

Issue 4
2017

*A Journal for Seventh-day
Adventists in Military and
Public Service*

For God & Country





THE WORLD CHURCH SUPPORTS YOU

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Today, Seventh-day Adventists worldwide are serving God and country. This type of selfless service is not new. An early example of a follower of God is found in the life of Daniel. Even though he was taken captive and lived in exile, Daniel became the most important person in one of the largest and most powerful empires in the history of the world.

Today thousands of Adventists serve their nations by wearing the uniform of police officers, fire and rescue personnel, service members in defense of their counties, customs officers, and more. Just like Daniel and Esther, God has placed these men and women in positions not only to serve their nation,

but to serve God and their church.

And just like biblical characters, our Adventist brothers and sisters in uniform face many challenges to their faith and lifestyle. What are we, the church doing for them? How do we support them? Here is how.

The World Service Organization (WSO), a part of Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries, is the church entity that supports Adventists in uniform serving their countries. It is also the official representative of the church before military authorities.

The WSO produces this magazine, *For God and Country*. It provides practical information to help Adventists in uniform negotiate the challenges they face. WSO gives

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Just like Daniel and Esther, God has placed these men and women in positions not only to serve their nation, but to serve God and their church.

guidance on how to be faithful to God and be a witness in the workplace. The magazine is available in print and digital formats.

If you are an Adventist serving in uniform, you can create a profile in the WSO database and request support and resources from your church at all levels, including the Division and Union. You may also request a free subscription to *For God and Country*. WSO directors have database access to the names of the individuals in their region in order to support you.

During 2017, I had the opportunity to visit Adventists serving in the Malawi Defence Force. Lieutenant Colonel Noah Tsoka, an Adventist chaplain and pastor, serves as the Chief of Chaplains for Malawi's Defence Force. I had the privilege to meet his superior, the commanding general of the Defence Force. The general described the great work of Chaplain Tsoka. He also asked that our church provide a program for the sons and daughters of their soldiers.

In the afternoon, we visited the church members who are on active duty service in Malawi. Many of their families were also present. Adventist members are building a church on the

military base. The structure stands next to churches of other denominations.

Among the members, we had the opportunity to meet a Seventh-day Adventist who holds the rank of General and serves as the physician who oversees the medical department of the Malawi Defence Force. He also looks after the health of Malawi's president when he travels.

During a trip to Rwanda, we visited Adventists serving in the police force and military. Major General Gerome is the deputy chief for Reserves. He is also the elder in charge of evangelism for his church in Kigali.

To learn more about the ministry of the World Service Organization and to create a profile in the database, visit the two WSO websites listed below.

Adventists serving their countries in uniform are also involved in the mission of the church. I encourage all church leaders and members to support our brothers and sisters serving their nations and God. They are modern Daniel's and Esther's and "who knows whether (*they*) have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" Esther 4:14 (ESV) (Emphasis supplied.)

ADVENTISTSINUNIFORM.ORG
WORLDSERVICEORGANIZATION.ORG

ADJUSTING THE FOCUS OF YOUR CHRISTIAN LENS



By Chaplain (Major-promotable) James Hall, US Army, M.Div, D.Min.

During our service as Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Coast Guardsmen, Marines, Firemen, Law Enforcement Professionals, or Public Servants, we as Seventh-day Adventist Christians often find conflict with the earthly and the heavenly realm. Indeed, one could express the Christian dichotomy as “be in the World, but not of the World.”^{1, 2} Part of that dichotomy is the debate on how we can be faithful to an earthly boss, and still maintain our spiritual integrity. This is truly an ethical debate for every Christian and very important to those who serve in uniform or public service.

ROLE MODELS WHO WALKED THEIR TALK

The best answer to our ethical dilemma is found in the pages of Scripture. As one surveys the Bible, there are many opportunities to see where patriarchs and other biblical characters were found in faithful service to their earthly master (boss). The patriarch Joseph is a great example of someone who did not deserve any of the punishment he received. However, he redeemed the tribe of Israel and the Hebrew race from possible death by famine. Revealing the downline effects of the integrity and loyalty to his boss, Joseph is a remarkable study in faithful

service to even a foreign pagan boss (Potiphar) while maintaining spiritual integrity. Joseph, in fact, is a type of Christ as he portrays the suffering servant and redeemer of his people. What a phenomenal example for any servant of God to follow! Joseph was put in a place for a certain mission.

There are other examples as well, including Esther, Daniel, Naomi, and the enduring love story of Jacob and his faithfulness to Laban in order to win the hand of Rebecca (Joseph's mother). Arguably, Joseph was called by God in order to be the man who saved his people. He definitely sounds like a Messianic type.³

It seems best to ask the question: "What made these Bible characters heroes/heroines of the Bible? How and why were the evil characters, like Balaam or Ahab, different?"

Ephesians 6:5-8 instructs us not to just pretend like we are loyal and faithful: "not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart."⁴ The crux of this passage is "the heart," and I believe this is the core of the ethical debate about service to our earthly boss and maintaining a heavenly attitude.

Our heart must be convicted of two things: Christ is always first in our lives. Second, we must be faithful to our calling into this particular form of service. These two critical components of our Christian walk serve to give us direction and hope, especially when we are in a crisis of faith and have to decide

between faithfulness to the boss and maintaining spiritual integrity. The heart must be converted and following God's plan for our lives.

LET THEM TALK

Secular work is important to God. We are witnesses in whatever capacity we are in as Christians. We should endeavor to be of the utmost in integrity and ethical behavior when working. We are a "sermon in shoes" one might say. Whether we are a man or woman there are many different ways of influencing our coworkers and our supervisors for Christ without preaching a word. We should endeavor to develop a lifestyle so remarkably ethical that the people we work with will be eager to let us talk about what makes us different.

