seventh-day Adventists have advanced through the ranks to positions of leadership and influence. Their faith becomes a motivating factor in making decisions that are positive and helpful. Their decisions benefit the well-being of all their fellow citizens. In these last days when corruption, crime, persecution, and terror abounds, modern-day Josephs, Daniels, and Esthers are essential to thwart evil.

As a military chaplain, God blessed my efforts to serve the church and our country. I experienced two decades in leadership roles from the installation level to the Pentagon. I learned that one does not change systems by opposing them from the outside. You must work a system from the inside to make any lasting change. And in order to work the system, you must also be a credible and accepted leader who knows the system and can influence it through the four Cs of communication, coordination,



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collaboration, and cooperation. When vision and prayer are the foundation for action, success follows.

It is true that the ground at the foot of the cross is level and each person standing there is of equal value in the eyes of God, it is also true that different roles and levels of responsibility are given to individuals. Persons are not born leaders; leadership skills are acquired through character development, purpose, education, and life experience. However, without aspirations or training in leadership, a person will continue functioning in other roles. Activities such as AY progressive classwork and honors, and Pathfinders expand horizons. Youth should excel at learning, acquiring skills in the arts and athletics, then join organizations like the Civil Air Patrol or Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps in secondary school. Scholarship committees and employers note these.

Adventist officers are needed in the military. Consider taking R.O.T.C. in

college or university and becoming an officer upon graduation. Or apply for a fully funded scholarship at one of the military academies. Opportunities await you in many fields of law enforcement, emergency preparedness, and politics.

Adventism can be faithfully practiced and valid contributions made to better our world anywhere, in any circumstances or man-made situations. If these are viewed as preventing the practice of our faith, we are saying, in essence, that they are greater than faith. I simply don't believe that to be true. Faith must be based on trust in a Sovereign God, even if at times He may appear to be aloof, distant, or disinterested in you or me personally. So, launch out and strive to make a difference as a leader in your community and influence others for God, good, right, and truth. Remember, the easiest way for evil to triumph is for good people to do nothing!

WHAT IS YOUR STORY?

Many Seventh-day Adventists have faithfully served God and country through military service. This is a legacy that should be shared with family, friends, and the church at large.

Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries is seeking stories about Adventists serving on Active Duty, in the Guard or Reserve, or from veterans about their service experiences. Please contact the editor at Deena.Bartel-Wagner@nad.adventist.org to learn how your story can be told.



THE PRIVILEGE OF SERVANT LEADERSHIP



The tension in the camp was at an all-time high as the Israelites were camped at Hazeroth. Miriam and Aaron had made well known their disapproval of Moses' marriage to a Cushite woman. Insubordination and a veritable coup d'état were mounting as Moses faced his siblings.



of others in a moment when he could have claimed victory.

This servant leadership is seen in Moses time and again. Ellen White writes, "As Moses interceded for Israel, his timidity was lost in his deep interest and love for those for whom he had, in the hands of God, been the means of doing so much. The Lord listened to his pleadings, and granted his unselfish prayer. God had proved His servant; He had tested his faithfulness and his love for that erring, ungrateful people, and nobly had Moses endured the trial. His interest in Israel sprang from no selfish motive. The prosperity of God's chosen people was dearer to him than personal honor, dearer than the privilege of becoming the father of a mighty nation. God was pleased with his faithfulness, his simplicity of heart,

AS CHRISTIANS, WE ARE ALL CALLED TO BE SERVANT LEADERS TO TELL A WORLD IMMERSED IN DARKNESS THAT THE ULTIMATE SERVANT LEADER GAVE ALL JUST SO HE COULD SPEND ETERNITY WITH US.

Then the command came that all three were to appear in the Tabernacle. It was here that God expressed His displeasure for Miriam and Aaron's actions, and reminded them that Moses was the servant leader who had been chosen to lead the mixed multitude to the Promised Land.

In that moment, Miriam was covered in leprosy and Moses demonstrated true servant leadership. Rather than telling Miriam she had gotten what she deserved, Moses cried out to God to heal Miriam from what would surely be her death. Moses demonstrated his care for the needs

and his integrity, and He committed to him, as a faithful shepherd, the great charge of leading Israel to the Promised Land."¹

As Christians, we are all called to be servant leaders to tell a world immersed in darkness that the ultimate Servant Leader gave all just so He could spend eternity with us.

In Jesus on Leadership, C. Gene Wilkes, writes about the characteristics of a true servant leader. These traits include a humble

¹ Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 319.2.

heart, being a follower of Christ, and allowing Him to lead, rather than seeking your own positions; finding greatness through serving others; trusting God so completely that you are willing to take the risk to serve others; meet other's needs before your own; and being willing to share responsibility and authority.

the face of adversity. On the ship called the Endurance, Sir Ernest Shackleton, the polar explorer, and his crew set out to cross Antarctica from sea to sea, via the South Pole. Along the way they ran into bad weather, unexpectedly slow sailing, and an early ice floe. Subsequently, the Endurance became trapped

HE ACCEPTED RESPONSIBILITY WHEN THE TRIP WENT WRONG, READJUSTED HIS FOCUS OF MISSION, AND RISKED EVERYTHING FOR THOSE HE WAS LEADING.

Throughout His life and ministry, Jesus put each of these into practice. His life was one of submission and humility. Paul reminds us to have the same mindset as Christ. "You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross."²

As a servant leader, one must understand the mission and then be willing to complete that mission, even if it means regrouping in in pack ice for 10 months before external pressure crushed the ship.

At this point, it seemed as though failure was to be Shackelton's legacy. Instead, he accepted that the mission had changed. The focus had become the safe return of each man. The crew endured five months of camping on ice floes, sailing small lifeboats through open water, and camping on a deserted crag named Elephant Island.

