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WHAT'S IN A NAME?

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Names and titles convey meaning deeper than appears on the surface. They often describe character, or express a wish. Names are personal and important to each of us. The sight or sound of our name brings pleasure to most people. To express anger or to hurt someone, uncomplimentary names are used, like “stupid” and “jerk.” Lovers use the strangest terms of endearment. What is so loving about “honey”? Why not say “molasses” (another sweet, sticky substance) to express affection? What makes “sugar” better than “flour”? In Western culture brides change part of their name and take their husband’s family name at marriage, signifying they are now part of a new family.

Most people in the Bible had only one name: Abram, Mrs. Abraham; Jacob, meaning “deceiver” later had

his name changed to Israel, meaning “prince of God.” Jesus called Simon, “Peter” (*petros*), a small pebble. The Old Testament authors used five Hebrew names that are translated God. Jesus referred to Himself as the “Son of Man,” but the Koine Greek word for Jesus means “Saviour”, and is based on the Hebrew *Yeshua* or “Joshua” (YHWH is salvation). The Early Church talked of Christ so much that the believers became known as “Christians – Christians.” Hence, the name Jesus Christ came to mean personal salvation (Acts 4:10-12). However, Jesus warned all who take His name must exercise spiritual integrity and walk the walk (Matthew 7:21, 22). God’s people know and exalt His name; they praise the Lord Most High by singing praises to His holy name. Those who honor God’s name He will honor by giving

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them a new name (Isaiah 62:2); the redeemed are promised a new name (Revelation 2:17).

The name Seventh-day Adventist delineates two foundational, Biblical truths on which the church is based: the Sabbath and Second Advent of Jesus Christ. These two cardinal teachings set Adventists apart from most other Protestant denominations. The seventh-day Sabbath speaks of a divine creation, redemption, rest, and restoration that culminates with the return of Jesus to rescue His people from a self-destructing world and take them to be with Him in heaven. The name also proclaims the saga of Eden lost, to a perfect Eden re-created on a new earth. It speaks of an eschatology that acknowledges the intrusion of sin, God's intervention, and ultimate victory over evil.

Adventist church members represent that name; we are the face, heart, and hands that translate theology, communicate meaning, and change concepts into behavioral actions that hopefully give a positive impression about the Sabbath and the hope that we have in Christ's soon return. Divinely instituted, Sabbath comes to us from creation and is sustained throughout the Scriptures from

Genesis to Revelation. What does *shabbath* mean? Simply "ceasing" or "resting". The Sabbath reminds us of our origin, and who we are as sons and daughters of the Creator. Though the demands and routine of life frequently intrude on its sacred hours, the Sabbath offers moderns relief from our burdens when we reconnect with the Lord of the Sabbath who offers the weary rest for their souls (Matthew 11:28-30). The One who gave man the Sabbath and kept the Sabbath while He lived on earth, also wants to unite with us on His holy day.

This weekly union of a gracious God with His children portrays a greater reunion to come when Jesus gathers His saints to be with Him in heaven. The promises of Scripture will be fulfilled of no more suffering, death, sorrow, or evil. Sin will end; peace, love and joy will reign eternally.

Proudly claim the name Seventh-day Adventist. Put it in your records. Wear it near your heart on your "dog tags". Proclaim its full meaning by keeping the Sabbath sacred, being ready to meet Jesus, and helping others to prepare for that glad event. "We have this hope that burns within our hearts, hope in the coming of the Lord." See you in heaven.



ADVENTISTS in UNIFORM



Adventists serving in a uniformed service and all veterans are encouraged to join the National Service Organization at AdventistsInUniform.org.



Freedom in the
GIFT of TIME

Have you recently had a conversation with anyone who isn't busy? It seems that all of humankind has more work to do than is possible to accomplish in the daily 24-hour period that is available. Often the to-do list can be overwhelming and without an end in sight. Time is a gift that can be squandered or used wisely. How we choose to use the 24 hours in a day is up to us. However, whether we use our time wisely or fritter it away, we can never reclaim any of those hours once they are gone.

Our attitude toward time and work can affect our relationship with God and how the Sabbath can provide the spiritual connection that we make with our Creator.

After Creation, God told Adam and Eve that they would have dominion over the earth. Their work was to tend and watch over the land and the animals. When sin became a part of daily life, work became much more difficult. Efforts to subdue nature were met with thorns and unyielding ground. God told Adam "the ground is cursed because of you. All your life you will struggle to scratch a living from it. By the sweat of your brow will you have food to eat until you return to the ground from which you were made." Genesis 3: 17, 19 NLT.

Although humans brought this upon themselves, God chose to continue to allow them to have the same day of rest that He blessed and

Time is a gift that can be squandered or used wisely. How we choose to use the 24 hours in a day is up to us.

During the creation week, God spent time "working" as He put into place all the necessary components for an inhabited planet. Nothing was overlooked, from the atmosphere, the separation of water and dry land, a sun and moon that would light the planet by day and night, the fowl and sea creatures, and animals. Before completing creation, He formed man from the dust of the earth, and then created woman. "On the seventh day God had finished his work of creation, so he rested from all his work. And God blessed the seventh day and declared it holy, because it was the day when he rested from all his work of creation." Genesis 2:2, 3 *New Living Translation* (NLT).

called holy. In His infinite wisdom, God knew that humans would need to have time to rest. But the Sabbath is meant to hold greater importance than just a day to rest.

Throughout the ages, as humans have worked, often their identity has become tied to that work. Many family surnames are indicative of the type of occupation an ancestor performed long ago. There are Weavers, Taylors, Smiths, Millers, Bakers, Coopers, and many others.

With identity tied to profession, an individual's job can create pressure to do more and to do it better than anyone else. We tell ourselves that

if we can just
get everything
done on our
list; if we can just
get ahead; if we can
just prove our worth;
everything will be okay.
When we begin to tell
ourselves that we can be the
masters of all we do, we begin
to distort both our spiritual and
physical lives. This may come in the
form of working harder and longer
hours. We may neglect those who
matter most to us, in order to check
off one more item. Dorothy C. Bass
writes, "We come to believe that we,
not God, are the masters of time."¹

human power, in order to proclaim
God as the Source of all power,"²
writes Dayan Dr. I. Grunfeld.

