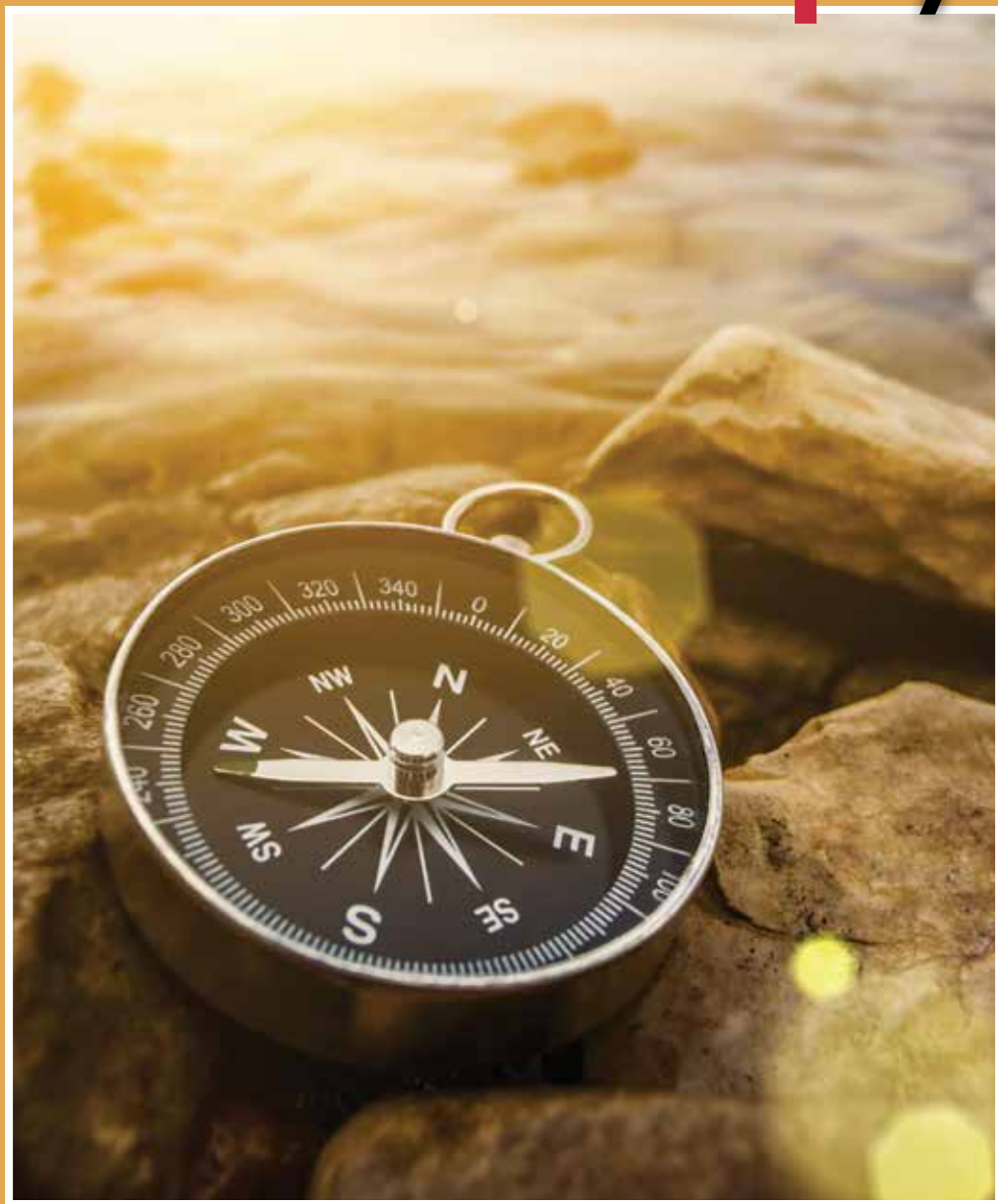


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Public Service*





MY FATHER'S WISDOM

By Dr. Mario E. Ceballos, Director/Endorser

World Service Organization, General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

My father was a great man, a doctor in jurisprudence, a theologian, a gifted teacher, a locksmith, a mathematician, a great preacher, a pastor, a university administrator, a very intelligent man, with a moral compass and a well-defined moral north.

Among many lessons, he taught me one of honesty. When he was granted a permanent resident status in the United States of America, the government outlined the condition on what he needed to do to keep his status. At the time, the primary requirement was that he could not be absent from the

United States for more than a year.

Due to his church work responsibilities, my father was unable to return to the U.S. He presented himself to the U.S. embassy and returned his residency card, more commonly known as a “Green Card.”

When he finally retired, my father applied again for permanent status to the U.S. This entailed having to go through the entire application and interview process all over again. To his surprise, at the end of his final interview, the embassy gave him an envelope with the card he had returned to them earlier.

What is a moral compass and why is

Table of Contents



- 2 Perspective
- 4 The Code Setter
- 8 Re-Calibrate Your Moral Compass
- 12 The Sergeant Major Returns to God
- 16 Filling the Empty Spaces
- 20 But I Wanted to Be a Missionary
- 24 National Service Organization–NAD Director’s Thoughts
- 26 A Retreat of Blessings–Okinawa Retreat for Service Members
- 29 Challenge Coins Presented

"It is not unreasonable to conclude that most today don't want to know where north is in case that information would interfere with their lifestyle."

so important to have one? The Oxford Dictionary defines it as "a person's ability to judge what is right and wrong and act accordingly."¹ Another definition is, "an internal set of values and objectives that guide a person with regard to ethical behavior and decision-making."²

I believe people have a moral compass that points them to the true moral north. I also believe many people who commit crimes and abuses choose not to follow their moral compass for many reasons. Michelle Roya Rad, puts it this way "All of us have the foundation for building a strong moral compass ... A sense of self-confidence that is not dependent on the outside world, but an internal feeling."³

When we look around us, we see a political world filled with stories of corruption and abuse. As I visited one country, which will remain nameless, I asked the people about the police and their politicians. Everyone in the meeting explained that police and politicians were corrupt. In other words, they did not have a moral compass. We discussed what changes would occur in their country if politicians and police officers were honest and ethical Seventh-day Adventists.

The challenge is many do not want to know what is their true north.