Shackleton realized his men were physically and mentally drained. He pushed on, with five crewmembers to pilot a 22-foot lifeboat on a 17-day, 800-mile journey through the worst seas on the planet to the whaling station on South Georgia Island.

Making landfall, the men realized they had landed on the uninhabited

² Philippians 2: 5-8, New Living Translation.









part of the island. From there they trekked 26 miles over mountains and glaciers. Upon reaching the whaling station, Shackelton could have sent a rescue party for his men. Instead, he personally returned to Elephant Island.

As incredible as it may seem, not one of the 28-man crew was lost. Shackleton had taken seriously his role as a servant leader. He accepted responsibility when the trip went wrong, readjusted his focus of mission, and risked everything for

those he was leading.

Often, we try to lead only to get other people's approval. This can result in damaging leadership. In *Jesus CEO*, Laurie Beth Jones notes that Jesus had internal anchors that guided him. "He was an effective leader because he had internal anchors. He did not get his approval from external mechanisms. His actions were not based on what Peter, John, and James thought. He didn't come unglued when John the Baptist began to doubt him. He didn't care whether Caesar smiled or frowned."³

At the foot of Mt. Sinai, Aaron had opportunity to practice his servant leadership and failed miserably. Moses left the camp in Aaron's care while he went up on Sinai. Aaron forgot what his internal anchors were when the people became frightened that Moses had been gone so long. As they clamored

to return to their former ways, Aaron worried about his popularity and succumbed to the crowd's demands. "Aaron feared for his own safety; and instead of nobly standing up for the honor of God, he yielded to the demands of the multitude."

One must never forget that although Jesus was a servant leader and His model is one to emulate, He came to Earth for a greater and eternal mission. He came to bring salvation to everyone who would accept His free gift. As a part of His mission, Jesus is willing to take the risk and entrust us, broken and sinful as we are, with the charge, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."5

As Christians, if we lose sight of this as our overall mission, we can practice all of the principles of servant leadership and still miss the point. Our true servant leadership is to reflect the character of Christ so that others will want to know and follow Him. "We are changed by Jesus not because we observe Him, but because we dare to follow Him."

Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 317.1.

Matthew 28:18-20, New Living Translation.

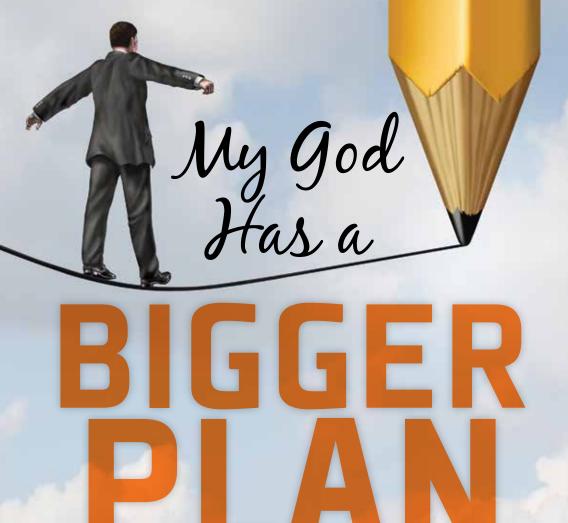






³ Jones, Laurie Beth. *Jesus, CEO*. New York: Hyperion, 1995, p. 19.

⁶ Wilkes, C. Gene. Jesus on Leadership – Timeless Wisdom on Servant Leadership. Carol Stream, Illinois: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., p. 245.



Jor Tom Netzel, learning to be a servant leader developed from life experiences that have led him through accomplishments and success, but have been balanced with times of doubt and disappointment. Netzel became interested in military service and served in the Army Reserves while attending college. "I saw it as a way to pay for my college expenses," says Netzel.

"While in college as an Reserve Officer Training Course Cadet, I was slated to attend a six weeks training summer camp at Ft. Bragg," says Netzel. "There would be 10,000 of us in attendance, but only 3,000 of us would receive orders for active duty. I prayed about this and asked God to guide in the selection process, but I felt sure I would be one of the chosen." Tom felt confident he'd done well in the training, but knew he'd have to be patient for the letter that would confirm his status.

selection process, my continual prayer was, 'Your will, not mine."

This time Tom was selected and served as an artillery officer in Desert Storm. As a forward observer, his roll was to call for strikes on various targets. During that time he had to make peace with himself. "I did experience internal conflict over my role, but I also knew that God had opened this opportunity for me."

During those first few years, Tom had many people tell him that his time would be short-term as an active duty soldier. They believed that those who were brought on specifically because of Desert Storm would be released at around the three-year mark. Instead, Tom has now served for 24 years on active duty.

"As a Captain, when you have put in five years, you have an opportunity to change the area of your military specialty," says Tom. "This would mean that I could earn my Masters' degree. I

"During the selection process, my continual prayer was, 'Your will, not mine.'"

When the much-anticipated letter arrived, Netzel was shocked to learn he was not selected for active duty. "I felt like God had forsaken me and I couldn't understand that at all," says Tom. "It was a difficult time and I had many questions." I did however receive my commission as a 2nd Lieutenant in the National Guard as a Field Artillery Officer.

Tom still needed to attend the Officer's Basic Course since he would be continuing as an officer in the National Guard. "Then an event occurred that changed everything," says Tom. "Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait and suddenly the Army was looking for more officers. During the

was initially told that my undergraduate GPA wasn't high enough."