God's resting on the Sabbath
provides a model for us to take time
to stop and reflect on His leading. By
ceasing our daily routine, we become
free of the demands that squeeze our
days. That freedom extends to giving
up trying to be the god and allowing
God to be God in our experience.

When God spoke about the
Sabbath in Exodus, He didn't say
that a day of rest was a temporary
command. Rather, He said, "This is
a covenant obligation for all time."
Exodus 31:16b NLT.

In agrarian societies, the work

It is helpful to realize that as Sabbath
keepers we can actually say no to a
culture that demands being plugged in and
wired 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

How would our view of Sabbath
differ if we consider that God, not us,
is the Master of all of our time? If, as
Christians, we believe God directs our
lives, what does this mean about our
time during the week? What would
be different in our daily routine to
prepare us to spend the 24-hours
that is the Sabbath, as a time of true
spiritual rest?

God's creative power was in full
force as He created a planet for which
He risked everything. In the DNA
that He instilled in each human, there
is a seed of that creativity. "On this
day (Sabbath) we renounce every
exercise of intelligent, purposeful
control over natural objects and
forces, we cease from every act of

of the land had a rhythm that was
directed by the seasons. Winter
was the time for the ground to rest.
Spring was time to plant the seed.
Summer brought the sun and rain
to produce the fruit and grain. Fall
was the harvest. With each season,
the farmer looked forward to the
harvest being completed. When
the crops were at last gathered
in, it was a time to celebrate the
abundance of God's blessings.

The week in a Christian's life
should have a similar kind of rhythm.
Every job that is performed, every
completed task should be point
forward to that time during the week
when human effort is set aside and
God's power and being is celebrated.

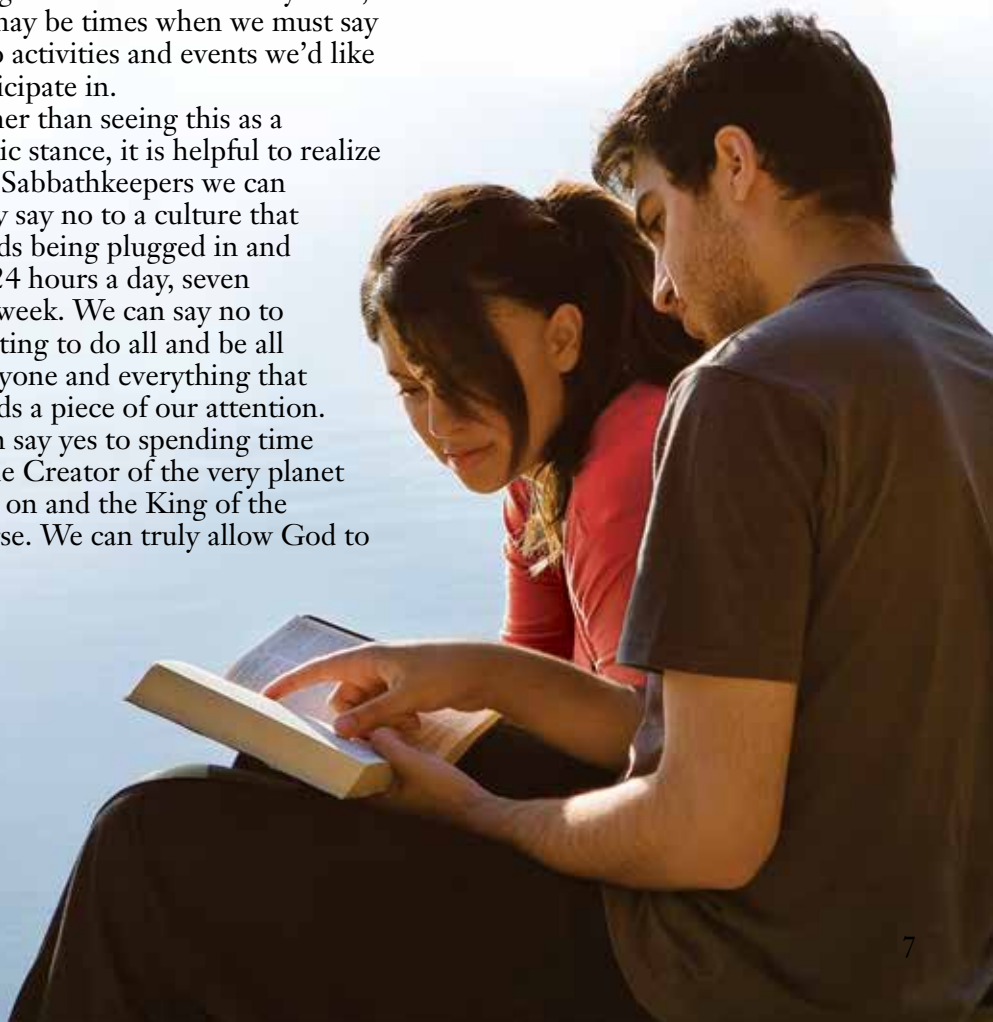
Throughout history, God has taken “time” to meet with humans in spite of the sin factor. The Israelites witnessed His presence in the Tabernacle. Elijah and the prophets of Baal experienced their meeting on Mount Carmel. God answered Job in the midst of the whirlwind. After nine months, the “time” came for Mary to deliver the Son of God to the world. The Sabbath is our opportunity to set all things aside and know that this time is made holy because we stand in the very presence of God.

As Adventists, we have accepted that Saturday is the Sabbath. Sometimes it isn’t “convenient” to worship on Sabbath. When society around us doesn’t recognize this day as being one that is set aside by God, there may be times when we must say “no” to activities and events we’d like to participate in.