Instead, they want to live, only doing what is pleasing and advantageous to them. "It is not unreasonable to conclude that most today don't want to know where north is in case that information would interfere with their lifestyle."⁴

What is the solution to our dilemma while we wait for the coming of our Saviour? The solution is to know the direction of our moral compass, and regardless of what is happening around us, we should follow that compass. It may not be easy. There are temptations and peer pressure from co-workers and superiors. Jesus did not pray for us to leave the world but to be protected from the world.⁵ We must be an example of honesty and morality.

The Apostle Paul is very clear on what is the true north in our moral compass. He said, "If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit."⁶

¹ https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/moral_compass
<http://www.dictionary.com/browse/moral-compass>

³ http://www.huffingtonpost.com/roya-r-rad-ma-psyd/finding-your-moral-compass_b_1009290.html

⁴ <http://www.vision.org/visionmedia/ethics-and-morality-moral-compass/3574.aspx>

⁵ Matthew 17:15 (ESV)

⁶ Galatians 5:26 (ESV)

If you were to pick one section of the Bible that addresses the biblical mandate for a Christian to live by a moral compass, what would it be? Would you turn to the Ten Commandments found in Exodus 20? Perhaps your fingers would flip to specific chapters in Proverbs. Thomas Jefferson, the third United States President, suggested that the Sermon on the Mount, found in Matthew 5-7, “as the most sublime and benevolent code of morals which has ever been offered to man.”

Before we examine the Beatitudes, a review of how Jesus demonstrated His own moral code is required. Following His baptism, Jesus left for a period of solitude in the desert. During these days, Satan worked overtime to tempt and distract Jesus. He took advantage of hunger, thirst, and weariness.

Satan sought out every weak point that might prove to be the method of the fatal jab which he could place to bring Jesus down. With each attempt, there was one line Jesus repeated, “It is written.” Each endeavor by the evil one

By Chaplain Gary Wagner, D.Min.

THE CODE SETTER



was met with scripture quoted from the prophets. One attempt brought the reply that man cannot live on physical food alone, “but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.”

Fast forward to a Galilean hillside. As Jesus looked out over the crowd gathered that day, He saw an oppressed and weary multitude. He’d grown up in the culture and the nation. He understood the pain and turmoil of the average citizen.

The Romans controlled the country with an iron fist, punishing the smallest infraction. Taxation was exorbitant—by both the civil and religious authorities. The people looked for the long-promised Messiah, and there were plenty of people who claimed that title. It was difficult to sort out truth from error. Fake news existed even in Jesus’ day.

When Jesus spoke to the crowd sitting on the hill by the Sea of Galilee, He wasn’t espousing His opinion on how to live in a godly manner. In John 7:16, Jesus reiterated to the crowd in the temple that what He taught came from God, the Father. “My message is not my own; it comes from God who sent me.”

As Jesus began to speak, He was directing His words to the disciples gathered around Him. Yet, He knew the hillside crowd that day needed a message full of hope. He used promises and assurances of future blessings to draw the people’s attention. For this down-trodden

group, the hope of comfort and mercy was like salve to an open wound.

Then, Jesus began to teach how to live in the present. He understood the people needed a direction in how to deal with the difficulties that permeated their daily existence. They faced physical challenges of not enough food, lack of employment, sub-standard living conditions, and more. They also dealt with spiritual challenges of their own human nature and the lack of upright spiritual leadership.

Initially, Jesus speaks to the people about their own mindset and asks if they are allowing themselves to be led by the Spirit in their daily lives. He tells them they are the salt of the earth. The people understood the implications of salt and that it acts as both a seasoning and a preservative.

The world then and today is a place that shouldn’t taste good to the Christian who follows God’s moral code. When we begin to hunger after the world, we lose our ability to show others who God is and demonstrate His character. If we are the salt of the world, our lives can be full of flavor. In those words to the disciples, Jesus demonstrated His being salt to the earth. He lifted up God’s principles and they were sprinkled out over the people to be taken from that place and shared with others.

As Jesus continued His teaching He emphasized that living by God’s moral guidelines include making choices of how we live daily. Sometimes these

IN JOHN 7:16, JESUS REITERATED TO THE
CROWD IN THE TEMPLE THAT WHAT HE
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choices aren't as apparent as they seem.

God desires that we not kill other human beings, but He also wants us to live by a code that we not live in disagreement with those who are our spiritual siblings. We are to make peace and live in harmony.

A clean life, empty of the negative attractions, is another choice to make daily. We are to live a life of such integrity, that if something we are doing is morally wrong, we cut off the offending part. In other words, if you are engaged in pornography, you need to end it now. If you need help to cut this out of your life, seek the necessary counseling. Are you listening to music or watching television shows that entertain through adultery, lying, voyeurism, and more? God's desire is that you don't allow that to be part of your daily schedule.

We are to care for our families, regardless of the personal cost. That's generally not too hard. When we love our families, our desire is to do everything we can for them.

Then Jesus strikes a little deeper. He calls on us to love our enemies. Does He really mean it? How can I love someone who hates me? How can I tolerate someone who seeks to oppress me or even have me killed? And then Jesus asks us to take it one step further. He wants us to pray for these people! What can He be thinking?

God wants us to understand that

we don't have to get even with our enemies. Instead, He wants us to allow Him to take our hurts, the intolerant behaviours exhibited towards us, the hatred demonstrated by others. He wants us to reflect in our lives the character that Jesus reflected at the cross, when He prayed that His executioners be forgiven. That's hard, isn't it? But it's what the Apostle Paul directs us to achieve. *"I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection. But I press on to possess that perfection for which Christ Jesus first possessed me. No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us. Let all who are spiritually mature agree on these things. If you disagree on some point, I believe God will make it plain to you. But we must hold on to the progress we have already made. For I have told you often before, and I say it again with tears in my eyes, that there are many whose conduct shows they are really enemies of the cross of Christ. They are headed for destruction. Their god is their appetite, they brag about shameful things, and they think only about this life here on earth. But we are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. And we are eagerly waiting for him to return*

AS JESUS CONTINUED HIS TEACHING HE
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as our Savior. Philippians 3:12-16, 18-20 (New Living Translation)

Jesus also outlines our duty to those around us who are the oppressed. Sometimes, we become so overstuffed with goods we forget there are others who have not received as many physical benefits. His directive also outlines we are to give to those in need, but not to make a show about our generosity. Sometimes, humans forget their humility when they are extending their hand in giving.