The notice that he could apply after all couldn't have come at a worse moment. "Our unit was moving to another location the next day and everything was packed and ready to ship," says Tom. "There was an immediate deadline and I couldn't get the information I needed to submit my request." When there seemed like there was no solution, the unit librarian performed a remarkable feat.

"The day the boxes arrived in our new location, the librarian searched through them and found the regulations and other documents that I needed for my application packet," says Tom. "We didn't have computers available and the only thing I could find to write with was a pencil. At the beginning of my application I noted, 'I'm writing this in pencil, because of a recent unit move. Please don't take it to mean that I am not seriously interested." As he sealed the envelope, Tom once again sent up a prayer, asking God to guide the process. Tom was selected to attend Syracuse University where he earned a Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.), Comptrollership.

Tom didn't know that by taking this training once again his faith would be tested. In 2001, Tom eagerly anticipated the Army's selection board announcement of who would be promoted to Major. When the list was published, Tom was devastated! He'd been passed over and seemingly his military career was finished. "Honestly, I was angry with God," says Tom. "I remember

asking, 'Why did you do this to me?'" What Tom didn't see was that God had a bigger plan.

"I was ready to resign my commission and leave the military," admits Tom. Then reality hit home. "When I began to explore that option, I learned that I would have to give the Army three more years or reimburse the tuition for the Master's degree I had recently earned. I didn't have that kind of money." With Tom's decision to remain in the Army, he was active duty on 11 September 2001. Once again, a major event played a part in his military career.

Following 9/11, Tom was in a conversation with a commanding general when he mentioned that many of the officers who had changed their military specialty and taken advantage of advanced education had been passed over during the promotion boards. "I ran into that general again just before the promotion board was scheduled to meet and consider my name a second time," recalls Tom. "The general's words to me were, 'Don't worry about the selection



Jim and Tammy with their sons Jacob and Benjamin.

board." When the list was released, Tom's name was on it.

While he was waiting, he was assigned to Ft Jackson, South Carolina. This was like going back to the future for Tom. In 1977, as a nine-year-old boy, Tom and his parents attended a Ken Cox evangelistic meeting in Columbia, South Carolina, and were baptized.

"When I first joined the Army I kind of put the church behind me," admits Tom. "I still believed what I had learned in those meetings, but wasn't actively practicing my beliefs."

Just prior to 9/11, Tom and his

wife, Tammy, had made the decision that they wanted to raise their children with a church influence. Although Tammy had been raised as a Catholic, they decided that they would return to the Adventist church. "When we first arrived at Fort Jackson, I knew that the church I had been baptized in was nearby," says Tom. "That first Sabbath we drove around looking for it, but didn't find it. This scenario was repeated a second and third Sabbath. On the third Sabbath, we found the church, but arrived there late."

understood, I look at others who face this same situation with a different perspective," says Tom. "I try to talk to my peers about how and why they should find ways to accommodate soldiers when they can. Often this is about striking a balance."

Recently, Tom was challenged with the thought that branches must bear fruit to be of any use. "As I thought about this I realized that I hadn't led anyone to Jesus," admits Tom. "I told God that I didn't know how to share

my faith."

"I began to see how God's plan was working in my life."

On their fourth Sabbath, Tom and Tammy and their sons, Jacob and Benjamin, walked through the doors of Tom's childhood church. Much to their surprise an evangelism series was scheduled in the spring. They attended the meetings and at the end of the series, Tom, Tammy, and Jacob were baptized in the same church that Tom had been baptized in as a child. "I began to see how God's plan was working in my life," says Tom. "If I hadn't studied for my Master's, changed my military specialty, and been passed over by the selection board the first time, I wouldn't have been at Fort Jackson for these meetings."

Today as a Colonel, Tom uses his experiences to provide servant leadership to those he works with and those who are under his command. "I did a lot of reading and praying during my time in Iraq," says Tom. "Being deployed down range helps you look at life differently."

Another area that Tom is sensitive to is that of accommodating the needs of others. "Coming from a faith group that isn't always well known or The next week in church, Tom was astonished when the pastor announced that a training class on how to share a personal testimony would be held. "Tammy couldn't believe it when I signed up, but I told her, 'You don't understand. I prayed for this!" Today, Tom is incorporating his own story into his conversations with others. "I'm open with young people about where my personal choices led me and how God was always waiting to take me back," says Tom. "The response that I get from them is, 'Thank you for being honest with us.""

Today, Tom and Tammy are faced with another test of their faith. "Tammy has been diagnosed with late stage multiple sclerosis," says Tom. "Tammy tells me that we can't worry, we just have to trust that there is a plan for this, too."

With a lifetime of experiences that some might call coincidence, Tom and Tammy Netzel know that they have all been part of the Master's Plan. Their response to this latest life experience is to keep that plan in front of them.

SERVANT LE By Wayne Sanderson, Correction Major,



New Jersey Department of Corrections

n 1970, Robert Greenleaf, a retired AT&T management executive, authored an essay in which he first introduced the term servant leadership. During his career, Greenleaf had seen that top-heavy authoritarian leadership styles were far less effective than involved, workby-your-side leaders. As an outgrowth of this observation, he eventually founded the Greenleaf Institute for Servant Leadership.

Greenleaf's applied theories spawned a movement that has led to a re-examination of what leadership is, how it works, and why it succeeds in the face of failure. Sometimes leadership fails in the face of success. I knew nothing about this movement in my formative years. However, I find today that I've been applying many of these precepts all along, while developing my style of leadership. It is particularly relevant to my career, because servant leadership defines the

ADERSHIP ETRENCHES

essence of what I do and have always done. I am a Correctional Officer.