Rather than seeing this as a legalistic stance, it is helpful to realize that as Sabbathkeepers we can actually say no to a culture that demands being plugged in and wired 24 hours a day, seven days a week. We can say no to attempting to do all and be all to everyone and everything that demands a piece of our attention. We can say yes to spending time with the Creator of the very planet we live on and the King of the Universe. We can truly allow God to

provide us with rest and renewal for our physical and spiritual needs. We can experience the rhythm of creation in our lives and restore the delight that may be lost in the hectic lives we lead. We can rejoice that, in spite of our sinfulness, God has mercifully given us the gift of time with Him. All of this by simply saying, “God, I give up my feeble human power, my puny mundane tasks that seem so urgent. I will spend my Sabbath in Your presence. I will celebrate Your Power and Goodness.”

1. Dorothy C. Bass, *Receiving the Day – Christian Practices for Opening the Gift of Time* (San Francisco: 2000) 3.
2. Dayan Dr. I. Grunfeld, *The Sabbath – A Guide to Its Understanding and Observance* (Jerusalem: Feldheim Publishers, 2003) 29.



CELEBRATE

The Day

Have you ever planned a celebration? Perhaps it was a surprise birthday party. Maybe you honored your spouse or parents with an anniversary observance that was more than dinner at their favorite restaurant. Preparing for a celebration takes thought, planning, and effort.

Observing the Sabbath provides an opportunity to plan for a weekly celebration with fellow believers and family. Too often the demands and stress of the week overshadow preparations for Sabbath. This highlights the need to be

intentional in preparing for Sabbath.

The anticipation of company arriving often brings a flurry of activity. The house is cleaned, special foods are prepared, plans are made of how to spend time together. The arrival of Sabbath is a bit like company coming. With proper preparation, Sabbath can be the day of the week that is most looked forward to.

WELCOME BLESSED SABBATH

The refrain of the song “Don’t Forget the Sabbath” by Fanny J. Crosby states, “Welcome, welcome, ever welcome, Blessed Sabbath day, Welcome, welcome, ever welcome, Blessed Sabbath day.” The tone of Sabbath is set as the sun slips past the horizon on Friday night. As the week comes to an end and life slows down, this can become a time of reflection, gratitude, and celebration.

In Jewish homes, candles are lit, blessings are said over the children, and a special meal is consumed. These emblems might become a part of your Sabbath. Friday night is also a good time to reflect on the good things that happened during the week. What were the prayers that God answered? Did you accomplish a task that seemed unsurmountable at the beginning of the week? How does this make you feel? When did you see God in the daily events of your life?

Friday night might be a time to catch up on reading a special book

you’ve set aside for Sabbath. Some families choose a book to read over a course of several Friday nights.

Is there a family member far away that would appreciate a visit by phone on Friday night? This can become a special bonding time with older family members who have stories that often go untold until it is too late. As you listen, record the details on paper so the story can be passed to future generations.

Establishing rituals and traditions is an important role of building a richness around the opening of the Sabbath. Discover what is meaningful to you and your family. Don’t feel like your traditions must reflect everyone else.

A DAY OF REST

In a typical Sabbath there will be Sabbath School, the divine worship service, and lunch, whether at home or during fellowship time at the church. It’s easy for these to become so normal that they almost seem mundane. Proactively think about how to keep this fresh and alive. When you are in the presence of God during services, does your mind wander? Does the cell phone slip out of your pocket and open to your favorite social media site where you catch up on the newsfeed of your friends? What do you need to do keep focused on your surroundings and the Word? Are you acting like a spectator, only observing what is happening around you? Or are you a

**WITH PROPER PREPARATION, SABBATH
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WILL YOUR SABBATH CELEBRATION BE SO ENGAGING THAT YOU WILL CHOOSE TO LINGER IN ITS EMBRACE FOR EXTRA MINUTES AT ITS CLOSE?

worshiper fully engaged in meeting with the King of the Universe?

Sabbath afternoons are another time to create memories and establish traditions. Hikes and nature exploring are fun, but are other options available? This a time when you can reach out to older church members and involve them in creating Sabbath memories. Brainstorm about activities that can engage all age ranges and then put them into play.

I'M ALL ALONE

Sometimes it is necessary to celebrate Sabbath alone. Being away from loved ones and home can be lonely. This can be a time to become even more intimate in your relationship with God. What can you meaningfully adapt for opening the Sabbath on Friday night? Could this become a time of quiet to study and grow in an area where you struggle?

UNPLUG, DISCONNECT, AND RE-ENGAGE

Sabbath is a time to “come apart.” Do you need a Sabbath rest from electronic gadgets, social media, and the relentless tugging to be connected with everything that is happening. A strange thing happens with this thought. The more we are connected through social media,

the less connected we become with the life around us. Our real-life relationships can suffer and our attention spans can diminish.

“Are people forgetting to be present in the moment, scattering their focus by looking at life through a screen? Should you be living your life or living it for others to see it?”¹ asks Marcelo Gleiser.

How much more rejuvenating would your Sabbath be if you took a technology Sabbath? What if you turned off your cell phone, unplugged your computer, powered down your tablet? You'll want to notify people that you are taking a break, so they will know that you won't be responding immediately to them. Recognize that you may experience withdrawal symptoms when you disconnect. Think about what you will do during this time away from being so accessible. Are there letters you could write? Do you have a journal that you need to catch up on with reflections on life? Is there a friend you've neglected for far too long?

Your first technology Sabbath may be difficult. It may not be something you want to do on a weekly basis. The more frequently you partake, however, will provide you with riches greater than you could ever imagine.

FAREWELL, SWEET SABBATH DAY

Sabbath should be so full of joy that, at it's close, we feel regret it is over. As with the opening of the Sabbath, our Jewish brothers and sisters say farewell to Sabbath. The word *havdalah* means "separation." In connection with the Sabbath, the *havdalah* ceremony separates the Sabbath from the week. A braided candle with several wicks is lit to represent the first element that God created—light. It also leads the transition from Sabbath to the workweek. A box of sweet smelling spices reminds participants of the special fragrance the Sabbath brings to those who observe it.

How will the closing of the Sabbath look in your life? Do you bid it farewell with longing and anticipate it's return? Will your Sabbath celebration be so engaging that you will choose to linger in its embrace for extra minutes at its close?