God's moral code also includes what our personal spiritual life will look like. It will be full of prayer and fasting from the things in the world that distract us from our relationship with Him. We'll put our complete trust in Him and set aside worry over the myriad of things that keep us awake at night. We won't run after the

latest, shiniest, brightest thing that attracts us. Instead, we'll allow Him to fill our needs.

And as we reflect on what God looks for in a moral code, we'll recognize that we cannot possibly do these things in our own strength. We have neither the will power or the moral fiber to do it alone. As the evil one lurks and jabs us with the point of that one special situation that sets us off, we'll be in constant prayer—to ask, seek, and knock—calling on God to reflect His character in our lives as we live by His code and not our own.

Jesus revealed to us how He acted out His moral code when under attack. He turned to the Bible and the words of God. As Christians in a world that decays a little more every day, we should do no less.



RE-CALIBRATE YOUR MORAL COMPASS



When Solomon succeeded his father David on the throne, God told him He would grant whatever Solomon asked for at that moment. Solomon chose wisdom and knowledge. God granted his request.

In the succeeding years, Solomon built the Temple that his father had been denied the privilege of constructing. With the building of the edifice completed, the nation gathered for its dedication.

The Jewish people stood in front of the glistening columns of Solomon's temple. The musicians played their cymbals, harps, lyres, and trumpets. The priests stood in their places, ready to perform the sacrifice. The people peered eagerly to see if God's glory would fill the Temple.

Finally, the moment they waited for arrived. God's glory filled the temple as a cloud and the people knew God's presence among them once again. Solomon led his people through a prayer and dedication on that sun-filled day.

An Inborn Sense

Following the ceremony, celebrations, and worship, in the dark of the night, God came to Solomon with a message for the nation. God placed His requirements for people who are called by His name before Solomon. His instructions were that God-followers are to act in humility, seek God's face and favor, and live a life according to biblical principles. This is how Christians change their moral compass, if they've lost their way.

God placed the sense of a moral compass in the heart of humans at Creation. The Apostle Paul noted this in Romans 2:14, 15 when he wrote, "Even Gentiles, who do not have God's written law, show that they

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know his law when they instinctively obey it, even without having heard it. They demonstrate that God's law is written in their hearts, for their own conscience and thoughts either accuse them or tell them they are doing right." (New Living Translation)

Is It Principle or Preference?

Our culture and environment can wreak havoc on this inborn sense of how to live our lives. We must recalibrate our moral compass according to biblical principles and not human preferences.

Understanding the distinction between a principle and preference is key to choosing one over the other. A principle is "a fundamental truth or proposition that serves as the foundation for a system of belief or behavior or for a chain of reasoning."¹

A preference is "a greater liking for one alternative over another or others."²

To impact the culture around us, our character and moral leadership must be thoroughly compatible with the Bible. These traits will then allow us to be the salt and light in today's world and the spheres of influence

Remember, you
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where we work and with those who interface with us.

How do you conduct your personal and professional “business” on a day-to-day basis?

As Christians, we should engage the culture, which allows us to change the world through the gospel of Jesus.

Pay Attention

Are you paying attention to what’s going on in the world? To be a moral compass, we must pay attention to what is happening around us. Listen not for the superficial words, but what lies at the heart of the matter. It’s easy to get overwhelmed with the newsfeeds, the Twitter posts, the 24-hour news cycle.

Own the Vision

Have you committed to being thoroughly engaged with Jesus and living the Spirit-filled life? Do you “own the vision” of following your moral compass? This commitment requires daily Bible study and prayer. Life and busyness easily eats its way into our schedules. Remember, you are refueled in the quiet times when God can speak to your heart and mind.

Spending time with other believers adds to our spiritual growth.

Spirit-filled Reactions

How is your modeling career coming along? Do you model grace-filled reactions and radical reconciliation with others? Everything you say and do is being observed by someone. Think about the people in your life. Your spouse, your children, your co-workers, your friends. The clerk at the grocery store checkout who has already logged six hours standing on her feet and just wants to go home. The mechanic who tells you your car needs \$1500 in repairs.

How do you make decisions about what actions to take and what actions not to take in a situation? Use discernment as you hear about events and don’t make judgments based on emotions.

Character-Stretching

Are you growing in character to change the world around you? In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus emphasized that our heavenly rewards will be based on the character we develop and enact here on earth. Character building isn’t learned only from books. It’s the daily march as you go into the world that stretches you and reveals areas where growth is needed.

Are you faithful in little character milestones—being on time, dependable, honest, self-disciplined? Paul talks about the fruits of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22-23: “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control” (NIV).

Each of these are indicators of a Christ-like character. How do

you reflect these when you face disappointment, are engaged in conflict, or feel like you are in a spiritual desert? Whenever a Christian responds to circumstances using God's principles rather than human inclinations, character stretching and growth occur.

Are You Going Into the World?

What is your role in fulfilling the Great Commission and what does this have to do with your moral compass? Jesus described that His followers would go and teach others and bring them to the point of being followers, too.

If you call yourself a Christian, one point on your moral compass is to share the story of Jesus with others. It's should be a part of your spiritual DNA to gift your friends and co-workers with the hope of a Saviour.

Faith sharing isn't limited to a formal Bible study. It can be as simple as telling someone how God worked in a detail of your daily life. Is a friend struggling with loneliness or addiction? Being a good friend and listener opens hearts and minds to transforming words about Jesus. Remember, people are often seeking hope and you can share the greatest *Hope* this world knows.

Will I Really Make a Difference?

American sociologist Robert Bellair wrote, "We should not underestimate the significance of the small group of people who have a vision of a just and gentle world. The quality of a whole culture may be changed when two percent of its



people have a new vision."

Jesus began with 12 dedicated people. In just a few short years, Christianity spread so rapidly that the Roman authorities became increasingly worried about its influence. Today, 2000 years after Christ's time, Christians are the largest religious group in the world and make up nearly a third of Earth's population.³

Early Christians re-calibrated all they knew and followed Christ. They allowed God to guide their moral compass to stand up against the norms of the day. Martyrdom was the fate of many, but their example of living a faith-filled life lingers long after their death.

Are you ready to re-calibrate today?