It has often proven a challenge during the past two and a half decades to balance my identity as a third generation Adventist Christian and a career Law Enforcement Officer, without allowing either to undermine or nullify the other. I could define both my Christian identity and my career through the application of the qualities and strengths imparted to me through my identity as an Adventist and my conduct as a Correctional Officer. I've done this by drawing from the faith and stability within myself, qualities instilled through leading an Adventist Christian life. It was never necessary to allow the two identities to be at war with one another. I never had to try to hang on to both, while they tore each other apart.

This wasn't always the case for me. When I first joined up with the New Jersey Department of Corrections in 1989, I quickly discovered what our work entailed. It is a rough, jocular atmosphere. Many times the work goes against the grain of what the average person is prepared to tolerate. The hours and days you must work are frequently not to your liking. The job is dangerous. In prison, all day, every day, you deal with the violent, the mentally ill, the subversive, the sex

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offender, the petty thief, and the con man. In short, you are confronted with a cross-section of the worst of humanity.

I can speak from experience that there are few, if any, greater challenges to your faith and your Christian identity than pursuing a career in Corrections. Those that are not on guard against the dangers will quickly find their humanity and Christian identity dissolving in the face of the suffering, madness, and evil they deal with every day. Make no mistake: Christ and Satan are both hard at work in our prisons. There is no one more in need of salvation and a good word than the prisoner, and also no one more susceptible to the devil's message. Many people fail to realize that staff members, who are immersed in the same atmosphere, are in danger of being permeated by the same evils as the prisoner.

One big difference between the plight of the prisoner and that of the prison staff is that the prisoner has spiritual support available to him or her at every turn. Many times staff members are just as sorely in need of spiritual guidance on a daily basis. Not only is it not available to them at work, but they are also forbidden to even speak out about their beliefs to the prisoners or their co-workers in the work environment. Police and sheriff departments across the nation have police chaplains who come in and help in bad times, console, and offer a ready ear, and a shoulder to lean on. In the prisons, the staff has no such spiritual support when they need it the most. In prison, God is



reserved for the prisoner while the staff may not mention His name. We are expected to "gut it out" today, go home, come back tomorrow and do it again. If you need to talk to someone, you must do it on your own time. Is it then any wonder that the incidence of alcoholism, drug dependency, divorce, and suicide are so high among the ranks of corrections staff?

It is here that servant leadership stands out. In an arena in which God and Christ may not be mentioned, the people who God and Christ have built up must stand forth as examples that inspire others and offer effective leadership, counsel, consolation, and moral principles. For myself, this part of the journey began back near the beginning of my career.

In the early days of my career, I eventually felt the pull toward the downward slope and had to examine my character and conduct. I realized what was happening and resolved to remain conscious of the dangers and seductions that working in the prisons exposed me to. What I was in a quandary over was what to do about those around me.

I eventually came to realize that

in many instances, life gets better one smile or good word at a time. I set out to smile, be friendly, cordial, and empathetic with everyone. We all have problems, and they don't get better when we suffer in silence. They frequently get worse in a cold, dehumanizing atmosphere, and there are few colder and dehumanizing places than prison. I also determined that, no matter what, the only effective course was one of honor and integrity. I have always taken my own lumps, and I have sometimes taken responsibility for and bore the weight of things that were shared errors, but which would not have become known as shared mistakes unless I spoke up. I found that only in this way could a trust relationship with your co-workers be built and maintained. Once established, the trust bond allowed those I led to see other things that helped them with their own work experience. Honor and integrity are not just words. They are like poison ivy; they rub off and infect everyone they touch. But, unlike the noxious vine, they leave strength and good work habits wherever they touch. This vine should be spread everywhere.

After five years, I was selected for promotion to the rank of Sergeant, which also meant a transfer to the maximum-security prison in Trenton, New Jersey. This represented a major adjustment for me. I had moved from being an officer who could only give orders to inmates to being a first level supervisor, responsible for managing part of the prison. I was now responsible for up to a dozen officers and hundreds of inmates. Having passed through several years of being a servant, I was thrust into a leadership

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position in a very unforgiving environment. Until this point in my career, I had only dealt with the problems, needs, and programming pertaining to the prisoners. Now, I was also the leader that the line staff looked to for guidance in their daily duties. My transfer was from another prison, so the staff didn't know me at all. Once again I was going to have to earn the trust of those with whom I worked. I needed every ounce of support I could get, and most of all I needed the strength found in my faith.

Today, after twenty-four years and several promotions, I am a commanding officer. Now everyone looks to me for guidance and direction. Along the way I have won their trust and support through the use of the same precepts I began with-forthright leadership, good counsel, empathy for others, and honorable, moral conduct. Only through the practice of these precepts, strengthened and sustained by strong Christian roots, can one be a good leader on every level. Anyone can give an order and push people to produce. The true servant leader hands a mission to their troops and by his or her example illuminates the path to achievement.

15

Janang BEFORE LAWMAKERS

enjamin Franklin told in his autobiography about one of Solomon's proverbs that Franklin's father would quote to him regularly. "Do you see a man skilled in his work? He will stand before kings; He will not stand before obscure men."

Proverbs 22:29

Franklin took this admonition seriously, although he never literally expected to stand before kings. Then he points out, "I have stood before five [kings], and even had the honor of sitting down with one, the King of Denmark, to dinner."

No one knows when or how he or she may be called upon to stand before lawmakers or kings. Jim Wibberding discovered this when he was asked to serve for one year as the Senate chaplain for the State of Idaho.

"This appointment was the result of the work of Greg Hamilton, president of the Northwest Religious Liberty Association (NRLA)," says Jim. "He had nurtured a relationship with State Senator Grant Ipsen, when they worked together previously to successfully pass Idaho's "Free Exercise of Religion Act."

