



Dear Friends of Chaplain Ministries: I frequently get a comment that goes something like this: *“I’m so sorry to hear about the restrictions your chaplains have in the military. It must be tough to serve these days.”* Various media articles, blogs and news accounts feed this point of view. My standard response is, *“Don’t believe everything you read or hear! Our chaplains boldly proclaim Christ!”*

Chaplains serving in secular civilian or military environments certainly experience unique challenges, but serious restrictions of the Christian faith is not one of them. Our Constitution’s First Amendment declares that every America has “free exercise rights” in regards to worship and that there will be “no establishment” of religion. Chaplains are employed in the military so that every troop can worship freely. Two important words are critical to understanding how chaplains deal with religious freedom in the military: ***Perform and Provide*** (the Navy speaks of “*Provide and Facilitate*”).

A chaplain “***performs***” when he preaches, teaches, counsels, marries, buries, and leads in sacramental activities according to his faith-group tenets. In our case, the Bible and the Westminster Confession of Faith guide our chaplains. In fact, I ***endorse*** chaplains with the expectation they will faithfully do all their ecclesiastical work in accordance with our reformed standards.

A chaplain “***provides***” when he assists other faith-groups find meeting rooms, provide lights, pianos, chairs, and helps them find a clergy to help them enjoy their “free exercise” rights. The chaplain, however, does not “perform” religious support for them.

The wonderful thing is that when our chaplains “***perform***” religious support, they do it with complete liberty! No one can tell them what to preach, teach, pray, or how to counsel...and chaplains of all faith-groups have the same rights. It is remarkable that we have this privilege of serving troops with such openness.



Speaking of chaplains about to “***perform***” in war, please pray for David and Kathryn Gilleran. Dave is going with his VA National Guard unit to the Middle East to serve any and all who might cross his path. Pray, too for his Virginia church as they press on with serving their community in his absence!

Chaplains Earl (Susan) Vanderhoff (L) and Kyle (Laural) Brown (R) enjoy a Kodak moment. Pray for them as Earl is recuperating from 3 major surgeries and Kyle is also about to be deployed to a war zone. Their “***performance***” of the reformed faith has touched hundreds of lives over the years.



Thank you for your faithful prayer support for our chaplains who “***Perform and Provide.***” Your prayers are vital to their ministries! Along with the Apostle Paul may you say, “***With this in mind we constantly pray for you, that our God may count you worthy of his calling....***” 2 Thess. 1:11

In Christ,

Douglas E. Lee
Executive Director, PRJC



Dear Friends of Chaplain Ministries:

The 250+ chaplains and Chaplain Candidates (seminarians) plus almost 50 applicants of the PRJC are a fast-moving group! They're getting their citizenships, seminary degrees, ordinations, promotions, moving their families, getting married...not to mention they are ministering to the thousands of Airmen, Soldiers, Marines, Guardians, Sailors, and civilians all across the world. Here are several vignettes of some recent happenings in your military chaplains' lives. Stay tuned for some civilian chaplains' reports in the future. Your faithful prayer support and giving is helping these young men make a difference!

Rev. Timothy Lee is a member of the Korean American Presbyterian Church and just became a US citizen on February 5, 2009! The other good news is that he has applied for the Army Active Duty Chaplaincy and hopes to be selected very soon. Timothy also has the distinction of being a missionary in the Middle East for many years and speaks and writes fluent Arabic! He has a deep love for America and is eager to serve, – especially anyplace where Arabic is spoken.



Chaplain Thomas Eddy (rt.) is our newest Lieutenant Colonel. Here he is on the day of his promotion with his Commander, Major General David Morris of the US Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations Command (USACAPOC), Fort Bragg, NC (the Army Reserve Command which has suffered the most casualties of any Reserve unit in the Army). Thomas has served in several key positions – and this current assignment keeps him busy caring for the chaplains and Soldiers of the USACAPOC

The chaplain second from the left is the just-newly ordained **CH (1LT) Bryan Walker**. He was a Chaplain Candidate while studying at Covenant Seminary and this picture was taken on the day of his ordination. To his left is CH Doug Lee (Ret)...to his right is soon-to-be ordained **1LT Ken Conklin** (Covenant grad) and **CH (CPT) Chris Weinrich** (Covenant grad at Ft. Hood, TX).