¹ <https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/principle>

² <https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/preference>

³ <http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2017/04/05/christians-remain-worlds-largest-religious-group-but-they-are-declining-in-europe/>

In Iraq, Evelin and her team prepare to depart for a mission.



THE SERGEANT MAJOR RETURNS TO GOD

By **Evelin Montealegre**,
Sergeant Major, U.S. Army with Deena Bartel-Wagner

Finding the way to a personal relationship with Jesus can occur in many forms. Evelin Montealegre's journey took her through military training and guiding others to Jesus, even though her personal friendship with Jesus was inactive.

"I grew up in a Seventh-day Adventist family," says Evelin. "My father served as a church lay leader and my mother was a nurse. They desired a Christian education for their eight children. This meant a move for our family from southern Mexico to Montemorelos, Mexico, a city in the northern part of the country."

Evelin's childhood years were filled with church and youth activities.

"I joined both Pathfinders and the Master Guide club," says Evelin. "My spiritual journey thrived as I participated in many church activities."

Then Evelin began to step away from Jesus. "Little by little, I started hanging out with the wrong crowd," says Evelin. "At first it seemed insignificant, but my spiritual life suffered and I felt empty. On the outside, it looked as though I was doing all the right things. My church activities kept me busy, but I knew my relationship with God was not what it should be."

LIFE CHOICES

Evelin looked forward to college

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and choosing a career path. Studies and working part-time consumed many of the hours in the week. A busy life schedule crowded out time for personal worship and Bible study. Evelin knew that she continued to slip away from her commitment to God.

"I began to feel like I wanted to get away from everything," says Evelin. "I learned that the U.S. Army would offer money to help pay for college. For me, the military offered the break that I needed to get away and start a new journey."

After enlisting, Evelin learned that she would have to choose a Military Occupational Specialty (MOS). "I'm not sure why, but I selected Chaplain Assistant (now called Religious Affairs Specialist)," says Evelin. "I thought that if there was anything that could help me get closer to God again, it would be assisting the chaplain."

Evelin's upbringing and church activities prepared her well to provide the support for the Unit Ministry Team (UMT) programs and worship services.

MILITARY LIFE

Upon enlisting, Evelin didn't have plans to stay in the Army for a career. "I thought I'd complete my enlistment, and then return to college," says Evelin. "I didn't plan on falling in love with the military."

Leadership seemed to be a natural fit for Evelin. She flourished as she progressed through leadership positions. "I've served as a squad leader, a platoon sergeant, instructor/writer, and drill sergeant, which was my favorite assignment," says Evelin.



Evelin works with chaplains around the world. On location in Ramadi, Iraq, Evelin and two of the chaplains she ministered with to Soldiers during an intense time of conflict.



One of Evelin's most rewarding experiences has been to train new recruits to be resilient and well-equipped Soldiers.



Basic rifle skills training takes place on the range.

As a drill sergeant, Evelin coached and counseled hundreds, if not thousands of Soldiers. She mentored them as they transformed from civilians to combat-ready Soldiers. “A drill sergeant’s typical day starts before dawn and you are with your Soldiers until night when it’s time for lights out,” says Evelin. “As their drill sergeant, you are all that your Soldiers know of the Army. They emulate everything you do. Being a drill sergeant is one of the most demanding and challenging jobs in our Army. It’s also one of the most rewarding. You have to provide a positive and enriching experience as these young Soldiers begin their Army journey.”

GOD-DRIVEN GUIDANCE

During Evelin’s time as a drill sergeant, she met many Seventh-day Adventist Soldiers. “My relationship with Jesus was almost non-existent during this time of my life,” admits Evelin. “I knew the doctrines, but I did not have a personal relationship with God.”

Something else drove her to help the young Adventist recruits she worked with. “As a young Soldier, I didn’t know the steps necessary to get Sabbaths off,” says Evelin. “My position as drill sergeant provided me the knowledge to help other Adventists walk through the maze to negotiate time for Sabbath worship.”

Providential crossing of paths with Adventist chaplains continued to demonstrate God’s attention to Evelin’s life. “God has always put special people in my path to help me. As a young Private First Class, stationed in Germany, I met Chaplain (COL) Gary Councell,” says Evelin. “He helped me reconnect with my faith. I did not have to tell him that I was not a practicing Adventist.

Somehow, he knew I was struggling with my faith. His guidance without judgment and books that he gave me helped me understand and figure out the direction I should go.”

Although Evelin faced ups and downs in her God walk, the Holy Spirit continued to draw her closer to God. During the lowest point of her military career, Evelin learned it would become her highest point spiritually. “During my second deployment to Iraq, I was sitting in my Containerized Housing Unit (CHU) at our Forward Operating Base (FOB). Suddenly, rockets began raining down on the FOB. We were under attack as more than 45 rockets came from all around,” says Evelin. “My CHU shook as though an earthquake struck our FOB. Our training was to take cover under the barricade. Instead, I fell to the floor and believed I was going to die. In those seconds, my spiritual eyes were opened. I knew I was one of the five unwise virgins. I was not prepared to meet my Groom. I cried out during the attack and chaos, ‘God, help me!’” Evelin was spared, but sadly several of her fellow Soldiers perished in the attack.

Knowing she’d been given another chance, Evelin started her new personal communion with God. “This time it was real,” she says. “I started reading my Bible daily, although it was challenging to concentrate on what I was reading. Today, I can read longer without distraction. I realized I was doing my will and only serving God halfway, but He has never given up on me.”

Following her commitment renewal, Evelin uses years of experience and position to influence the leadership and other commands to support and allow Adventist Soldiers to practice their faith.

"I REALIZED I WAS DOING MY WILL AND ONLY SERVING GOD HALFWAY, BUT HE HAS NEVER GIVEN UP ON ME."

SELECTED AS SERGEANT MAJOR

Among enlisted personnel in the U. S. Army, the highest attainable rank is Sergeant Major. Only three percent of Army personnel obtain this rank during their service. In June 2015, Evelin received her promotion to Sergeant Major. Today, she serves as a Chief Religious Affairs officer with a strategic focus on Central and South America. "Part of my work is to help commanders understand how the role of religion matters in a region," says Evelin. "This can range from helping them understand the local customs to how to interact with government leaders and religious authorities in various countries during deployments and exercises."