YOUR SABBATH SOUL

We don't know how many more Sabbaths we will have to worship in peace. Already, there are Adventist Christians, who must worship in secret. During Cambodia's killing time, Mien kept the Sabbath secretly for five years. After escaping to a refugee camp in Thailand, her first request was for a Bible. Mien wanted to worship God with others on her first Sabbath in a free place. Do we value our Sabbath that much? Is your Sabbath-soul embracing the time of worship you have in God's presence?

Our Sabbaths here on earth are a dim reflection of what our first Sabbath at the foot of God's throne will be like one day. Imagine the picture of the redeemed, as with one voice, they worship in song the Lamb and His victory.

1. <http://www.npr.org/blogs/13.7/2014/10/01/352915256/should-we-live-life-or-capture-it>





SERVING IN THE LAND OF THE **RISING SUN**

The training a person receives as a teen can make such a positive impact that it can move them in the direction of his/her life work. "I was first exposed to the discipline of marching and drilling in my Pathfinder club," says EMC Willie Scott II, U.S. Navy.

Scott continued his training

by joining Junior ROTC. "My experience in JROTC brought back the positive feelings that I had when I was a Pathfinder," says Scott. "I enjoyed it and eventually decided to join the Navy."

His local church prayed a blessing over him as he was ready to depart for his training. "This was important to

Experiencing a new culture includes learning about customs and practices.

No matter where you are in the world, Sabbath fellowship dinners are always popular.



me because it meant that my church family would remember me in their prayers,” says Scott. “They wouldn’t forget me, even though I was no longer in their presence.”

Scott trained as an electrician’s mate at the Great Lakes Naval Training Center (GLNTC) and was sent to the USS Saipan in Norfolk, Virginia. He has also served on the USS Mitscher, USS Frank Cable, USS Nassau, and the USS Theodore Roosevelt.

“I returned to the GLNTC as an instructor and taught the same basic electrical course that I had studied there when I first entered the Navy,” says Scott. Today, Scott is based in Yokosuka, Japan, and is a Fleet Technical Assistant as a part of the Forward Deployed Naval Forces in the Pacific Rim. “The Navy has regional maintenance centers in the United States and three strategically placed international centers. Yokosuka is one of the international centers,” says Scott. “Ships return to Yokosuka to be repaired locally. We also supply

distance support when the ships are away from port.”

As a Seventh-day Adventist Christian, one of Scott’s concerns when he joined the Navy was the Sabbath. “I have been very blessed to not have difficulties,” says Scott. “With every new command I made a point of sharing with them that I am a Seventh-day Adventist. I did this early and didn’t wait until the last minute when it could create a scheduling difficulty.” Another point that Scott made sure to clarify was that he was always willing to work on Sundays in order to have Sabbath off.



AS A SEVENTH-DAY
ADVENTIST CHRISTIAN,
ONE OF SCOTT’S
CONCERNS WHEN HE
JOINED THE NAVY WAS
THE SABBATH.



“ACM provided some financial assistance to enable the NSO retreat by helping defray certain general expenses.”

Distinctive Faith Group Leaders and chaplains working together provides a strong spiritual program.





Bible study is an integral part of the fellowship time for the AMCWGs.



Willie Scott (left) and Jennifer Chery (right) serve as Distinctive Faith Group Leaders in Japan.

Isolation has been one of the feelings that Scott has experienced during his 16-year-naval career. “It seems as though there have been few Adventists who identified themselves, and this can extend that feeling of isolation,” says Scott.

At first, Scott didn’t feel the need to reach out to the Christian chaplains who were available to him. “I had no idea that there were Seventh-day Adventist chaplains in the Navy,” says Scott. “By not connecting with the chaplains, I didn’t learn about Adventist chaplains and services that were available to me.”

During deployments, support from home was an important part of Scott’s spiritual life. “Donesha, my wife, would send me the Sabbath School quarterly,” says Scott. “Just the knowledge that Adventists around the world were studying the same thing as me helped me feel connected to my church family.”

As Scott became acquainted with

Adventist chaplains, he was often directed to chaplains in each new place he served “The chaplains would refer me to other chaplains, which was extremely helpful to me,” says Scott. “Chaplain Ray Allen was the first Adventist chaplain I met. Since then I’ve been ministered to by Chaplains Kyron Bell, Robert Mills, Michael Tagaloa, and Wilking Jean. Each one has been a blessing to me.”

Scott recommends that individuals connect with the religious ministry team and learn what is available locally. This can assist in being able to connect with other service members who have the same faith traditions and is a good way to learn about worship services that are being conducted.

“Adventists who are serving in the military should also connect with the National Service Organization (NSO) and the North American Division (NAD) Seventh-day Adventist Military Church,” says Scott. “The support I have received through NSO



Making friends in the community allows members of the Yokosuka AMCWG to share the Good News with others.

Music brings a smile to everyone's face as they share their joy in the hope of a Risen Saviour.

has been invaluable. I only wish I had known about it earlier in my naval career. NSO provides the religious materials and other support necessary for a strong spiritual life." Scott encourages fellow members to take full advantage of the services of NSO and, when deployed, to transfer their membership to the NAD Adventist Military Church.

"During the past five years I have been more intentional to seek out other Seventh-day Adventists and worship with them regularly. As result, the first Sabbath my family and I were in Japan, Chaplain Mills ensured arrangements were made for us to attend a church service in Yokohama."

That commitment has led to Scott becoming the Distinctive Faith Group Leader (DFGL's) for a group of Adventists who worship far from home. "In Yokosuka, we have a group of approximately 15 Adventists whose ships are home-ported here," says Scott. "Altogether, in our group we

have approximately 25 Adventist families who worship with us on a weekly basis."

When Scott arrived in 2012, the group was already established and run by Chaplain Mills and his Lay Leader, Jezelle Davis. They have been expanding their worship and outreach in various ways. Being Christians doesn't just mean worshipping on Sabbath. The Yokosuka group actively reaches out into the local community to make a difference in the lives of their neighbors.

"We have a nursing home ministry that was initially set up to go out



**SCOTT RECOMMENDS
THAT INDIVIDUALS
CONNECT WITH THE
RELIGIOUS MINISTRY
TEAM AND LEARN WHAT
IS AVAILABLE LOCALLY.**



Involving children in ministry is a prime component of the AMCWG in Yokosuka.