The position of chaplain in the State Senate is rotated yearly among various denominations. Jim was officially selected by the Idaho Senate President and the Senate Search Committee to serve as

Senate chaplain for one year. As chaplain, Jim's responsibilities covered three basic areas. He offered prayers before each day's legislative session. If he couldn't be present, Jim would have to select someone to replace him to carry out his duties. Third, he was to be available to the senators to pray with and encourage them.

Initially, Jim wondered how the theory of separation of

Initially, Jim wondered ho the theory of separation of church and state would play out in real life. "I wondered how this would work when my role meant that I was responsible to bring a religious context into a political sphere," says Jim.

As Jim began to build his own friendships with the Senators, he learned that they were very open to what he had to offer. "On the first day the





Jim and Lynn with their three children.

President Pro Tem pulled me aside and expressed his concern that there were senators who were skipping out on the opening prayer segment," says Jim. "I believed there had to be a reason for that. I sought these individuals out and asked them how they perceived that of their day should be handled."

that he received, Jim adapted his prayers to be on a more personal level. Following the change, the senators saw that this was

With the information

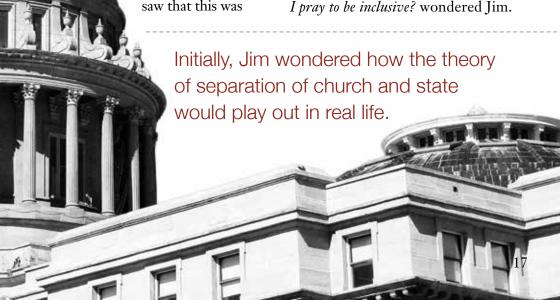
something that had become relevant to them. "After the first week, senators were no longer opting out of the prayer time," says Jim.

The responsibility of preparing a daily prayer was not one that Jim took lightly. "I did my best to understand the major bills that were moving though the senate," says Jim. The content of the day would change the mood in the chamber. This would direct my words."

At first Jim would write out his prayers, but that didn't last long. "It felt awkward," admits Jim. "Instead I would rehearse the prayer out loud several times on my daily drive to the Senate building. This made the prayer flow more naturally."

Typically, Jim would stay in the senate chamber during the daily debate session. He wanted to be a presence that was available to the senators. The senators would discuss their thoughts about various legislative matters with Jim. "I also did informal counseling and offered advice when asked," says Jim. "In my ministry I have learned that if I tend to the needs of the person, they are more receptive to what I may say to them."

Throughout the process, Jim struggled with dissonance. *How do I pray to be inclusive?* wondered Jim.





Jim being sworn in as the Idaho Senate chaplain.

Do I have to undermine my faith when I change the way I pray? If there are issues that I feel strongly about, how do I remain neutral as the chaplain who prays for the senators who must debate and vote the laws?

"The crucible of the senate session is intense with pressure from the media and lobbyists," says Jim. "This helps draw the senators together. It created a close-knit community that I had the privilege to participate in."

One aspect that Jim was pleased to learn was that many of the senators were aware of the stand on religious liberty by the Seventh-day Adventist Church. "When one of the senators learned I am an Adventist, his reaction was, 'Oh, that's great! You guys really believe in religious liberty." Jim also found that *Liberty* magazine was being read by these thought leaders.

In the midst of his ministry to the senators, Jim and his family needed ministry for themselves. "My wife was pregnant with our twins when she became very ill," says Jim. "Her life hung in the balance for a time. While she was lying in intensive care and I was by her side, prayers were being said for her on the senate floor." Those prayers were answered and today the twins are healthy and active.

Jim believes that one of the roles of a servant leader is to bring out the best in others. "I want to make sure that I am helping others reach their

Jim talking with Lt. Governor Brad Little, President of the Senate.



potential while meeting their needs," says Jim. "When I was the chaplain, the senators saw me as a safe person they could talk to. I didn't have an agenda that I was trying to push. Instead, I was there to listen to what was on their hearts."

This was an area that Jim grew in during his service to the senators. "I had to be willing to set aside my desires to effectively reach those around me," says Jim. "If your Christianity keeps you from making a difference in society, it isn't worth much."

Reflecting on his experience, Jim says that another lesson that he learned is how easy it is to get involved. "As a citizen of the State of Idaho, I could make an appointment

with one of these senators and offer to pray for them. I didn't need to have an official title of chaplain to do that," says Jim. "They are hungry for this. Too often people only come to them with their requests. It's rare for them to have visitors who desire to do something for them."

As Christians we are called to reach out to those around us and serve in ways that might be unexpected. Too often it is easy to allow our agenda to get in the way of

our servant leadership.



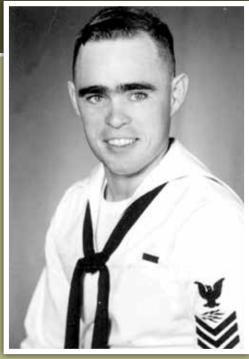
THE TET OFFENSIVE TEST

rowing up, Dewey Neufeld had an unsettled childhood. As the oldest of 11 children, Dewey knew what it was to be bounced between family members. When he was a junior in high school he discovered stability and discipline when he joined the Navy Reserves.

The lifestyle of the Navy was attractive and to Dewey it seemed a natural fit to enlist. "My first duty station was Adak, Alaska," says Dewey with a chuckle. "When I found this out I asked, They wouldn't send a southern boy to Alaska, would they?" The Navy didn't care that Dewey was from the South and had never experienced snow. He was soon on his way to a land that was unfamiliar as a far-flung foreign nation.