Evelin didn't reach this level without hard work and focus. "As a woman in the Army, I have always had to work harder than my male counterparts. There are 470,000 Soldiers and 40,000 of them are female," says Evelin. "The opportunities to succeed are available, but initiative and dedication to accomplish the assigned mission is part of the equation for women to be successful."

As a Seventh-day Adventist Christian, there are challenges but they are not insurmountable. "When I talk with young Adventists, I remind them they need to be strong in their faith and they need to have a personal communion with God," says Evelin. "The military will test your beliefs, but you must be prepared to stand for your faith in a world that is faithless."



Evelin worked with hundreds of recruits as they developed their skills and training as Soldiers.



Working with chaplains from other nations is part of Evelin's job, with a specialization in Central and South America. One assignment took her to Colombia to work with Chaplain Artunduagua of the Colombian Army.



It was a high day for Evelin when she received her promotion in the United States Army to Sergeant Major.



FILLING THE EMPTY SPACES

By **Tim Mayne**, Pastor and Firefighter/EMR/Engineer/Chaplain, Netarts-Oceanside Rural Fire Protection District, Oregon with Deena Bartel-Wagner

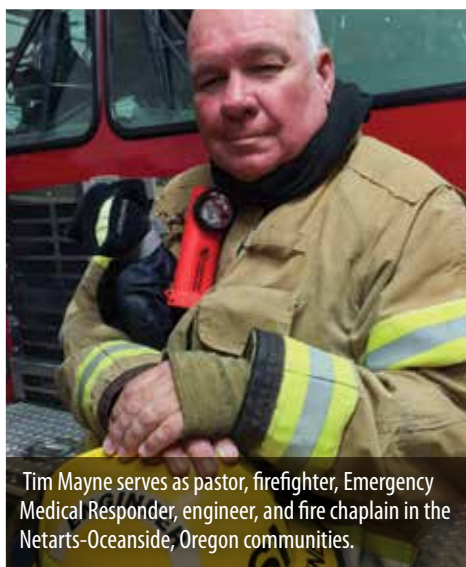
Firelight sliced through the 2:00 a.m. inky darkness as 15-year-old Tim Mayne woke up in his bedroom. Looking out the window he saw flames licking at the walls of the neighbor's garage. Tim raced to the phone and dialed 9-1-1. He knew the structure housed the neighbor's 1967 Chevy Camaro drag car. The car raced every Sunday and the neighborhood kids eagerly waited to hear results of each week's race.

That night, the car met its fate by being destroyed along with the garage. During those same moments, as Tim witnessed his neighbor sitting on the

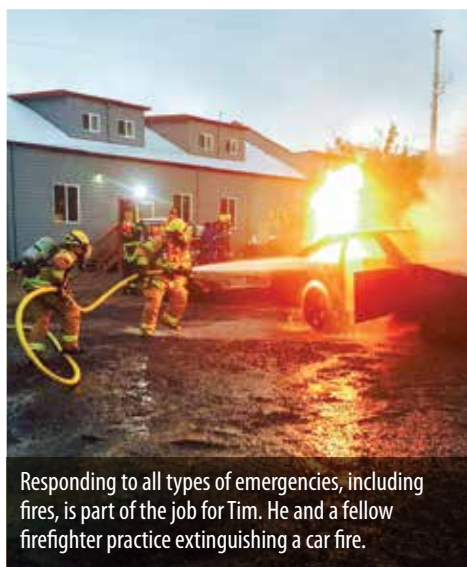
porch crying, a desire was kindled in him. "I never went back to sleep that night," says Tim. "I saw the devastation this man felt. Since then, I've always felt someone should have gone to sit with him."

Today, Tim comes alongside members of his community as a firefighter, an Emergency Medical Responder (EMR), Engineer and as a fire chaplain (Certified with the Federation of Fire Chaplains). He serves in the Netarts-Oceanside Rural Fire Protection District in Oregon.

Tim's route to firefighter/EMR took him to seminary and eventually



Tim Mayne serves as pastor, firefighter, Emergency Medical Responder, engineer, and fire chaplain in the Netarts-Oceanside, Oregon communities.



Responding to all types of emergencies, including fires, is part of the job for Tim. He and a fellow firefighter practice extinguishing a car fire.

to pastor in Wyoming, Colorado, Guam, South Korea, and Oregon. “My first opportunity to work with firefighters was when I served as pastor of the Adventist Churches in Rifle and Glenwood Springs, Colorado,” says Tim. “During the winter, many of the local residents worked at the ski resorts of Aspen, Snowmass, Arapahoe Basin, and others. Volunteers were in high demand and I was invited to join the Rifle Fire Department as a firefighter and ambulance driver. I think I may have been the only pastor in Colorado who didn’t ski!”

In September 1990, Tim added another skill set to his resume. “I joined the United States Army Reserve as a Chaplain and took my basic training at Fort Monmouth in New Jersey, with field training at Fort Dix,” says Tim. “I was part of the Individual Ready Reserve. Desert Storm broke out and then it ended before I received call up orders.” A call to serve in ministry on Guam eventually brought Tim’s military service to a close with an Honorable Discharge.

In 2012, Tim relocated to the Tilla-mook Adventist Church in Oregon. “With this move, we settled in the village of Netarts,” says Tim. “I shared with my congregation my desire to join the Netarts-Oceanside Fire/Rescue as a part of my service to the community. As a pastor, volunteer fire service is a unique way to serve a local community. Personally, I’ve found that starting out as a regular firefighter with no rank or status has been a way to open the door to also serve as a chaplain.”

Tim actively pursues the required training and certifications necessary for firefighting. He holds certification for Firefighter I, Firefighter II, Driver/Operator, and Pumper Operator. Tim is also a certified Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) and has graduated from the Police and Fire Chaplain’s Academy in Tacoma, Washington. “I wear the title of ‘Engineer’ on my fire helmet and serve as Chaplain, when requested,” says Tim.

The Netarts-Oceanside Stations serve a stretch of land that has the

Pacific Ocean and beaches and cliff faces on one side and coastal forest on the other side. “We offer our neighbors full fire protection with two engines, two first response pump trucks, beach pump truck, and a full medical/rescue truck,” says Tim. “We also have water rescue, which utilizes two ocean-going jet skis, rope rescue for cliff rescue, and we often work with the Coast Guard because of our nearness to the ocean. Our team is complete with many EMR/EMT certified firefighters.”