During a recent joint worship Sabbath, the group visited the Kobe Adventist Hospital.

once a quarter,” says Scott. “Statistics show that 80 percent of nursing home residents in Japan have less than 1 visitor per month. We wanted to reach out to this group of forgotten people.”

In spite of language barriers, music and smiles can make a big difference in the lives of lonely individuals. The Yokosuka group enthusiastically ministers to the residents and are blessed by the warmth of thanks that they receive.

“Another forgotten group are those in prison,” says Scott. “We must work around military and Japanese laws and culture to provide this type of ministry, but we are praying for a breakthrough”

On a typical Sabbath, the group meets for Sabbath School and a worship service at the Chapel of Hope, the base chapel. This is followed by a fellowship dinner and an afternoon activity.

The group is intentional about ministering to their children.



“We know that our children are impressionable,” says Scott. “We want to give them spiritual stability and expose them to Jesus in positive ways. We use the Gracelink Sabbath School lessons throughout the week in our families and then come together to share the lessons learned on Sabbath morning.

Building community with each other takes more than meeting for a few hours on Sabbath. Quarterly, a family fun night is planned. Various activities are planned including game nights, sing-a-longs, and other activities.

“As Distinctive Faith Group Leaders, we believe it is important to find ways to bring our groups together for joint services when possible,” says Scott. “Time, traffic, and distance can make it a challenge, but we are committed to making it happen.” A memorable joint service occurred when the groups from Yokosuka, Atsugi, Misawa, and the



Chaplain Wilking Jean and the group were able to minister to patients and hospital staff.

Kobe Adventist Hospital presented an appreciation plaque to the group for their service and outreach.

Yokohama English Church celebrated a joint communion service with Gary Councell, Adventist Chaplaincy Minsitries Director, and Chaplain Wilking Jean officiating.

Recently, the Yokosuka group also participated in a Unity Day/Family Retreat. “This could be called our camp meeting,” says Scott. “Adventist Military Chapel Worship Groups (AMCWG) from Atsugi, Yokosuka, Yokohama, and Sasebo spent time together.”

The group visited the Kobe Adventist Hospital and ministered to the sick and to the hospital staff. “It was a high time in Christ and many souls were blessed!” says Scott. “This was followed by a “Meet and Greet” with members of the Osaka Central SDA English Church. We also enjoyed Friday evening vespers together.”

Sabbath services were held at the Osaka Central SDA English Church (Japan Union Conference). “Following Sabbath School, a

combined worship service was held,” says Scott. “In the afternoon we fellowshipped with our Japanese brethren, conducted an ‘Evangelism and Outreach’ seminar, enjoyed a nature walk, and closed the Sabbath at the Osaka Castle Park.”



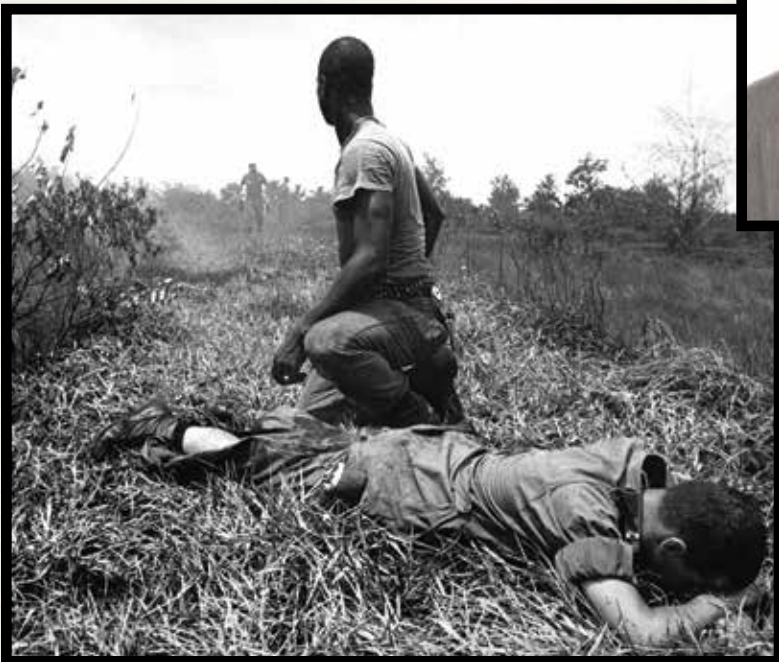
The retreat was rounded out with the families enjoying various outings, including tours of Kyoto City, Osaka Aquarium, and Universal Studios Japan. “As a group and as families, we spent quality time together during the weekend,” says Scott. “This type of retreat helps to strengthen the bonds we have with each other.”

**BUILDING COMMUNITY
WITH EACH OTHER
TAKES MORE THAN
MEETING FOR A FEW
HOURS ON SABBATH.**

SALVATION FOR THE VETERAN



Above: Paul Bryant



Left: A young American lieutenant, his leg burned by an exploding Viet Cong white phosphorus booby trap, is treated by a medic in 1966.

Sometimes a battlefield experience can become a conversion experience. Sometimes it is just one of the many incidents that will lead a person back into a friendship with their Saviour. “As a child and teenager I attended Seventh-day Adventist schools,” says Vietnam veteran Paul Bryant. “I heard Bible stories and was introduced to the church’s beliefs. Through it all I hadn’t developed the friendship with Jesus that would change my life.”

Following his high school graduation, Bryant received his draft notice. “Combat medics did their training at Fort Sam Houston,” says Bryant. “I spent time there for both my basic and advanced training.” Preparation for becoming a combat medic in Vietnam was strenuous, but Bryant implemented his newly acquired skills on the battlefields in Vietnam.

“Everyday was a new experience,” says Bryant. “When I first arrived in Vietnam, I didn’t know what to

expect.” But, a sense of duty and the urgency of treating the wounded guided Bryant as he settled into his role. Some days were better than others. The days when there were no casualties were the best.

Bryant had reached a period in his life where he wasn’t living the Adventist lifestyle that he had been raised in. “During my tour of duty, I wasn’t an active Adventist,” admits Bryant. “In spite of that, my parents, my family, and my church prayed for me faithfully.” Later, this commitment to lift him up in prayer made an impression on this young veteran. Instead of seeing a rebellious young adult, the people who were in Paul Bryant’s life didn’t give up on him. Instead they got on their knees and interceded for him.