In their book *Your Work Matters to God*, Douglas Sherman and William Hendricks write:

*The key to bringing the culture and the church back together, to renewing the workplace and reforming the church—may well be a movement of people who are known for their hard work, for the excellence of their effort, for their honesty and unswerving integrity, for their concern for the rights and welfare of people, for the quality of the goods and services produced, for their leadership among coworkers—in short, for their Christ-likeness on and off the job. What could an army of such workers accomplish?*⁵

Our heart must be convicted of two things: Christ is always first in our lives. Second, we must be faithful to our calling into this particular form of service.

We should adopt the Eastern concept of allowing our values, our beliefs, and our witness to be subtly visible in our workplaces.

WORK AS WITNESS

It may be difficult to see sometimes, but our work in the secular world can often be a form of evangelism. The prophet Daniel was called to labor in a field that was a stark contrast to his religious beliefs, as well as his cultural upbringing. But the results of Daniel's witness had dramatic effects on the largest kingdom in the area—Babylon. Arguably, the most important influence he made occurred centuries later after his life ended. The Wise Men who sought to follow the Messiah came from the region where Daniel lived as a captive. As a captive, Daniel evangelized the areas of modern day Iraq and Iran because of the stories of his faithfulness and loyalty to the God of Heaven—our God.

There is definitely a time and place to overtly witness, but if you're picturing Billy Sunday sliding across a platform as he calls on the crowd to convert or burn in Hell, then that may not quite be what God asks of us. Our evangelism is more the work we do, and more importantly how we do it. Paul wrote in Colossians, "And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ."⁶

ADJUSTING THE LENS

With the Lord as our focus, everything filters through the lens of Christianity in our lives. Christians in the workplace should be motivated

by our desire to glorify God and to inspire others to desire to know him. People who engage in their work and perform well are uncommon, and it will be noticed by our colleagues and clients or patients when we do so.

When the United States Army trains on cultural awareness before a deployment or exercise in the Middle East, the instructor highlights a major difference in Western and Eastern thought. As Westerners, we compartmentalize our lives. We have work, family, play, and church. Each one is done separately for the European or American—and none of them should ever touch! On the contrary, Easterners (Christ and the Apostles were Easterners) have a more fluid approach where religion and religious practice is a thread that flows through everything. If I'm pushing a broom, I'm doing it for God. If I'm programming a computer, then I also am doing it for God. We should adopt the Eastern concept of allowing our values, our beliefs, and our witness to be subtly visible in our workplaces.

DO YOU HAVE HEART?

God is honored when we strive for excellence. Add the components of care, competence, engagement, and consistency, and



we make an indelible impression on our supervisors, customers and those who work around us. We are called as Adventists to care about the welfare of our clients and give them consistent excellence. To do less would be breaking the Golden Rule.

Heart is where it's all about. As Ephesians 6:5-8 reminds us, we should do the will of God with our hearts engaged. Then we will be able to serve God first and man in the best possible way.

¹ John 15:19

² Philippians 2:15

³ *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 239-240

⁴ Ephesians 6:6, NKJV

⁵ Sherman, Douglas and Hendricks, William. *Your Work Matters to God*. Colorado Springs, Colorado: NavPress, 1990.

⁶ Colossians 3:23-24, NKJV

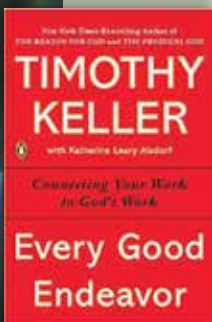
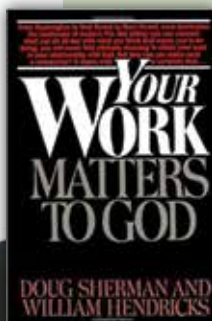
RECOMMENDED READING:

Online

- Strueker, Jeff, *Going to War as a Christian*,
<http://jeffstruecker.com/2011/going-to-war-as-a-christian/>
- *The High Calling Workshop, Modeling Christ in the Workplace Through Work Well Done*,
<https://www.theologyofwork.org/the-high-calling/blog/modeling-christ-workplace-through-work-well-done>
- Hillman, Os, *Four Types of Christians in the Workplace*,
<http://www.intheworkplace.com/apps/articles/default.asp?articleid=12851&columnid=1935>
- Brown, Gregory, *How to Glorify Christ in the Workplace*,
<https://bible.org/seriespage/21-how-glorify-christ-workplace>

Books

- Sherman, Douglas and Hendricks, William. *Your Work Matters to God*. Colorado Springs, Colorado: NavPress, 1990.
- Keller, Timothy. *Every Good Endeavor*. New York: Penguin, 2014.





ARE YOU STARVING

Did you know that less than 50 percent of Adventists spend time in prayer and Bible study? If you aren't engaged in daily, personal Bible study and prayer, your spiritual life is in famine. This makes it almost impossible for you to share the good news of the gospel with others around you.

USE THE RIGHT TOOLS

Choose a translation of the Bible that you are comfortable reading. As you consider the many different versions, ask yourself if you are seeking something for devotional reading or serious and deep Bible

study. Bible versions, such as The Clear Word and The Message are better suited for devotional reading, while the New International Version, the New King James Version, and other translations are regarded as study Bibles.

Commit to reading a certain portion of the Bible every day. It may be a chapter or two. If you aren't sure where to start, choose any of the Gospels—Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John—and read through one of them.

As you read, think about what is happening in the story. Imagine the sights, sounds, smells, and setting of what is taking place. Who are the main characters? Who plays a

If you aren't engaged in daily, personal Bible study and prayer, your spiritual life is in famine.

supporting role? What would you be doing if you were in the scene that is taking place?

During your Bible study time, don't forget to spend some time talking to God. Let Him share in the things that may be weighing heavily on your shoulders. Ask Him to help you see what the Bible passage means for you in today's struggles. Also, ask Him to put someone in your path with whom you can share what you learned.

TELL SOMEONE YOU KNOW

You've read your Bible. You've prayed and asked God to help you to witness about Him to others. How do you start a spiritual conversation with another person? There are many ways to begin, but an easy one is to listen to what others are saying about current events. Many people are worried about the future. They are unsure about what is happening in their world. Use that opening to talk about the hope that you have, even when it seems as though the world is plummeting out of control.