As an EMR, Tim never knows when he’ll need to switch roles from pastor to EMR. “One night, after a service at a local non-denominational church in Oceanside, I went to the fellowship room to share in the refreshments provided to those attending the service,” says Tim. “I heard a crash and a scream and hurried to the scene. A 73-year-old woman had stepped back and fell down a steep flight of stairs. I asked my wife, Bonnie, a registered nurse, to call 9-1-1 and tell them that 61-91 was on scene and rendering aid. The two of us then tended to the victim to keep her from passing out.”

When the Response Team arrived, Tim and Bonnie assisted in loading the victim into the ambulance, which headed to the Emergency Department (ED) at Tillamook Regional Medical Center operated by Adventist Health.

“I went home, put on my Chaplain’s badge and then drove to the ED to visit our friend who had been injured. Upon my arrival, she loudly proclaimed, ‘Now here’s a man who not only saves your soul, but your body too!’ Later during the visit, I learned she suffered from 10 fractured ribs, scapula, and collarbone and a cracked C3 vertebrae.”

On the way to a call, the team

members are each assigned a job to do during the response. “For us, the call could be medical, fire, motor vehicle accident, water rescue, or rope rescue,” says Tim. “Depending on the need, I could be the driver, pump operator, spotter on the beach, or traffic flagger. If it is medical call out, I could be the lead medical responder (EMR), reporter, or assist with the heavy lifting. If a need arises, I could also be requested to serve as Chaplain to the family or follow up with our responders.”

Not every call ends with a good outcome. One December night, which just happened to be the 22nd birthday of Tim’s daughter, he responded to the message, “female, 22, non-responsive, non-breathing.”

“That night, I performed CPR on the young woman until the paramedics arrived,” says Tim. “Sadly, we were unable to revive her. When it became evident the young woman had died, the Fire Chief asked me to stay with the young lady’s mother and grandmother until other support arrived. I began that night’s response as a first responder and ended it as a chaplain.”

Tim believes his chaplaincy training creates a well-rounded balance in his work with the Fire and Rescue teams. “I’ve served as a volunteer chaplain at three different hospitals, worked as a part-time hospice chaplain, and made myself available during time of war as a U.S. Army Chaplain.”

Being a ministry of presence for his fellow firefighters/EMRs/EMTs is another role Tim fulfills. Building relationships and trust take time. In his role as firefighter/EMR, Tim demonstrates he is willing to do the work his team members do. “As the friendships have grown, I’ve been able to ask de-briefing questions of my fellow co-workers,” says Tim.



Above: Tim's motorcycle identifies him as a firefighter.

Left: In 2015, Tim received the Firefighter of the Year Award from the Netarts Oceanside Fire District.



"This is especially important when we have a difficult response." Aware of the effects of cumulative stress in fire and emergency response personnel, Tim often asks his crew how they are dealing with the events they've experienced.

Combining his firefighting/EMR ministry with pastoral ministry works well. "I do turn off my pager from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. every Sabbath as I fight the proverbial fires of hell with my preaching, which some would say is like getting hit with a fire hose!" says Tim.

Tim solidly advocates for volunteer/career fire and rescue services. "I believe these are fantastic ways to serve a community. I would encourage any Adventist young person to look

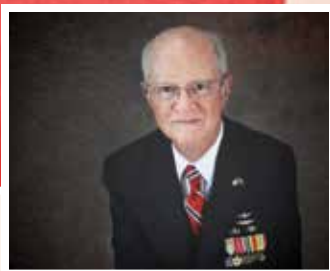
at these opportunities as a career option," says Tim. "They require a great deal of specialized training, but the rewards are tremendous. You become part of a community of service providers that is elite and recognized in your neighborhood, especially in a small community. At the County Fair recently, while working in our church's food booth, I was greeted by a man we had responded to and rescued during the night! I was surprised to see him up and at the fair...but should have known that no one in Tillamook misses the "Pig and Ford Races!"

A neighborhood fire on a long-ago night carved in the heart of a young boy the desire to serve others. Today, Tim Mayne fills the empty spaces next to those who are affected by accidents, trauma, and tragedy. His fire helmet carries the message of Jude 22-23.

"And you must show mercy to those whose faith is wavering. Rescue others by snatching them from the flames of hell."



BUT I WANTED TO BE A MISSIONARY



By Charles Knapp, M.D.,
MPH, Colonel, U.S. Army, Retired
with Deena Bartel-Wagner

Charles sat in stunned silence. “How can this be happening,” he thought. “I’ve been following God’s leading, and I’m sure I am supposed to be a missionary. What is being drafted going to do to my deferred mission appointment.”

As a young medical resident, Charles Knapp reviewed the course of training he’d followed to become

a physician. He’d studied biology and pre-metallurgical engineering at Andrews University. Charles applied for medical school on a dare and then realized during his sophomore mission trip to the Adventist hospital in Puerto Rico that he truly wanted to be a doctor.

“I was deeply ensconced in a dual residency in gynecology and obstetrics.

The General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists had extended a deferred mission call to me. All my plans were laid out,” says Charles. “Then I received my draft notice that I had been called up for military service.”

Medical students and doctors in residencies often received waivers for military service to allow them to continue their training. “My residency was at Glendale Adventist Hospital,” says Charles. “When I reported my news to the administrators, they requested that I appear before the Michigan draft board and defend my request for a waiver.”

Charles made the trip to Michigan and appeared before the board. Their denial of his request shocked him. “I didn’t understand why God allowed this to happen,” says Charles. “But I was determined to have some say in my military service. I applied for a commission and received it as a First Lieutenant. I wasn’t allowed to complete my residency, but entered the United States Army as a Captain.”

Initially assigned to two combat units as a Battalion Surgeon, Charles thought he would serve out his military commitment and then re-engage with his original plans.

Four months into his active duty service and assigned to a parachute unit, Charles faced another setback. “Just before my first jump, I shattered my ankle,” says Charles. Recovery and rehab took time, but eventually, healing came. Charles agreed to return to jump school, but he faced a spiritual test almost immediately upon his return. “At the beginning of the week, I learned that a 10-mile run was scheduled for Sabbath,” says Charles. “I believe in preventative action when it comes to requesting Sabbath observance. I had spoken to the commandant and asked to make

Charles made the trip to Michigan, appeared before the board. Their denial of his request shocked him.

the run at another time. I expressed my willingness to complete the run, but I would not do it on my Sabbath.”