The dangers in the war zone were real and Bryant was often aware of his mortality. “One day a group of our soldiers walked into a minefield,” recalls Bryant. “As we retrieved the wounded, it made me think how easily we can find ourselves in life threatening situations.”

After the minefield incident, Bryant was thrown into a situation that almost cost him his life in Quang Tri Province. “I’ll never forget that day,” says Bryant. “It was December 3rd—my birthday—and our unit was being sent back into the field. Our task was to support another unit that had been under attack. We were very near the demilitarized zone (DMZ). I felt very heavy emotionally, as if something dreadful was going to happen.”

All day long, Bryant worked at rescuing and treating the wounded from the battlefield. In spite of the work, Bryant couldn’t

THE DANGERS IN THE WAR ZONE WERE REAL AND BRYANT WAS OFTEN AWARE OF HIS MORTALITY.

shake the ominous feeling that he was experiencing.

“Later that evening, our company was ordered to set up camp for the night, on the two highest hills. We began preparations for our evening meal. Our lieutenant decided to call for artillery air strikes on the valley below. Unfortunately he mis-stated the coordinates,” says Bryant. “Before we knew what was happening, we were being fired on by our own troops.” As incoming artillery rained down on the location, Bryant rushed to give aid to

As an Army medic, Paul Bryant spent time in Vietnam. As a missionary, he was called to serve God in Africa.





Paul Bryant's time in Vietnam made an impression on him, but a life-changing class at Oakwood College helped him develop a personal relationship with Jesus.

his fellow soldiers. There was no time to think. Bryant only had time to react and allow training to kick in. Saving as many of his buddies as possible was his only thought. They saved many lives, but unfortunately there were a number of soldiers who died.

"Seven months after this experience in Quang Tri Province, my military time finally came to an end and I found myself being discharged," says Bryant. "When I returned home I learned that many from my high school graduating class who had returned from Vietnam were permanently or emotionally wounded. Some were using drugs and others had died in combat. I praise God that I returned home alive and emotionally whole."

Bryant's life was taking on a new facet. "My time in Vietnam had made an impression, but I still didn't have a personal relationship with Jesus.

As Bryant enrolled in college and began his studies in the field of education, he faced new challenges of balancing his studies

with work, relationships, and other responsibilities. And still the relationship with Jesus hadn't come alive for Bryant.

"After college I was approached about my interest in teaching in a conference-affiliated school," says Bryant. "I was interested, but that commitment meant taking several advanced courses at Oakwood College (now Oakwood University)." One of those classes was life-changing for Paul Bryant.

"Up to this point, I was not truly converted. I had to take a course titled 'Life and Teachings of Jesus,'" says Bryant. "Dr. David Taylor was the instructor and one of the books that was required reading was *The Desire of Ages*." As Bryant studied the materials, he began to see changes in how he perceived Jesus and he began to experience a change in himself.

"As I listened to the lectures and read the required books, for the first time in my life I viewed Jesus in a different light. I contrasted His life with the life I had been living while I

was in Vietnam. I truly began to see the traits of humbleness, patience, and long-suffering in the life of Jesus,” says Bryant. “A desire began to grow in me of wanting to reflect what I saw in Him.”

Bryant found himself being more considerate and patient. He wanted to become the priest of his home in a more tangible way. Those changes took root and began to guide his life in many directions.

After serving as a school principal for six years, Bryant returned to school to receive training to follow his call into pastoral ministry. Upon completion he was asked to go serve in a place where there was no Adventist presence. “I accepted the challenge and did colportuering and gave Bible studies,” says Bryant. “When I faced discouragement, my relationship with Christ gave me the strength to persevere.”

After finishing seminary in 1990, Bryant and his wife were asked to serve in Sierra Leone and Ghana, West Africa. For five years, Bryant was the Director of the Department of Church Ministries, church pastor, and mission evangelist.

Reflecting on his ministry experiences, as both an educator, and a pastor, Bryant looks back on his days in the Army and the distance that he felt from God. He admits it was a self-imposed separation of his own choosing. “Disappointments will come into our lives,” says Bryant. “When that happens, you have to have something that will help you through those difficult times.”

Bryant believes in the power of an active, vibrant prayer life. Although he

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wasn't engaged in that when he was in Vietnam, there were people who were praying for him who did have that connection. The intercessory prayer led a veteran to find true salvation. “Sincere prayer will change the heart of the most distance person and will lead him to Christ,” says Bryant. “I am a living witness.”

Wherever he goes, Paul Bryant shares how prayer can change the heart of even a person who has distanced himself from God.



NEW BLESSINGS FOR EACH NEW DAY 2015

The National Service Organization (NSO), provides eligible church members complimentary subscriptions of the *Adventist Review*, *Adult Bible Study Guide*, and *For God and Country*. These individuals may also choose two additional magazines from the list on page 27. This service has been available for more than 50 years.

The funding for these gift subscriptions comes in part from a shared offering received annually from churches in the North American Division. These monies are crucial to the religious support that Adventists who serve in uniform need and that the NSO provides.



NSO seeks to be good stewards of these funds. Keeping mailing lists current and ensuring that magazines are delivered is a part of that stewardship. Another important way is to send bulk mailings of some magazines to Adventist chaplains and/

SUBSCRIPTION ORDERS NOW ACCEPTED ONLINE

Subscriptions can now be requested online.

1. Visit the NSO website at AdventistsInUniform.org to establish your personal profile.
2. Click on the New Member? Sign Up Here to begin the process.
3. Once you open your profile, click on the **Subscriptions** tab and select two magazine titles, in addition to *For God and Country*.

4. To order devotional books, click on the Resources tab. If you have any difficulties establishing your profile, contact the webmaster at acm.editor@nad.adventist.org.

Remember you must renew your subscriptions annually. If you have a PCS or change of address, you can make this change in your NSO online profile.



or Distinctive Faith Group Leaders (DFGLs) who are serving outside the territory of the North American Division. These individuals are tasked with distributing the magazines to attendees of the Adventist Military Chapel Worship Groups (AMCWGs).