Remember this isn't a time to give a rundown on all the doctrines of the church. It's a time to lay a foundation of helping a person to know Jesus first as a friend, and then as a soon and coming Saviour and King.

If the conversation turns to questions that you don't have answers for, don't panic. Admit it up front. Tell your friend you will spend time finding an answer for them. Better yet, suggest that once you learn the answer, you'll be happy to study it together so they can learn the answer for themselves.

BE BOLD

In Acts 4, Peter and John overcame their fear following the crucifixion of Christ. As they were witnessing to the people, a number of priests and Sadducees indignantly confronted them, arrested them, and had them thrown in jail.

The next morning Peter and John were brought before the group. They were grilled about what they were preaching. Instead of cowering, Peter and John boldly stood for their faith. They told the leaders that they weren't going to hide their love for Jesus. It was a time to be bold and proclaim Jesus for who He was—the risen Saviour and coming King.

Today, we are telling others the same message. It's time for us to be bold in our beliefs. As Christians, we have a message to tell our world. Who will you tell?

This article is reprinted from For God and Country, Issue 2, 2011.



THE BETTER CHOICE

By Major Lauren Bell, United States Army
with Deena Bartel-Wagner

At 13-years-old, Lauren Bell knew that she would follow in her father's footsteps. Following her father's example would test Lauren and make her into a leader of peers.

"My dad was career military, and it was the only life I'd ever known," says Lauren. "When I was 11-years-old, my parents made a pivotal decision. They became Seventh-day Adventists, and everything changed."

Changes in lifestyle don't always come easily. For pre-teen Lauren, this new-found faith and belief system caused both internal and external

struggles. "I clearly remembered what life was like before our family joined the Adventist church," says Lauren. "Even though the changes in our family were positive, my personal journey was rocky. I was very rebellious, and my spiritual life had ups and downs."

GOD'S CALL, MY REBELLION

After leaving home to attend college, Lauren seriously considered her future. "I began to realize that God had a calling for my life," says Lauren. "Rebellion was still a part of my makeup, though, and I wasn't

United States Army Major Lauren Bell (second from right) serves with the United States Army Signal Corps.
(Photo Credit: William B. King, 5th Signal Command (Theater))





Lauren Bell (left) with her son, Aaron, and daughter, Laura.

“REBELLION WAS STILL A PART OF MY MAKEUP, THOUGH, AND I WASN'T WILLING TO HEED GOD'S DESIRE FOR ME.”

willing to heed God's desire for me.”

While attending Morgan State University in Baltimore, Maryland on an ROTC scholarship, Lauren grew intellectually and honed her military training. Her spiritual life continued to face ups and downs. Upon graduation, Lauren entered the United States Army Signal Corps (USASC) as a Second Lieutenant.

FILLING THE LEADERSHIP ROLE

The USASC is responsible for developing, testing, providing, and managing communications and information systems support. “I have a degree in Information Systems, which provided the technical background that I needed for my position,” says Lauren. “As an officer, I don't install equipment and systems. My role is to oversee the technicians and the work they do. Our job is

to provide communications to the Warfighter. We work with the setup, infrastructure, and maintenance of radio, computers, data, and Internet.” Lauren's work with the Army has taken her to Fort Huachuca, Arizona; Iraq; Fort Gordon, Georgia; Fort Bragg, North Carolina; Afghanistan, Korea, and Germany.

One aspect of leadership that Lauren believes is crucial is molding a unit to be its best. “A unit is what the people in it make it,” says Lauren. “You see people at both their best and their worst. I try to focus on the traits people need to develop positively.”

Having served stateside and in international locations, Lauren observes that overseas assignments have a marked effect on unit bonding. “All we have is each other in these assignments,” says Lauren. “This makes the unit tend to draw closer together.”

Lauren spends time in prayer for her unit members because she believes that God works in their lives and she places her Soldiers continually in His hands. “Some of my greatest joy comes from emails that unit members send me thanking me for the impact that I've had on their lives,” says Lauren. “It's rewarding, but I know that those changes have come through God's answers to my prayers.”

"I NEVER SAW MYSELF AS A LEADER, BUT NOW I AM, AND IT IS ONLY THROUGH GOD'S WORK IN MY LIFE THAT I'VE BEEN BROUGHT TO THIS PLACE."

SINKING SPIRITUAL ROOTS DEEPER

Lauren knows that connecting with fellow believers plays a vital role in personal spiritual well-being, especially when you are far from home and family. "During my first deployment in Iraq, I was at a Forward Operating Base (FOB) and was fortunate to have a group of Adventists to worship with during that time," says Lauren. "In Afghanistan, there had been a group, but it closed just before I arrived."

As an officer, Lauren makes it a point to meet with other Adventist service members. Interacting with chaplains to learn about fellow Adventists is one way she locates fellow believers.

"I remember the struggles that I had when I was a young Lieutenant. It's important that they know someone in leadership is an Adventist. I realize that I am in a position with some influence," says Lauren. "When I meet other Adventists, I encourage them to attend the Sabbath services and to spend time with other Soldiers who share their beliefs."

Sharing her own story of struggles and victory are part of Lauren's outreach to others. "There have been ups and downs on my walk, both professionally and spiritually," says Lauren. "I absolutely know that there were times that my career could have ended, but God intervened and blessed me with more responsibility. I never saw myself as a leader, but now I