By Friday, no word came about his release from the run. “I requested to speak to the commandant again,” says Charles. “I wanted to avoid causing embarrassment to anyone in front of a crowd.” A torrential downpour soaked Charles as he made his way to the 82nd Airborne Division’s Chief of Staff’s office. Sitting in the anteroom dripping wet, Charles reaffirmed his resolve to request to do the run another day. Soon, Charles stood before the commanding General.

“I was reminded that a refusal to follow orders meant a summary court-martial,” says Charles. “I asked if Chaplain Tiff Powell, an Adventist Chaplain at Fort Bragg, could be contacted. The Chief of Staff placed the call, but was unable to reach Chaplain Powell. The Battalion Chaplain was also unavailable. Finally, a Catholic Chaplain was found.”

Charles could only hear one side of the phone conversation. “When the Colonel hung up the phone, he told me he didn’t understand my church or my belief,” says Charles. “I responded that this wasn’t about the church, it was about me and my responsibility to God.”

Charles was told that on Saturday

“People with my personality type need to let go and let God have full control. Once I took that step of letting go, my career expanded rapidly.”

he should do whatever he had to do. “He then added that I would be informed of the procedure on Monday,” says Charles. “I didn’t report for the training run and fully expected to face trouble after the weekend. Nothing happened.”

Charles graduated from Jump School the day of President John F. Kennedy’s assassination. He still expected to face consequences for his stand. In January 1964, under a new Division Chief of Staff, Charles finally asked the question, “What happened?”

“Colonel Sayer said he wouldn’t explain in detail, but that we were going to war,” says Charles. “He told me people of integrity, convicted for their beliefs, and ready to stand for them were needed. He added that Adventists are good citizens and the Army needed officers willing to stand for what is right.”

Charles faced other times of testing over his Sabbath beliefs. In his 29 years of military service and nearly a dozen years of command, he never had to compromise his faith in the fulfillment of his military duties.

GOD WANTS YOU WHERE YOU ARE

Charles remained in the Army, but after a decade of service, he still had regrets about the mission post he had been unable to fill. “I expressed my thoughts to a conference president,” says Charles. “He responded he understood my disappointment, but had I considered that God had me exactly where He wanted me to be serving. At that time, I felt like God had turned His back on me. I have since come to realize that God knew precisely what He was doing.”

During his 29 years of military service, Charles cross-trained in three branches of service—Army, Air Force, and Navy. His service included 12 years in applied medical and bioengineering research and development in support of aviation and weapons technologies, 11 years of command and direct support of operations and five years for the United States Central Command in the Middle East, focusing on strategic medical planning and diplomatic negotiations.

Charles was awarded the Harry Moseley Award for the Most Significant Contribution to Aviation Safety by the Aerospace Medical Association for his contributions to develop effective fire-protective clothing and improve the fuel tanks on military helicopters. The standards developed for fire-protective clothing during his tenure are still used today for flight suit and race car suit designs. These standards are also a part of the federal flammability act that impacts hotels, infant, and children’s clothing and the clothing and fashion industry.

Upon presentation of the award, it was noted that Charles had saved more lives through his work in this area than he would have done through the practice of traditional medicine.

His work in medicine extended to



Actor Vince Vaughn, left, looks on as Charles Googe, center, and Dr. Charles Knapp, right, show two Congressional Medals of Honor given to Desmond Doss.

serving as a founding member and Board Chair of the Ashe County Free Medical Clinic, establishing Fitness to Witness, an Adventist Employee Wellness program based on what he learned in a residency under Kenneth Cooper, MD. He also directed Project ASSIST, the North Carolina State Tobacco Use Prevention and Reduction Coalition.

In 2002, Charles was asked to serve as chairperson of the Desmond Doss Council. After assisting in the making of the award winning documentary, *The Conscientious Objector*, he became the Council's Chairperson. He then served as a Consulting Producer for *Hacksaw Ridge*, the motion picture featuring Desmond Doss and his incredible story.

Although his career didn't follow the traditional medicine route, Charles reflects on a moment in a 1978 Southern Union Medical Dental

retreat. "Morris Venden was speaking, and something he said was like a thunderclap in my brain," says Charles. "People with my personality type need to let go and let God have full control. Once I took that step of letting go, my career expanded rapidly."

Charles has worked in 21 countries, far more than he could have ever entered as a missionary. He's sat on local community committees, on NATO and SEATO committees, met with heads of governments and high-ranking military leaders. Instead of looking to the past, he says his philosophy is about the present.

"I believe every day is a good day if I learn something new, strengthen and deepen my relationships, go to sleep saying I accomplished something that I started that day, and recognizing that without God I wouldn't have the health or the mind to accomplish anything.

National Service Organization— NAD DIRECTOR'S THOUGHTS



In 2 Timothy 4:1-5, the Apostle Paul challenges Timothy, his mentee, with several oratory lamentations. By this time, Paul had been preaching, baptizing, and raising up churches for several decades. He had been beaten, stoned, shipwrecked, reviled, and

revered all over the Decapolis and Asia Minor. He was approaching the age where men with Levitical responsibility were retiring. Physically tired, each tinge of pain from the thorn in his side reinforced in Paul's mind that he needed to empower a successor.

I was once a young chaplain. I had boundless energy, visions, dreams, and ambition. Then I learned how to listen to God. He gave me a different vision. I followed it, and God has given me the desires of my heart. I have lived most of my professional dreams, even to this very moment. I am at the top of my professional game. But, I am heavier than I was. I am bald and grey. At 60 years old, I realize that I have less time before me to do ministry than I have behind me.

Let me share and challenge you with five points that helped to perpetuate proficiency in my work.

1. PRAYER

I have learned how to pray without ceasing. It is a lifestyle, not an act. When you pray without ceasing, you wake up with a palpable feeling of the presence of God. You go through your day in a conversation with God. It is like traveling in your car in the presence of your spouse. When you are in sync, you don't have to talk perpetually to communicate. When you are in sync, you listen more than you talk.

Pray for peace. Pray for guidance. Pray for opportunities to show God's love. Pray for your family. Pray for your people. Pray prayers of thanksgiving, confession, intercession, petition, and submission. Oh, and occasionally, you may need to pray some prayers of imprecations against those who spitefully use you.