If you are stationed where there is no Adventist chaplain, DFGL, or AMCWG, you should request your subscriptions be sent to you. All subscriptions, with the exception of *For God and Country*, must be requested annually.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

To be eligible for NSO-paid subscriptions you must be a Seventh-day Adventist Church member in an Adventist church in the North American Division and in one of the following military-related categories:

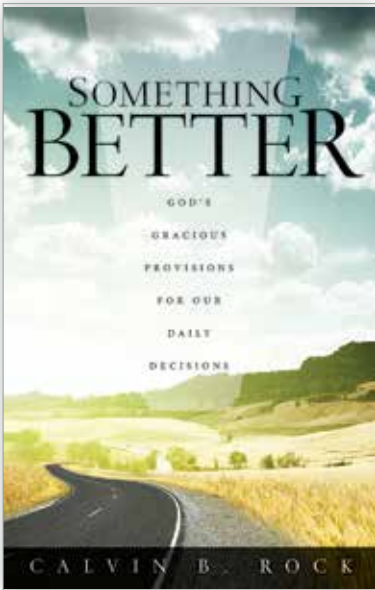
- All active-duty military stationed overseas for a year or longer
- DoD civilian employee of the military services stationed overseas
- DoDEA teacher or principal stationed overseas
- Military exchanges (AAFES, NEX, etc.) worker overseas

- Government contractor overseas
- Spouse living overseas with their non-Adventist military spouse

NSO will continue to send bulk mailings of the Adult Bible Study Guide, Insight, Guide, Primary Treasure, Our Little Friend, and the Adventist Review to the AMCWGs meeting overseas. If you are regularly attending one of these groups, you can obtain your Sabbath School journals from them.

DFGLs, please remember to order the journals needed for your group as far in advance as possible. The publishing houses require four to six weeks' notice before changes in address or numbers take effect.

Your understanding and cooperation will greatly assist NSO to provide effective support for you while you are representing your church and serving your country. As always your comments and suggestions on ways we can provide timely support of religious materials for your personal use are welcomed.



ADULT

Something Better

Calvin Rock

Calvin Rock lifts our view from the stresses and trials of life to the never-failing promises of God. His devotional readings make each new day an open door to something better.

Hardcover. US\$17.99

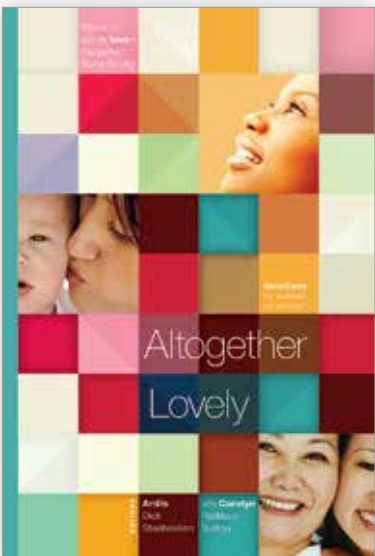
EVENING

Maranatha

Ellen White

This favorite devotional brings together Ellen White's writings about the closing events of earth's history and the triumphant return of our Lord. You will rejoice that Jesus is coming soon.

Hardcover. US\$17.99



WOMENS

Altogether Lovely

Ardis Stenbakken and Carolyn Sutton,
editors

In this intimate devotional many daughters of God share their praises, their prayers, their victories, and even their heartaches. But mostly they are opening up about what the altogether lovely Jesus means to them.

Hardcover. US\$17.99



PARENTING **NEW!**

Help! I'm a Parent

Drs. Claudio and Pamela Consuegra, *editors*

This all-new devotional helps moms and dads face the challenges of modern parenting with wisdom, hope, and courage.

Hardcover. US\$17.99

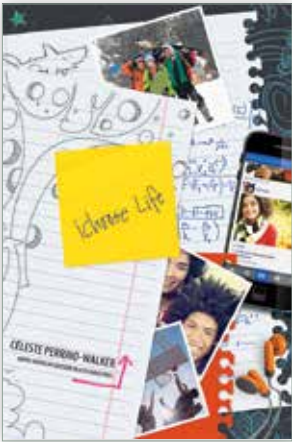
YOUNG ADULT

Just Jesus

Mark Witas

Pastor Mark Witas shows us that the better we get to know Jesus, the better we understand God, and the better we know our own purpose on earth.

US\$15.99



TEEN

I Choose Life

Celeste Perrino Walker

Help teens discover the awesome power of choice. From the songs they download to the friends they hang out with at school, *I Choose Life* talks about those decisions that can have a surprisingly large and lasting impact.

US\$16.99

JUNIOR

He's Got Your Back

Nancy Canwell

When events or friends turn against you, Jesus has your back. Juniors can begin each morning growing closer to the One who will never change or let them down.

Hardcover. US\$17.99



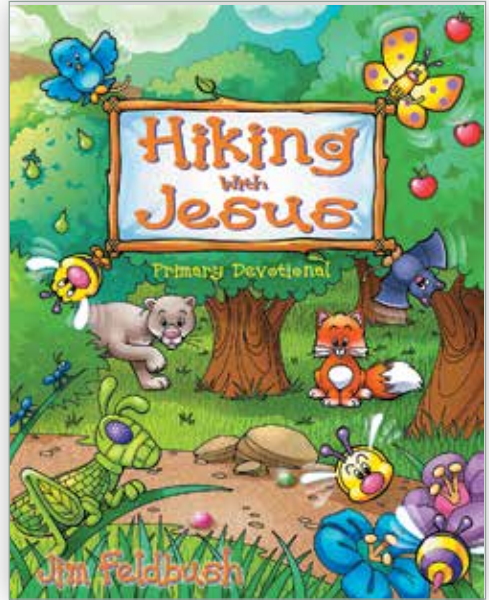
PRIMARY

Hiking with Jesus

Jim Feldbush

Primary age children can take a “nature hike” through the Bible and discover all the wild and wonderful things that God made for their amazement. Along the way they’ll encounter hyenas and halibut, spiders and sapphires, silk and seaweed, and much more—all along they’ll tuck away a nugget of wisdom in their spiritual knapsack.