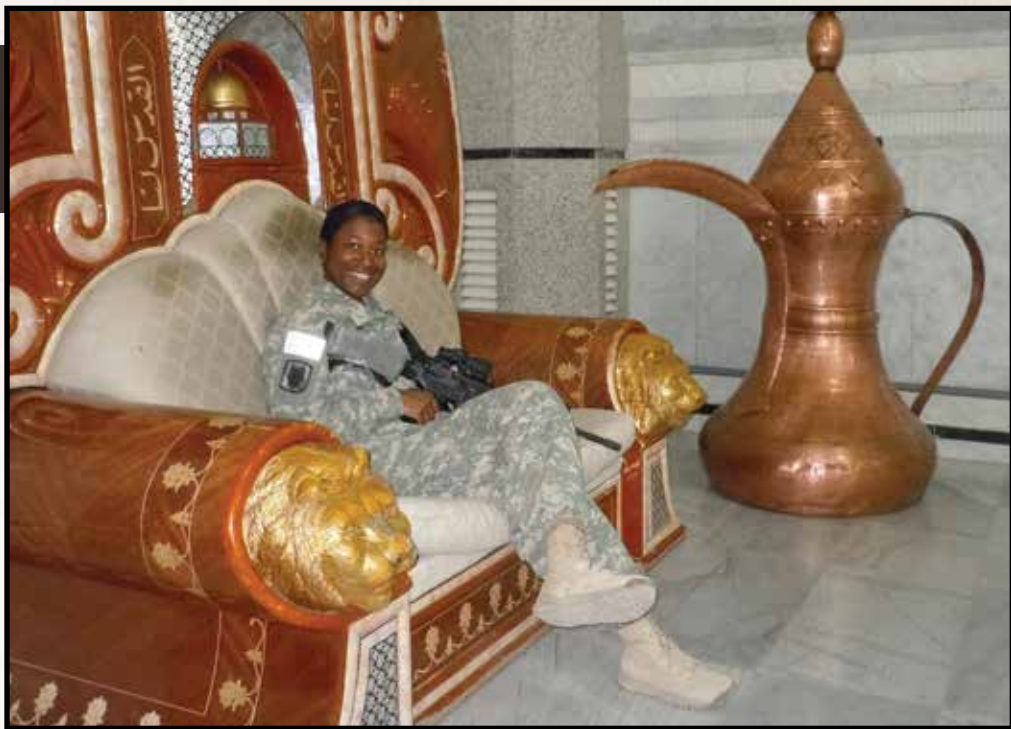
am, and it is only through God's work in my life that I've been brought to this place."

If it's possible for Lauren to make a difference, she wants to have that kind of impact on others' lives. "When you are working your job, it's easy to become caught up in what's going on around you," says Lauren. "I believe it's important to remind young Adventists that they need to stay true to what they know and not become sidetracked by other influences happening around them. Staying true is easier said than done. If I can keep others from making some of the mistakes I made, I'm willing to share the story of my journey with them."

COMINGLING ARMY AND FAMILY RESPONSIBILITIES

As a parent of two children, deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan were difficult. "Leaving your child behind and going to a country at war is difficult," says Lauren. "Although I'm not a combat arms soldier, that didn't make the separation any easier." During those times apart, Lauren continually prayed for her children.

As children become old enough for school, that growth brings different dynamics to the family unit. "When my assignment is in the United States, my children attend Adventist schools," says Lauren. "One of the biggest adjustments for my daughter when we moved to Germany was no longer being able to attend an



Lauren takes a break during a busy day in Iraq.

Adventist school. Kids are resilient, and they learn to adapt. I'm grateful that today both my son, Aaron, and my daughter, Laura, are doing well academically and emotionally."

LOWS AND HIGHS

Throughout her military experience, Lauren navigated both personal lows and highs. "My lowest point came when a close personal relationship failed," says Lauren. "I hit rock-bottom emotionally, but clung to God for support and assurance."

The experience to travel the world and meet new people and see new locations ranks high as a positive aspect for Lauren. "Germany has been one of my best tours to date," says Lauren. "It's been a great job and work location. And, my children are

sharing the experience with me."

Another high point is the opportunity as an officer and a Seventh-day Adventist that Lauren has had to share her faith with other leaders. "When it comes to my faith, I've been upfront and honest about my beliefs and what my convictions and values mean to me," says Lauren. "Fellow leaders have been receptive to what I've shared with them."

Contemplating how God has led and directed her life, Lauren feels humbled by the evidence of God's influence in her family's life. "When I've been at rock-bottom, I realized I had a choice," says Lauren. "I could choose to do my own thing. Or, I could choose to trust God and give everything over to Him. Letting Him lead is always the better choice."



THAT OTHERS MAY LIVE

By Larry Scott,
Angel Search and Rescue, Pittsylvania County
with Deena Bartel-Wagner

Growing up in southern California as a third generation Adventist, Larry Scott learned early about service to others. As a young adult, a love for off-roading and a desire to help others created the perfect combination for Larry to devote his talents to a lifetime of service in Search and Rescue.

Army Life

In 1964, Larry chose to enlist in the United States Army. “My draft



Larry and his dad shared the common experience of military service in the United States Army.

number was coming up, and if I enlisted I would have more choice in what work I would do,” says Larry. “I chose to be a part of the U. S. Army Security Agency (ASA). Basic training took me to Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri.” Larry further honed his skills at Fort Devens, Massachusetts, with advanced training in Morse code and other job-specific communications applications.

The ASA existed between 1945 and 1976 and was responsible for Army communications security and electronic countermeasures operations. Tasks included monitoring and interpreting military communications of various nations, including the Soviet Union and the People’s Republic of China.

With training complete, Larry shipped out to Okinawa where he would spend almost four years immersed in radio work. He rounded out his enlistment in a secret location in Warrenton, Virginia.

“While I was stationed in Virginia, I took full advantage of the Servicemen’s Center located in



Left: A 4-wheel drive pickup led Larry and Dianne into serving in Search and Rescue.

Below: Larry and Dianne owned an active ambulance business providing service in four cities.



Takoma Park, Maryland,” recalls Larry. “Every weekend I would go there and worship at the Takoma Park Adventist Church.” This haven was a welcomed break from daily Army life.

A 4-Wheeler, A Meeting, A Direction Change

Upon discharge from the Army, Larry returned to California and began working as a telegrapher for the railroad. For recreation, and time off, he purchased a 4-wheel drive truck. In February 1970, while attending college, Larry met a girl named Dianne. They married in November and began their life together.

After a move to a new location, Larry attended a meeting for an off-roading club. The presenter was from the Sheriff’s department and spoke about the department’s Search and Rescue teams and the work that they do for the local community. “As soon as I heard about this, I knew it was something I needed to do,” says

Larry. “My wife and I joined the team. We studied to become Emergency Medical Technicians, along with other search and rescue training.”