At the time Dewey wouldn't admit it to himself, but he was already running away from God. "My grandfather was a Dutch Mennonite," says Dewey. "He attended church every Sunday. For some reason I got it in my head that if you were a Christian you had to be a pastor or a missionary and that didn't interest me."

Dewey's Navy career took him to places more foreign than his first encounter with Alaska. His sense of duty grew with his military experience and in 1966 he volunteered to go



↑1964 - Dewey as a US Navy 1st Class Petty Officer

to Vietnam. "Whether the war was right or wrong, I was there because I thought my country needed me," says Dewey. "I requested river patrol boats and coastal patrol boats, but God had other ideas. He was watching over me, even when I had not asked for help."

To Dewey's dismay his orders were changed and he was assigned to the Communications Center. He was now a Radioman First Class Petty Officer (E-6). "Communications, not war, was now my technical field," says Dewey.



In 1967, Dewey was promoted to Chief Petty Officer. "In the written Certificate of Permanent Appointment it stated that I would accept "the obligation to exercise additional authority and willingly accept greater responsibility. Your every action must be governed by a strong sense of personal moral responsibility and leadership," says Dewey. Little did he know that he would soon be tested on these very points.

On the night of 31 January 1968, the North Vietnamese Army and the Viet Cong began the Tet Offensive. "I learned that I was able to do my duty, when I was too frightened to speak in anything but a whisper, with the words trying to stick in my throat," says Dewey.

Word had been received from the Operations Center that several commandos who were carrying explosives and armed with automatic weapons had been captured. Their orders had been to attack

a radio station located on the same street as naval headquarters.

"We thought they were going to attack our site also," says Dewey.
"Our compound was directly across the street from the headquarters for the U.S. Naval Support Activities for Vietnam. On our side of the street was the billet for General Westmoreland, who was in command of all U.S. military operations in Vietnam."

"We had limited ammunition,

four .30 caliber M2 carbines

with forty-five rounds each

and two .45 caliber automatic

pistols. At that point we had not been issued personal weapons." The newly-minted E-7 was suddenly thrust into making decisions that would affect his team. "Because of our limited ammo and the age of the weapons we were using, I knew we had to react wisely to the situation," says Dewey. "I instructed



◀1968 - Sen. Ralph Yarborough, VADM Elmo Zumwalt, and Dewey

→1975 - RVN Refugee LST 505

my men not to shoot at shadows and not to put their weapons on automatic. We couldn't withstand a firefight."

The men knew that if attacked they would have little chance of survival. "I determined that I was going

to protect my men as long as possible," says Dewey. "In my assessment if the enemy was going to attack Saigon and we were one of the objectives of the attack we would be hit from all sides simultaneously. Since each man was facing possible death I outlined what I expected would happen. I knew that keeping everyone calm and not letting panic gain a foothold was best for everyone."

Through the long night, explosions occurred all around Saigon, but Dewey's compound was untouched. Dawn finally arrived and the attack had never come. Later Dewey learned something that impacted him deeply. "Although I had been raised a Christian, while I was in Vietnam I was trying to live a good life, but I didn't want God controlling my life," admits

Dewey. "After the Tet Offensive I learned that my maternal grandmother, who was a praying lady, had been lifting me up in prayer intensely." On that night when five battalions of enemy soldiers infiltrated Saigon, Dewey's life had been spared.

A parallel story was happening in Dewey's life during this time. With each home leave, he was faced with the difficult task of attending a funeral. "On one leave in 1968 I was met at the airport by my mom and step-dad," says Dewey. "They delivered the sad news that Norman, my cousin had been killed in Vietnam. During my next leave, my paternal grandfather had died. The leave after that I buried my mother." During this time God was working on Dewey to keep drawing him closer.

For three years, three months, and three weeks, Dewey lived and worked in Vietnam. Then he was transferred to other locations. Ironically, he found himself back off the coast of Vietnam on 1 May 1975. "We were a part of one of the largest groups of ships assembled in many years," says Dewey. An exodus had begun as citizens of South Vietnam

towards asking more questions about his life.

"I had been close to Norman's family and after his death, I kind of stepped into his place," says Dewey. "His mother grew to be like a mother to me. I had been looking for meaning in life, but wasn't finding anything. A cousin in Missouri gave me a copy

WHILE I WAS SAD, I SAW REFUGEES WHO HAD SUCCESSFULLY BOARDED BOATS THAT SEEMED TO BE RELATIVELY HAPPY AND FILLED WITH HOPE.

attempted to flee from the advancing North Vietnamese army. One of the thoughts that crossed Dewey's mind was, *Did Norman die in vain?* "The lives of the men who died in Vietnam mean something, but as I watched the fleeing Vietnamese refugees it was hard to understand why all of this had happened," says Dewey. "While I was sad, I saw refugees who had successfully boarded boats that seemed to be relatively happy and filled with hope." For Dewey this was another moment when God was nudging him



of *Desire of Ages*. As I read it I started to remember all of the Bible verses I had learned as a child."

Dewey began to read his Bible and books such as *Great Controversy*, *Steps to Christ*, *and Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*. Little by little Dewey began to fall in love with Jesus.

"I had always thought of God as a God of antiquity," says Dewey. "My interest in history led to an interest in prophecy. This made everything come alive for me. Suddenly God was the God of now and I knew I wanted to follow Him." Dewey's time of running from God was over at last.

Today, Dewey has a burden to minister to fellow veterans and bring them the same Good News that he has claimed as his own. He hasn't forgotten the direction he received when he became a Chief Petty Officer to have a "strong sense of personal moral responsibility and leadership." Today there's a greater task to be done, with eternal results. "I want to help others understand how individualized God's love is for each of us and how that makes a difference in our lives," says Dewey.