Hardcover. US\$15.99



TWO TO
CHOOSE
FROM!

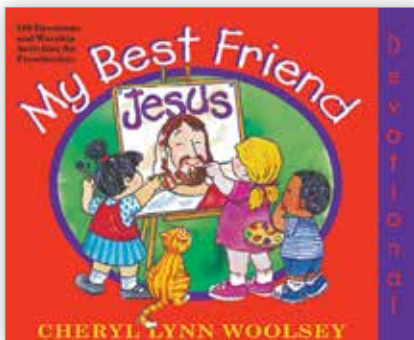
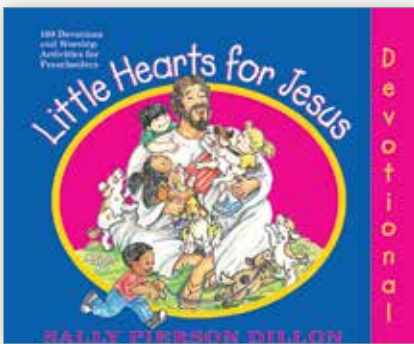
PRESCHOOL

Little Hearts for Jesus

Sally Pierson Dillon

Here are 180 creative lessons that teach young children about God’s love. Each reading includes a game, activity, craft, or song that will lead children to delight in our amazing God.

Hardcover. US\$15.99



My Best Friend Jesus

Cheryl Lynn Woolsey

Explore Jesus’ life and teachings with your child! Simple lessons and worship activities, including hands-on activities and crafts, bring Jesus’ object lessons to life.

Hardcover. US\$15.99

DEVOTIONAL BOOKS

Adventist active-duty military personnel are eligible to receive a free devotional book, courtesy of the NSO and ACM. Guidelines for eligibility are noted on page 23. Single service members, as well as other employee categories listed on page 23 may choose one free devotional. Married service members may choose two devotional books. Order these online in your personal profile at AdventistsInUniform.org or complete the form on this page.

- ☐ ADULT – *Something Better*
- ☐ EVENING – *Maranatha*
- ☐ WOMEN – *Altogether Lovely*
- ☐ PARENTING – *Help! I'm a Parent*
- ☐ YOUNG ADULT – *Just Jesus*
- ☐ TEEN – *I Choose Life*
- ☐ JUNIOR – *He's Got Your Back*
- ☐ PRIMARY – *Hiking with Jesus*
- ☐ PRESCHOOL – *Little Hearts for Jesus*
- ☐ PRESCHOOL – *My Best Friend Jesus*

MAGAZINES

Each year NSO sends Adventist active-duty members and select government employees who meet the eligibility guidelines a one-year subscription to two magazines. You may order these online in your profile at AdventistsInUniform.org or complete the order form on this page. You will automatically be subscribed to the NSO publication, *For God and Country*. If you wish to receive either a print or digital subscription to the Adventist Review you must request it, in addition to the two free subscriptions of your choice.

- ☐ *Guide*
- ☐ *Insight*
- ☐ *Message*
- ☐ *Our Little Friend*
- ☐ *Primary Treasure*
- ☐ *Signs of the Times*
- ☐ *Vibrant Life*
- ☐ *Adventist Review*

2015 ORDER FORM INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Complete the personal information section.
2. Select a free devotional book/s. You may contact NSO if you would like to purchase others.
3. Select up to two (2) free magazines.
4. Email or mail form (and check, if you are purchasing any items. Check should be made payable to National Service Organization.) If you are sending by snail mail, address your envelope to National Service Organization and the address shown at the bottom of this page. Emailed forms should be sent to acm.editor@nad.adventist.org

Name: _____ E-mail: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Are you on active duty now? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Are you in military-related service overseas? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Where are you serving? _____

Are you a Seventh-day Adventist Church member? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Local conference holding membership? _____

Order your subscriptions and books online at AdventistsInUniform.org or mail this form to the address listed below or email it to acm.editor@nad.adventist.org. Put "Subscriptions Request" in the subject line.



National Service Organization • Adventist World Headquarters
12501 Old Columbia Pike • Silver Spring, MD 20904



For I will satisfy the
weary soul, and
every languishing
soul I will replenish.”

– JEREMIAH 31:25, ESV

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN GLOBAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



Southern Adventist University now offers a Christ-centered master's degree that may be a perfect fit for you if:

- You have a heart for global service and building thriving communities through servant leadership.
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southern.edu/graduatestudies
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NAD MILITARY CHURCH

Charter Membership

If you are assigned overseas for six months or longer in some type of official government or military-related 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!

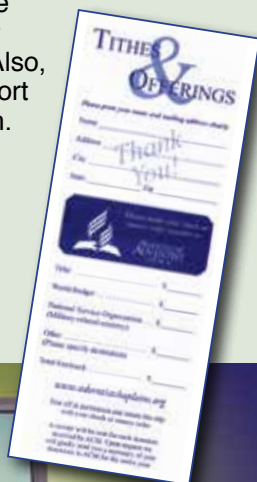
Online Giving

Honoring 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 drop-down 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 guidance in this area.



**RICH BLESSINGS
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WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

For God and Country is designed for you, our readers. If you are a Seventh-day Adventist in uniformed service we want to hear from you!

We are looking for news, stories from the field, and other items of interest. Your contributions can be sent to the editor at: acm.editor@nad.adventist.org.

Include digital photos (as JPEG files) that are at least 1MB in size. Please include identification of individuals who are in the photos.

Have an idea for an article, but writing isn't your forte? No problem. Send us the information and we'll write it for you.

To receive your free subscription to *For God and Country*, please contact us at the above email address.



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If you would like to be added to the mailing list, e-mail ACM or call 301-680-6785. Comments and/or articles are welcome and should be sent to the editor at acm.editor@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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URL: <http://nad.AdventistChaplains.org>.

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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If you don't take a Sabbath,
something is wrong. You're
doing too much, you're
being too much in charge.
You've got to quit, one day
a week, and just watch
what God is doing when
you're not doing anything.

Eugene H. Peterson



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