Larry continued his work with the railroad and Dianne began working for a local ambulance company. The Scotts eventually bought out the owner of the ambulance company and began to expand their base of operations. “We eventually covered four cities with 52 employees,” says Larry. “At the same time, we continued our work in Search and Rescue.”

The Search and Rescue team seemed to stagnate at around 10-12 members and this troubled Larry. “One day I was driving, and I began asking God how we could grow a stronger team,” says Larry. “During that two-hour drive, I began to see

“During one club meeting, a guest speaker changed how I saw my vehicle and the way in which I could utilize it.”

the entire plan that He was laying out for me. I became convinced our biggest hurdle to retention was the lack of room for advancement. We needed to divide into various teams, and appoint team leaders, who would become staff officers.”

Larry shared this vision with others, and it was soon implemented. In two years, the team grew to over 50 members, with specialists in climbing, a dog team, ground search, a 4-wheel drive team, ground support, and EMT's. Additionally, they worked in concert with the Sheriff's Department, which provided an aero squadron, horse teams, and dive teams.

“Giving responsibility and allowing individuals to become more specialized in their area of interest increased morale and commitment,” says Larry.

Some of the team's busiest response times came during holiday weekends. “Our coverage area included Pismo Beach, which attracted dune buggy drivers,” says Larry. “Alcohol typically ran freely during these events. And, of course, alcohol and driving are a bad combination.” The response team

Larry was a co-founder of the Pittsylvania County Angel Search and Rescue team.

would set up a base camp about two miles down the beach and respond to emergencies in the area. In 1971, *LIFE* magazine covered what people do on vacation, and one of the spreads featured a photo of crowds on the beach, including the Search and Rescue command post.

New Roads to Navigate

Although Larry had no plans to leave southern California, another guest speaker piqued his attention. “This time the guest speaker was at my church,” says Larry. “Dr. Agatha Thrash told about the field school of evangelism. My wife and I were sitting in opposite parts of the church, but looked at each other and knew we had to attend. We went to Uchee Pines Lifestyle Center in Seale, Alabama fully intending to return to southern California to teach others what we learned.”



“My wife and I were sitting in opposite parts of the church, but looked at each other and knew we had to attend.”

Once Larry and Dianne completed their training, Wildwood Lifestyle Center in Wildwood Georgia asked if they would come and work there instead of returning to California. “Dianne studied massage and became a Lifestyle Counselor. She also managed the Country Life Restaurant in Chattanooga, Tennessee,” says Larry. “I worked in the Lifestyle Center, and eventually became Personnel Director.”

Search and Rescue Startup, Part 2

Through a circuitous route in various other positions, Larry eventually returned to Virginia. “Shortly after we moved to Danville, I read an article in the local paper about a man who wanted to start a search and rescue team,” says Larry. “With my background and training, I was immediately interested.”

A local man afflicted with Alzheimer’s wandered off in the community. Without an organized search and rescue team, he was not found during the immediate search. Eventually, his body was found the next summer.

“I met with Barry Wood, the person who started the push with the newspaper article,” says Larry. “We began organizing the Pittsylvania County Angel Search and Rescue. Barry had a paramedic friend who was killed in a Life Flight helicopter crash, and the name was in memory of him. Using the same organizational methods that he’d implemented in

California, Larry and Barry saw the new team grow to 50+ members. “Our funding came from private donations, and our team grew through the commitment of local volunteers,” says Larry. Gaining the best and most current training was part of Larry’s model of working with his team. He is a certified in Search Management and trained in Community Emergency Response teams, both at the county and city level and currently serves as a member at both levels.

A Community Service Mindset

In addition to Search and Rescue, Larry serves as the Adventist Disaster Response coordinator for his local church. As a Red Cross disaster volunteer, he responded to the aftermath of Hurricane Andrew in Florida and oversaw the cleanup in his hometown of Danville, Virginia following Hurricane Fran. He’s an Amateur radio operator (N4XNI) and a member of AARAI. His knowledge and expertise are also shared with the Angel Search and Rescue the Board of Directors.

His 39 years spent serving others in his local community fills Larry Scott with a feeling of satisfaction for a job well done. He’s worked as an EMT, done ground search rescues, served as a tracker, and worked as a search team manager. It all began with a 4-wheel drive truck, a chance meeting hearing two guest speakers, and a desire to help others.



The GRANDPARENTS' Influence

By Darrell Johnson, United States Marine Corps, Veteran with Deena Bartel-Wagner

Seventeen-year-old Darrell Johnson stood ramrod straight with his right hand raised. His dream was coming true. Taking the oath meant that he would become a United States Marine. Filled with a hope of how he would help his mother

and siblings, Darrell believed his future was only going to get better.

Clarice, Darrell's grandmother, often said to him, "Darrell, you are someone special." Her words of encouragement would be a lifeline when Darrell felt like his life was falling apart.

A PLACE OF REFUGE

"I was raised by my grandparents, Bill and Clarice, until I was twelve-and-half years old," says Darrell. "Their home was a place of security, and they instilled in me a sense of self-value and worth. Their training also formed the core of my character which developed into a desire to help others."

Bill also taught Darrell how to be a man. "I come from a family of veterans," says Darrell. "A member of my family served in every war this country has fought in. My grandfather honed a sense of duty and pride in my character and life. I knew that eventually, I would join the list of family members who served in the military."

RETURNING HOME

When Grandpa Bill died, the sense of security shattered and Darrell had to move back home with his parents and siblings. As the oldest of six children, Darrell grew up fast when he returned home. "I had to be the adult," says Darrell.

Darrell's father was a boxer and made some poor choices that would affect himself and his family for years. "One of my greatest desires was to help my mother and brothers and sisters move out of low-income housing," says Darrell. "They needed a better place to live and to get away from the neighborhood influences."