Thank you for your dedicated interest in our current and soon-to-be chaplains. Your prayers are vital to their ministries! *“Pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message....” Col. 3:4*

In Christ,

Douglas E. Lee
Executive Director, PRJC

Dear Friends of Chaplain Ministries:

Army chaplain Bruce Sidebotham, deployed to Iraq, writes to his Soldiers about courage from 1John 4:18, *There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear.* He says:

Terrorists achieve their objectives through publicity and fear. The antidote to fear is love. Love for country helps soldiers risk their lives. Love for children enables parents to discipline them without being intimidated. Love for us took Jesus to the cross. Love for enemies will give courage to face, overcome, and transform them and the environment that breeds them. When we hate, we are reactive victims. When we love, we seize the initiative.”

What a great verse and thought for a new year! This new quarter of chaplain reports is like a breath of fresh air in a musty room...you will read how our chaplains help our military personnel, hospital patients, businesses, prisoners and families cope with the many fears surrounding them. You will see how their intense love for each individual is making a difference in reducing fear all across America and far-away places. They seize the initiative as they love!

As you enter 2009, fear may be on your mind, too - fear of losing your retirement savings, fear of where our newly elected government will take us, fear for problem children, fear of the work of the devil in the world...but take heart...perfect love casts out fear! John Calvin says this about I John 4:18:

“...the Apostle only teaches us, that when the love of God is by us seen and known by faith, peace is given to our consciences, so that they no longer tremble and fear.” (Calvin’s Commentary, Vol 22, p.247).

May God’s perfect love and peace reign in your life in 2009...and may fear be gone!

In Christ,



Douglas E. Lee
Executive Director



Dear Friends of the PRJC,

The Armed Services are full of talented, dedicated chaplains from many faith-groups. I am partial, of course, but I believe our chaplains are some of the “cream” that has risen to the top of each of our Service Chaplain Corps. We have PRJC chaplains serving in very strategic places throughout the military.

One of our senior PRJC chaplains, Chaplain (Colonel) Tom MacGregor, was asked to pray at the annual D-Day remembrance in France. As he stood before the President of the USA and the leaders of France and Britain, not to mention hundreds of veterans, he gave a powerful invocation that was very appropriate for that solemn occasion:

Our Gracious and Loving Father in Heaven,

We ask for the blessing of Your Presence on this significant event that touches the lives of the Families and Citizens of the Grateful Nations here represented. Magnify Yourself this day as we pause to fittingly remember those men and women who paid the ultimate sacrifice for the freedom of France and the Allied nations during the Second World War. Truly, this is sacred ground for it holds the remains of those Hero Warriors whose dreams were cut short and who have entered their eternal rest. Many cried out to You as they breathed their last, many seeking help from Him, Who, alone, is the Resurrection and the Life.

O God, salve now the hearts of those who mourn; grant them Your comfort and peace. Temper the memories of those whose loved one perished in horrific conflicts at sea and on these bloody fields of battle so many years ago. Lovingly support the Family members and Friends who grieve the loss of a loved one, both past and present. Help each of us to look ahead to that grand and glorious day when You shall return; the dead shall be raised; loved ones be rejoined once again; and all wars shall cease. O God, speed the day of Your coming, we ask!

Guard, this day, the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen of our several Nations who fight for liberty and the freedom of oppressed peoples. Grant each a special measure of Your Presence, Protection, and Abiding Grace. Indeed, Yours is the Kingdom and the Power and the Glory, forever! In Jesus' name, Amen.



Thank God for faithful chaplains and for His engagement in this world! Thank YOU for your faithful prayer and financial support as we “*Catch, Credential and Care*” for our chaplains!

In Christ,

Douglas E. Lee, Executive Director

Dear Friend of Chaplain Ministries,

“Are you related to General Robert E. Lee?”



Believe it or not, that was the #1 question I was asked as a Brigadier General in uniform. I expected questions like “What’s it like to be a *chaplain* in time of war?” or “How does a chaplain counsel a soldier who has just taken a life?” or other questions related to current Army issues. Now that I’m retired, I still get that question!

However, a replacement question is rapidly rising in my new roles as a Coordinator and Executive Director, “***What do you do?***” I tell people that I

“Catch, Credential and Care”

“*Catching*,” of course, is recruiting new men to serve in the “high adventure” role of military or civilian chaplain. I am happy to report that over 55 men are currently in the application process!