____Chaplain Candidate Receives Scholarship Awards

. S. Chaplain Candidate Kristy Hodson is the recent recipient of two awards - the Military Chaplain Association Chaplain Candidate Scholarship and the Church, State, and Industry Scholarship. These awards provide tuition monies for Hodson as she continues her studies at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary

in Berrien Springs, Michigan.

Hodson's family background has influenced her decision to pursue military chaplaincy. "My father served for 23 years in the Navy and as a Marine," says Hodson. "My grandfather, Leo Poirier, is a long

time hospital chaplain."

Although Hodson initially trained to be an accountant, she felt called to help others in a more tangible way. "I saw a lot of hurt in people that I met on a daily basis," says Hodson. "Many of these would never enter a church, but they needed ministered to. Chaplaincy seemed like the right fit for me. After a discussion with Chaplain Gary Councell, I decided I wanted to pursue military chaplaincy." Hodson was commissioned on August 30, 2013.

Hodson initially earned a Masters in Marketplace Chaplaincy. "This was a good experience for me," says Hodson. "My studies were in a non-Adventist school setting. I saw that there is a lot of misunderstanding about what people believe. This has



helped me be more aware of how I will have to minister to others in a pluralistic setting."

Although busy with classes, Hodson also involves herself in ministry at the local level. She has helped facilitate presentations for small groups that equip and teach leaders, in a new believers Bible study group and in children's church. Job shadowing

in various areas of ministry has also helped Hodson to connect with resources that she will continue to use throughout her chaplaincy ministry.

Hodson is also active in seminary life by serving as a seminary student representative to the Student Academic Integrity Council, the Student Seminary Forum treasurer, and as one of the anchors of the Seminary News Network. "I believe your seminary experience is 100 percent attitude," says Hodson. "I'm here for a reason that God continues to show me. Receiving two scholarships that will help me continue to pursue my studies is validation that I am on the right path."

Although she is enjoying her classwork, Hodson does find a challenge with the seminary program. "The program seems to be more focused on the parish model as the only expression of ministry," says Hodson. Her hope is that one day a chaplaincy track will also be available in the Master of Divinity program.

ACM Bids Farewell to Larry Roth



t is with reluctance that Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries (ACM) announces the retirement of Chaplain Larry Roth, the ACM Assistant Director for the Mid-America and North Pacific Union Conferences. Roth joined the ACM staff on November 1, 2008.

"Larry and his wife, Joanne, have given fifty years of service to the Lord and His people. Larry has been a pastor, U.S. Navy chaplain and one of the directors in the North American Division Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries," says Gary Councell, ACM Director. "Larry and Joanne also served as

missionaries to Micronesia. They are to be commended for their spiritual leadership, their dedication to each other through their 51 years of marriage, and for their service to church and country."

After 23 years of military service Larry retired at the rank of Commander. He holds a STM postgraduate degree from Yale University in the field of Religion and Culture.

During his time as ACM Assistant Director, Roth has traveled throughout his territory to meet with chaplains in their workplace. Additionally, he assisted new chaplains through the endorsement process, developed stronger relationships between ACM and church leadership at local and union conference levels, and assisted with raising awareness of both chaplaincy and the National Service Organization in local churches.



Bill Cork to Join ACM Staff



haplain Bill Cork became an ACM Assistant Director for the on September 1, 2014.

His territory is the Mid-America Union Conference, which includes Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming and San Juan County in New Mexico and the Southwestern Union Conference, which includes Arkansas, Louisiana,

Oklahoma, Texas, and New Mexico.
Cork is a Chaplain (Major) in the
Texas Army National Guard, with
fifteen years of service in the Guard
and Reserve. During 2013, he was
deployed as Brigade Chaplain, 36th
Combat Aviation Brigade, to Camp
Buehring, Kuwait, in support of
Operation Enduring Freedom in 2013.

His professional focus has been on ministry with young adults, including eleven years of full-time public campus ministry. During part of this time, Cork established a department of Young Adult and Campus Ministry that became recognized as a leader in the nation. He supervised six campus ministry centers at area universities. Cork has also taught college courses in World Religions and seminary courses in young adult and campus ministry. He has served as a pastor in the Texas Conference and holds a Masters of Art in Religion and a Master of Divinity.

Cork and his wife, Joy Cheney Cork, live in Houston, Texas, and have two young adult children, Andrew and Aimee.

A realignment of territories in the North American Division has been completed for Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries. Chaplain Jose McLaughlin will cover the North Pacific and the Pacific Union Conferences, and Guam-Micronesia Mission. Chaplain Bill Cork will support the Mid-America and the Southwestern Union Conferences. Chaplain Washington Johnson, II, is covering Atlantic, Columbia, and the Lake Union Conferences. Chaplain Art Slagle continues assisting the Southern Union, Bermuda, and Puerto Rico (for U.S. Federal purposes only).



Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries and the National Service Organization would like to offer congratulations to the following individuals for their recent accomplishments.