Darrell didn't forget the lessons that his grandfather taught him. When he had the opportunity in 9th grade to join the Junior Reserve

Officer Training Corps (JROTC), Darrell signed up immediately. The core tenets of citizenship, leadership, character development, and community service appealed to the teenager. During a time when Darrell needed to work through his anger and confusion, JROTC became a lifeline of discipline and meaning. He excelled in the program and continued to pursue his dream of military service.

"By this time, I had a goal of entering the Marines for a 30-year-career," says Darrell. "Joining the Marines was a calling, not just a duty. When I turned 17, I filed a petition to become emancipated from my parents. This allowed me to enlist in the Marines."

DREAMS REALIZED AND UNFULFILLED

Seeing his dream begin to take shape, Darrell moved through basic training with confidence. He was upbeat that everything was going to work out exactly as he had planned. Then, the unthinkable happened. "I received a devastating injury that ended all hopes of a military career," says Darrell. "This crushed me in ways that I couldn't begin to understand. I didn't have the tools to deal with the feelings that rose up in me. I struggled with feeling dishonored. I felt I let the Marines down. My life felt unfulfilled."

A NEW CAREER

And yet, the memory of Clarice's words that he was someone special

Her words of encouragement would be a lifeline when Darrell felt like his life was falling apart.

whispered through his mind and thoughts. Forced to take a different tack, Darrell decided to pursue a criminal justice career. His military training proved to be an asset as he worked in law enforcement and security settings.

“One of my first law enforcement positions was with the New Hanover County Sheriff’s Department,” says Darrell. “The sheriff knew my grandparents. He told me that he knew what kind of home I’d been raised in and the love that they’d extended to the community. Having my grandparents’ contributions to my life and the community recognized in that way was very meaningful to me.”

YOU HAVE THE RIGHT . . .

During his time with the Sheriff’s Department, Darrell knew that it was possible that one day he’d be faced with arresting his own father. “I was fresh out of Police Academy when a call came in,” says Darrell. “I knew the address, and I

knew that someone in my family was going to be at that address.”

All of his training kicked in when Darrell arrived at the scene. He maintained his objectivity and professional demeanor. “I patted down my dad, handcuffed him, and read him his rights,” says Darrell. “Through it all, my dad was trying to comfort me. He kept telling me not to show any weakness because I was among wolves. Just before the patrol car door shut, my dad turned to the sergeant and said, ‘Take care of my boy.’ In his own way, he was trying to protect me.”

WHAT MORE CAN I DO?

As he progressed through various positions and agencies, Darrell continued to feel the desire to serve others in ways that would change their lives for the better. “During my time as a North Carolina probation officer, I was fortunate to participate in a pilot program that served as a re-entry and post-release program for offenders,” says Darrell. “The program provided



As he progressed through various positions and agencies, Darrell continued to feel the desire to serve others in ways that would change their lived for the better.

job readiness training, social welfare services, mental health care, drug rehabilitation programs, and transitional housing placement. We saw about an 80 percent success rate, and that was rewarding.”

One of the cases that haunts Darrell still today involved a young man whose poor choice derailed his life. “Devaughn* was ready to get married,” says Darrell. “His fiancé was a nurse, and they had a baby on the way. He was bright and took his circumstances for granted. Devaughn got involved with a gang of guys who were bad news. One night, they raped and murdered a young girl. So many people were affected by these bad decisions.”

HEALING THE WOUNDS

Although Darrell was successful in his law enforcement career, he continued to feel unfulfilled. With his desire to help others, Darrell decided to study to become a chaplain. “As you train to become a chaplain, one of the programs you take is Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE),” says Darrell. “CPE is kind of like boot camp where they break you down and then build you back up into a stronger, healthier person. It teaches you to have a range of resilience and resistance.”

During his CPE internship, Darrell worked at a Veterans Administration hospital. The

experience finally brought closure to some of the long-held feelings Darrell experienced following his discharge from the Marines.

“I felt a sense of community when I worked with the veterans,” says Darrell. “Being able to serve them and tap into some of their issues helped me to deal with my feelings of loss. This helped me to reframe my life issues.” It was a time of bonding with other vets and a time of healing.

Today, Darrell Johnson exhibits the foundation that his grandparents built in his life. Their influence brought him through difficult times. The Marines prepared him to be a husband and father in ways he never imagined. “God sent my wife Sharon into my life at the time I needed her most. I need her in my life like I need fresh air,” says Darrell. “She is stable, well-balanced and Christ-centered. We’ve faced a lot together and raised our beautiful children.”

The power of praying family members testifies in the life of Darrell Johnson. “My grandmother was a tiny thing, just four feet two inches tall. My grandfather was six feet eight inches tall,” says Darrell. “Whatever their stature, their prayers and guidance in my life not only affected me but generations to come. They showed me a God who loved me and will never let me go.”

FAIR WINDS & FOLLOWING SEAS

Editor's Note: These excerpts are from the life written by the family of Chaplain David Girardin. You can read them in their entirety and view a legacy video of his life at AdventistChaplains.org/index.php/acm-news/remembering-chaplain-david-girardin/

David Walter Girardin, born July 9, 1951, fell asleep awaiting the second coming of our Lord, just before 6 a.m. on November 3, 2017. He was peaceful; his family was surrounding him and *Talk to the Shepherd* (Buddy Houghtaling) was playing in the background. This was after an eight-month courageous battle with cancer.

David was born in Detroit, Michigan to Anna Didyk Girardin and David Louis Girardin. He served 30 years in the United States military, primarily the Navy, under the mantra—"Lord, let me live by the side of the road so I may be a friend to all." He is remembered for his chaplaincy ministry in the U. S. Navy (retired O-6), pastoring Seventh-day Adventist churches in Minnesota, hospital ministry across the nation, and pastoral care and counseling. His dedication, hard work, faithfulness, humility, leadership, and integrity are some of the characteristics that others will remember of him. He has impacted



more people than he ever realized.