“*Credentialing*” is ensuring these men meet denominational and government standards for their particular chaplaincy. Education is critical, and so is physical and spiritual fitness.

“*Caring*” is the most important thing I do! Our chaplains are highly trained, Godly, professional men who give of themselves day after day. They pour themselves into the lives of others... and do so with intensity that would exhaust the most dedicated Servants of Christ. Our Chaplains need care!

As I “*Catch, Credential and Care*” I wear two hats. One is the “Mission to North America, Coordinator, Chaplain Ministries” hat. The other is “Presbyterian and Reformed Joint Commission on Chaplains and Military Personnel (PRJC), Executive Director.” The latter role includes five other Reformed and Presbyterian groups. When you put them all together we have close to 260 military and civilian chaplains across the world with whom I am engaged.



As I said, my most important job is “Caring,” and that is where I need your help!

Throughout the years your generous gifts and earnest prayers have enabled Chaplain Ministries to enjoy the “personal touch.” Year after year, our chaplains comment on how much they appreciate the visits of my predecessors, Bill & Helen Leonard and Dave Peterson...or the encouraging counsel of Beryl & Carolyn Hubbard and Stan Beach. They also are deeply indebted to Gary Hitzfeld, my Executive Assistant, for his engaging and dedicated work of keeping in touch with each of them.

This kind of care demands dollars for traveling, for lunches and dinners with chaplains and spouses, for individual counseling and training events.

Our chaplains need even more, however, if they are to minister effectively in a post-Christian world. If we had the resources, we could engage in these additional **“Care Commitments:”**

- Host “Recovery Retreats” for chaplains and spouses returning from war.
- Plan special training events to keep them connected to their churches
- Provide scholarships for seminarians planning on being chaplains
- Provide Reformed books and resources to help them grow spiritually
- Provide Reformed literature to hand out to troops around the world
- Host “New Chaplain” retreats so our newest servants get a good start

Our current budget is \$350,000 for 2009. But, if we could raise \$100,000 more we could begin to do some of the ministries mentioned above. A regular gift of \$25, \$50, \$100, \$500...or a large gift for one of the above **“Care Commitments”** ...would be a tremendous blessing to our committed chaplains.

No matter what hat I am wearing, I am humbled at the generosity of Chaplain Ministries friends. There are hundreds of worthy ministries out there and knowing you are behind us is intensely gratifying. Thank you for your faithfulness as we **”Catch, Credential and Care!”**

Oh, by the way... I am not related to General Robert E. Lee! My Scandinavian roots cannot claim any tie to that illustrious heritage!

In Christ, **“...for He cares for you.”** *1 Peter 5:7*



Douglas E. Lee, Endorser

January 2009

Dear Pastor:

I am humbled to be the new Executive Director of MNA's Chaplain Ministries and Executive Director for the six-denomination PRJC. The opportunity to assist in the "Catching, Credentialing and Caring" for chaplains in the military, Veteran's Hospitals, Federal Prisons and numerous other kinds of chaplaincies is thrilling. Our men serve with distinction and are found in significant places of leadership in all these places.

There is no question that our chaplains serve in a missionary capacity. As appropriate, they seek to boldly proclaim the Gospel as God opens up opportunities. As Air Force chaplain Glenn Grisham put it,

"One of the great privileges of being a Chaplain is the ministry of counseling. A young Airman came to my office and poured out his heart. His marriage is in great distress. He has had issues at work and has hit bottom. He was raised in a Christian home, but since leaving home to join the Air Force, he has not been active in his faith. As we talked, I questioned him about his faith and he readily acknowledged that he knew that he needed to return to the Lord. He said he was ready; he had to make a change. So I asked him if he wanted to do it right then. He hesitated a moment and then said, 'Yes.'"

I am always looking for opportunities to share chaplains' stories with our congregations. Would you consider asking me (or one of our super chaplains) to come and speak to your church during 2009? Over the years we have:

- Participated in Missions Conferences
- Spoken in worship "Missionary Moments"
- Taught Sunday School Classes
- Shared at men's events
- Provided pulpit Supply
- Spoken at events related to national holidays

I'm a phone call or email away...as is my Associate, Gary Hitzfeld. Hope to hear from you soon!

Sincerely, in Christ,