GRADUATION

• John Logan – Master of Sacred Theology in Philosophy, Theology and Ethics

PROMOTIONS

- Wanda Acevedo Chaplain (Major) U. S. Army Reserves
- Eddie Kinley Chaplain (Lieutenant Colonel) U. S. Army
- John Logan Commander, CHC, U.S. Navy
- Robert Mills Lieutenant Commander, CHC, U.S. Navy
- Phil Smiley Chaplain (Lieutenant Colonel) U. S. Army

ACCESSIONS

- Eglon Angel Chaplain, 1st Lieutenant, U.S. Air Force
- Yepsica Moreno Chaplain Candidate, U. S. Army Reserve

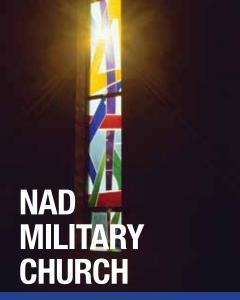
 David Pinilla – Chaplain, 1st Lieutenant, U. S. National Guard – Florida

RETIREMENT

- James Drake Chaplain (Major) U.S. Army
- Steve Cozzens Chaplain, Federal Bureau of Prisons
- Larry Roth Assistant ACM
 Director for Mid-America and
 North Pacific
 Union Conferences
- James Cox Recipient
 of Diplomate status with
 International Conference of Police
 Chaplains and retirement from law
 enforcement chaplaincy

ORDINATION

• Edgardo Rivas



Charter Membership

If you are assigned overseas for six months or longer in some type of official government or militaryrelated service for Canada or the United States (active duty in the armed forces, civilian employee, teacher, AAFES worker, contractor, or family member), then you are eligible to join the NAD Military Church. To request a transfer of your membership, visit http://nad.AdventistChaplains. org. Click on the link "NAD Military Church."

Membership transfer request forms are available under "Membership."

Your NAD Military Church staff and board look forward to serving you!

Online Giving

onoring God through faithful stewardship is encouraged of all Seventh-day Adventists. In the Bible rich blessings are promised to those who return an honest tithe and are generous with offerings to support God's work.

In response to requests from Adventist members in the United States military, the NSO has made arrangements for members in the U.S. Armed Forces serving outside the United States to be able to send tithes and offerings through the North American Division, and thus qualify for a receipt for tax-exempt contributions.

For your convenience go to www.nad. adventistchaplains.org and use the dropdown menu to make your contribution online.

Chaplains and members are encouraged to support ACM/NSO as their "conference" that provides pastoral care and religious materials for their spiritual well-being. Also, please remember to support your base chapel program. Military members serving in countries in other world divisions should contact their conference/union leadership or the division ACM director for further quidance in this area. RICH BLESSINGS ARE PROMISED TO THOSE WHO **RETURN AN** HONEST TITHE.

So he shepherded them according to the integrity of his heart, And guided them with his skillful hands.

- PSALMS 78:72



ADVENTIST MILITARY CHAPEL WORSHIP GROUPS

(As of 1 October 2014)

EUROPE

Miesau Army Depot
 Near Kaiserslautern, Germany
 Point of Contact: SSG Jacob V.

Bacahui

• Rose Barracks

Vilsek, Germany Point of Contact: Dawadrain D. and Valerie D. Clark and Chaplain (MAJ) Joseph Kilonzo

• Wiesbaden Army Airfield

Wiesbaden, Germany Point of Contact: Chaplain (CPT) Daniel U. Korie

• Aviano Air Base

Aviano, Italy Point of Contact: JoNell Varnado

• International SDA Church English Language

Darmstadt, Germany

64293 Darmstadt Germany

Located at Frankfurt International Church Daimlerweg 2

JAPAN

Misawa Air Force Base

Misawa, Japan Point of Contact: Corbin Farries Sasebo Navy Base

Japan

Point of Contact: Jennifer Chery

• Yokosuka Naval Base

Japan

Point of Contact: Willie E. Scott, II

SOUTH KOREA

• 121st Medical Hospital

Yongsan Army Garrison Seoul, Korea

Points of Contact: Chaplain, Lt.Col., David Buttrick, USAF and Chaplain (CPT) Frantzo Saint-Val, USA

COMBAT THEATRE AFGHANISTAN

• Bagram Air Field

Point of Contact: Chaplain (CPT) Edgardo Rivas, USA

• Camp Leatherneck

Point of Contact: SGT Jose D. Dendariarena

• Kabul

Point of Contact: CW2 Edison F. Cruz, U.S. Army

• Kandahar Air Field

Point of Contact: SGT Richard Fneim

• Kandahar Air Field

Point of Contact: CPT David R. De La Vega, U.S. Army

KUWAIT

 Camp Beuhring CW2 Dwight D. Fleary, U.S. Army

DEPLOYED ADVENTIST CHAPLAINS

AFGHANISTAN

Chaplain (Captain) Edgardo Rivas, USA, Bagram Air Field

Chaplain (Captain) David Thompson, USA. Bagram Air Field, Kandahar Air Field, and Shank

OVERSEAS (Africa, Europe, Japan, and Korea)

Chaplain, Lieutenant Colonel, David Buttrick, USAF, Korea

Chaplain (Captain) Jasmine Johnson, USA, Turkey

Chaplain (Major) Joseph M. Kilonzo, USA, Grafenwoehr, Germany

Chaplain (Captain) Daniel U. Korie, USA, Wiesbaden, Germany

Chaplain (Captain) Frantzo St.Val, Korea

LCDR Michael Tagaloa, CHC, USN Japan

NOTE: As you learn of other groups or need to update POC information, please contact ACM at gary.councell@nad.adventist.org or deena.bartel-wagner@nad.adventist.org.

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If you would like to be added to the mailing list, e-mail ACM or call 301-680-6780. Comments and/or articles are welcome and should be sent to the editor at Deena.Bartel-Wagner@nad. adventist.org. Include your full name, complete mailing address, telephone, e-mail address, and current digital photos with all submissions. Items submitted by mail will not be returned unless accompanied by a self-addressed stamped return envelope.

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The National Service Organization is the official military-relations office of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Its primary mission is to provide pastoral care and religious resources to support the spiritual well-being of Seventh-day Adventist military-related personnel.

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Sow a thought and you reap an action; sow an act and you reap a habit; sow a habit and you reap a character and you reap a destiny.

- Ralph Waldo Emerson



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