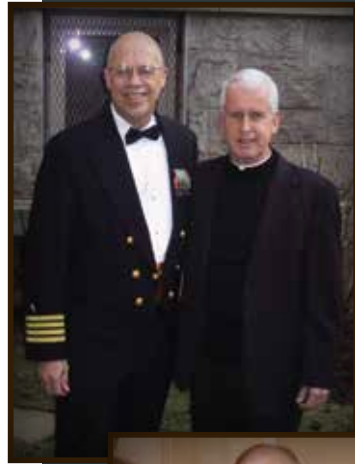
David was an adventurer who was passionate about scuba diving, traveling, hiking, shooting with Norfolk County Rifle Range, HAM radio club, leading out in AWANA youth group, and serving with the Virginia Defense Force. He loved providing for his family, taking care of the house, and cutting the grass at home and at the church. His bucket list demonstrates his spirit of adventure. Some items include: hiking

the Camino de Santiago with his best friend—Harvey Prather, going sky diving on an upcoming birthday, taking his wife on a trip to Niagara Falls, and taking his family on a scuba diving trip to the South Pacific island of Niue. His family plans on fulfilling each of these bucket list dreams for him.

David's faith in Jesus, despite the winds and the waves of the last eight months, was strong. He claimed the promise of Psalm 40:1-3. "I waited patiently for the Lord; he inclined to me and heard my cry. He drew me up from the desolate pit, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure. He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise for our God. Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the Lord." As an ordained pastor of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, his last sermon spoke about the spiritual growth through adversity. His favorite song, "We Have This Hope," speaks to the family during this new chapter.

David is survived by his beloved wife, Barbara White Girardin, married just over 41 years, with many cherished memories, adventures, and faithful ministry together. David is also survived by his two children, David John Girardin and Emily Grace Girardin and her husband, David Snuffer. He was a faithful and loving husband, a devoted and adventurous father, and committed friend, pastor, and leader.

David's extended family will also miss him greatly including his treasured sisters—Diane Joan Girardin McKeen, Jane Marie Girardin Costello and her husband Ray, Wendy "Pooh" Baker Orford and her husband David, and his brothers-in-law Douglas Howard White, Walter Hackett White and his wife Miriam.





DÉJÀ VU or PROVIDENTIAL AFFIRMATION

Have you ever seen something in a dream, then later viewed the exact thing you had dreamed about?

Have you ever gone somewhere that you had never been, but viscerally felt that you had been there before? Joel 2: 28 says, “And it shall come to pass afterward, [that] I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions.” Recently, I was at Loma Linda University. While there, I strolled up to the cottages where the statue of Ellen White talking with Willie White and John Burden is strategically placed. Near that very spot is where Mrs. White declared that she had seen this promontory in vision four years earlier.

She urged them to move forward with the purchase of the acreage believing that “the Lord had not given



us this property for any common purpose.” With 2017 in the history books, we all could probably reflect on some of the dreams and visions that we have been afforded. Can we mark them as completed, or, will our pursuit require a few more years?

Everything that exists began with a vision. The fulfillment requires focus, passionate pursuit, diligence in development, and perseverance over time. Still, dreaming persists. Dreams for the World Service Organization in North America in 2018 include:

- 1.** To hold a World Service Organization-North American Division Advisory for each Conference and Union Designee.
 - a.** Representatives who attend will be invited to work on building a roster of people in their territories who are working as both in the military and as civil servants.
- 2.** In the years to come to sponsor, perhaps in conjunction with PARL, a conference/networking event for Adventist Civil Servants.
- 3.** Develop a cohort group to provide training and support to those serving.
- 4.** Facilitate a weekend retreat to fête and honor civil servants and military families serving in the United States.

Personally, I dream and purpose that in 2018, I will rehabilitate my left knee, lose and maintain a 25-pound reduction in my girth, run and complete at least three 5Ks. I am still watching the prices on previously owned Tesla's, too. Now if I can do it, surely...

But, my dreams don't have to be your dreams. What are you dreaming lately? What visions has God placed within your heart? I have learned to yoke my dreamscaping to my prayer life. I have invited some of you to pray with and for me as I pursue them.

The Lord does not give us dreams for merely common purposes, but to stretch and strengthen our faith and to enliven our testimony. The Loma Linda Campus was secured with \$1,000 dollars. It is worth billions today. What is God calling you to invest your ministry of self and substance in this year?

Stop being afraid. Move forward!

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Paul S. Anderson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping loop at the end of the last name.

GUIDANCE FOR DAILY LIVING IN 2018

The World Service Organization–North American Division (WSO–NAD), a functional chapter of Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries (ACM), provides complimentary subscriptions of Seventh-day Adventist church publications to active duty military church members. This service has been available for more than 50 years. As always your comments and suggestions on ways we can provide timely support of religious materials for your personal use are welcomed.

The complimentary subscriptions include:

- *Adventist Review*
- *Adult Bible Study Guide*
- *For God and Country*

Two journals of choice from the following:

- *Guide*
- *Liberty*
- *Message*
- *Our Little Friend*
- *Primary Treasure*
- *Signs of the Times*
- *Vibrant Life*

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 WSO–NAD provides.

WSO–NAD seeks to be good stewards of these funds. Keeping

SUBSCRIPTION ORDERS NOW ACCEPTED ONLINE

TO ORDER SUBSCRIPTIONS AND/OR DEVOTIONAL MATERIALS:

1. Visit AdventistsInUniform.org to log in to your personal profile. *If you do not currently have a profile, click on the Sign Up button to begin the process.*
2. Once you open your profile, click on the **Resources** tab in the left-hand column and select two (2) magazine titles, in addition to *For God and Country*, *Adult Bible Study Guide*, and *Adventist Review*.

You can also order devotional books, in this section. If you have any difficulties establishing your profile, contact the webmaster at ACMEditor@gc.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 AdventistsInUniform.org online profile.