2. PERSISTENCE

Jesus said that the devil is like a roaring lion seeking whom he will devour. Will you be prayerful and persistent or prey? Work hard and faithfully. Do your best to be your best. Set high spiritual and personal goals, then be persistent in pursuing them. Don't live so focused on your desires, but on fulfilling what you know the Lord requires and has called you to be and do. Don't quit on God or yourself. Get strong in body, mind, and spirit. Set spiritual goals. Work to achieve them. Read books about great people. Think big thoughts. Why should any thought be small? Dream big dreams that require miracles to achieve.

3. PERSEVERANCE

This is not the same as persistence. Michael Jordan was persistent. Nelson Mandela persevered. The Syro-Phoenician woman was persistent. Joseph persevered. Perseverance happens when you know that you have a purpose higher than your current situation and with hope and positive regard for those who work around you, you slog faithfully through it believing and looking forward to the fulfillment.

4. PROVIDENCE

God is a reward. God rewards those who diligently seek Him. If you have not seen a miracle lately, it is not God's fault. Look for evidence of providence every day. Be open to the miracles that will happen to you.

A few months ago, my wife Debra and I were in Chicago on the Dan Ryan. We were going to the airport. I was in the right lane. A big 18-wheeler was on my left. I was boxed in. Traffic was moving steadily, but not fast. It had rained, and the roads were wet. Suddenly, I felt an incredible and immediate urge to stop and stand up. When we got back on the road, there was a traffic jam. About a mile down the road, we saw that the very same truck that had been beside me was now jackknifed and overturned. The urgency that I felt was providential.

Also, be open to the providence of being the miracle that someone else is praying for in their life.

5. PRAISE

The secret to all of this is having a spirit of praise. Don't forget to praise Him.

If prayer is the key that unlocks heaven's storehouse, praise is the bat signal that summons the presence of God. Praise is the dwelling place of God. Just as nature abhors a vacuum, another law of nature is that God inhabits the praises of His people. So, pray. Persist in your pursuit of faithfulness. Persevere through the tough times and praise Him all the time.



A RETREAT of BLESSINGS—

Okinawa Retreat for Service Members

“You’re my place of quiet retreat; I wait for your Word to renew me.”

Psalm 119:114
(MSG)

By Washington Johnson, III,
ACM/NSO Assistant Director, North
American Division

Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries (ACM) and the National Service Organization (NSO) sponsored a service members’ retreat from 9-11 June 2017 in Okinawa, Japan. More than 75 service members and their families attended the spiritual enrichment retreat.

Pastor Vincent Dehm, pastor of the Recreation Seventh-day Adventist Church in Baltimore, MD, served as the keynote speaker. His inspiring sermons and presentations emphasized the importance of forgiveness and prayer and were greatly appreciated by attendees.

The retreat began Friday afternoon as service members from across Japan and every service branch of the military traveled by ferry from mainland Okinawa to the YYY resort on Ie Island. After enjoying a

delectable vegetarian meal, participants assembled and were blessed by outstanding praise and worship music, followed by an electrifying sermon by Pastor Dehm. Attendees were spellbound as they listened to the pastor’s personal testimony of finding Christ and the joy that it has brought to his life and ministry.

Sabbath day activities began with a devotion on the beach presented by Chaplain Washington Johnson II, Assistant Director, National Service Organization, North American Division. As attendees watched the rolling tide on the beach extending from the East China Sea, Chaplain Johnson shared the narrative of Jesus calming the Sea of Galilee, and how He is still capable of calming any and every storm that we encounter in our lives.



Devotions on the beach, personal testimonies, Sabbath School and worship, and timely seminars rounded out a weekend on Okinawa for the NSO Pacific Region Retreat.

Following breakfast, Elder Henry Fordham III, President, Allegheny East Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, facilitated a dynamic Sabbath School discussion that emphasized the importance of the Sabbath, including the innumerable blessings received when this special day is celebrated by God's design. The retreat also included a special worship service for children, while adults enjoyed an inspiring Sabbath morning worship message from Pastor Dehm.

Retreat attendees were blessed with a variety of spiritual, family and life enriching seminars Sabbath afternoon from presenters, Dr. Joyce Johnson (Fruit of the Spirit), Elder Fordham (Mission stories from India) and Pastor Dehm (How to Get Your Prayers Answered). Sabbath evening culminated with a spirit-filled and audience-engaged sermon by Pastor



Dehm, on forgiveness. Several participants expressed the need for prayer in developing a spirit of true, authentic forgiveness. A prayer of dedication followed and completed the Sabbath activities.

As participants prepared to depart Sunday morning, strong expressions of gratitude and appreciation were shared, as well as eager anticipation of the next NSO Okinawa Retreat.

Special appreciation was extended to Chaplain John Hakanson, (CAPT), United States Navy, Marco Jackson, MGySgt, United States Marine Corps, Ret., and his wife Diane, the Okinawa

faith leaders who spearheaded the planning for the retreat. Their detailed planning, combined with warm, welcoming personalities, made the retreat a phenomenal success. Adventist service personnel from Okinawa and other parts of mainland Japan strongly affirmed the blessings the retreat offered, acclaiming like the Psalmist, “You’re my place of quiet retreat; I wait for your Word to renew me.” Psalm 119:114 (Message Bible)

Military service members and their families attended the NSO weekend retreat in Okinawa.

The NSO retreat provided a time of spiritual renewal, fellowship, and family time.



CHALLENGE COINS PRESENTED

By **CPO Willie Scott II, DFGL**,
Yokosuka, Japan Adventist Military Chapel Worship Group



DFGF Willie Scott II presented four challenge coins received during the Okinawa SDA Retreat on 9-11 June 2017 from Washington Johnson II, Assistant Director, National Service Organization-North American Division.

The coins were brought to Yokosuka and presented to the active duty military SDA members

of the group, or their spouses in their absence, on behalf of the National Service Organization-North American Division Leadership. As of January 2017, there are approximately eight active duty members of the group and some are on deployment. As they return from deployment, those members will receive the remaining coins.

Listen to me, you who know
right from wrong, you who
cherish my law in your hearts.
Do not be afraid of people's
scorn, nor fear their insults.

Isaiah 51: 7, New Living Translation



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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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“My conscience
is captive to the
Word of God.”

– Martin Luther



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