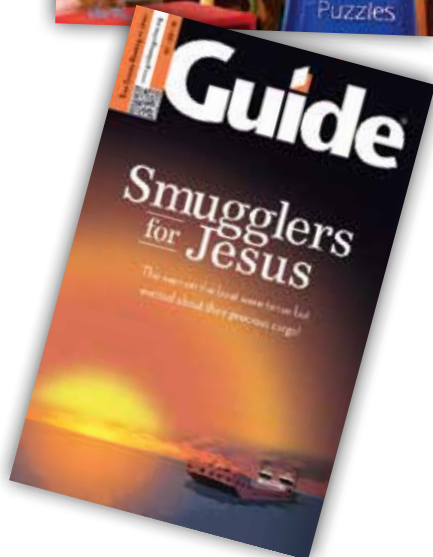
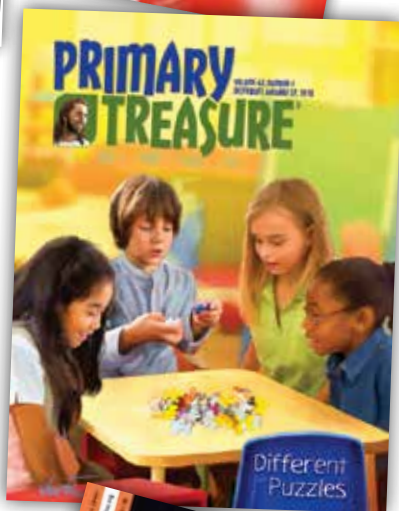


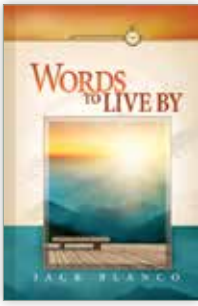
mailing lists current and ensuring that magazines are delivered is a part of that stewardship. Your understanding and cooperation will greatly assist WSO to provide effective support for you while you are representing your church and serving your country.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

To be eligible for WSO-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 Adventist active-duty military personnel
- 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

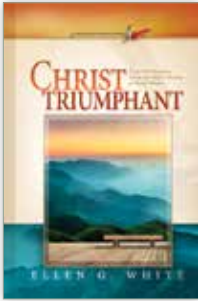




ADULT *Words to Live By*

Jack Blanco

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ADULT EVENING *Christ Triumphant*

Ellen G. White

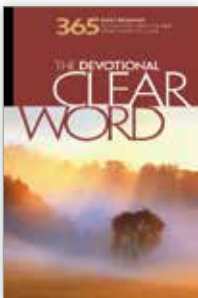
An inspiring and instructive devotional that covers the principal doctrines of the Christian faith, all of which are centered on the work of redemption through the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. May we never forget that the Word of God is light and truth. It is able to guide every step of the way to the city of God. Hardcover, 978-0-8280-2827-1



WOMEN *Notes of Joy*

Carolyn Rathbun Sutton, editor

Notes of Joy is full of stories that celebrate the beautiful bond shared between the heavenly Father and you, His precious daughter. This daily devotional book for women shares that lasting joy is only found through Christ. Listen to His *Notes of Joy* today!



The Devotional Clear Word

Jack Blanco

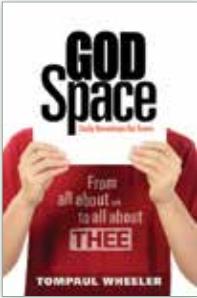
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JUNIOR/EARLITEEN *What If?*

Bradley Booth

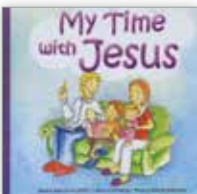
This Junior devotional draws lessons on the importance of obedience, kindness, courage, and prayer—and shows how making poor choices can lead to serious consequences.



PRIMARY *Talking With God*

Sueli de Oliveira & Marta Irokawa

365 daily devotionals to give children a successful start to their day.



PRESCHOOL *My Time With Jesus*

Maria Augusta Lopes, Lisa Figueiredo, and Paulo Sérgio Macedo

Teaches children the importance of high ideals and good choices for their future life.

DEVOTIONAL BOOKS

Adventist active-duty military personnel are eligible to receive a free devotional book, courtesy of the World Service Organization–North American Division and Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries. Guidelines for eligibility are noted on page 27. Single service members, as well as other employee categories listed on page 27 may choose **one** free devotional. Married service members may choose **two** devotional books. Order these online in your personal profile at AdventistsInUniform.org.

If you would like to purchase additional books, contact WSO for pricing. You will place your order online. We are currently unable to process online payments. Checks should be made payable to World Service Organization and sent to the National Service Organization at the address shown at the bottom of the page.

- ☐ **JUNIOR** – *What If?*
- ☐ **TEEN** – *GODSpace*
- ☐ **YOUNG ADULT** – *Calling*
- ☐ **PRIMARY** – *Talking With God*
- ☐ **PRESCHOOL** – *My Time With Jesus*
- ☐ **WOMEN** – *Notes of Joy*
- ☐ **ADULT** – *Words to Live By*
- ☐ **EVENING** – *Christ Triumphant*

MAGAZINES

Each year NSO-NAD sends Adventist active-duty members and select government employees who meet the eligibility guidelines a one-year subscription to two magazines. Order these online in your profile at AdventistsInUniform.org. You are automatically eligible to receive the WSO publication *For God and Country, the Adventist Review, and the Adult Bible Study Guide*. Additionally, you may choose two free subscriptions of your choice from the following:

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- ☐ *Our Little Friend*
- ☐ *Primary Treasure*
- ☐ *Signs of the Time*
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FOR GOD AND COUNTRY is published by the World Service Organization (WSO), a chapter of Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries (ACM). It is mailed free of charge to Seventh-day Adventists who are involved in military and public service. Digital copies can be downloaded from AdventistsInUniform.org.

To be added to the mailing list, e-mail the editor or call 301-680-6785. Comments and/or articles are welcome and should be sent to the editor at acmeditor@gc.adventist.org. Include your full name, complete mailing address, telephone, e-mail address, and current digital photos with all submissions. Items submitted by mail will not be returned unless accompanied by a self-addressed stamped return envelope.

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

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"It is not what a man does that determines whether his work is sacred or secular, it is why he does it." — A.W. Tozer



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