

THE ADVENTIST Chaplain

January-April 2007



ACM CALENDAR

January 7-11, 2007

Adventist Ministries Convention,
Tucson, AZ

March 8-10, 2007

Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division ACM Advisory,
Johannesburg, South Africa

March 18-22, 2007

West-Central Africa Division ACM Advisory,
Abidjan, Ivory Coast

April 26-May 1, 2007

Seventh-day Adventist Healthcare Chaplains
Association Conference,
Burlingame, CA

May 18-22, 2007

Seventh-day Adventist Military-related Chaplains
Association Conference,
Silver Spring, MD

September 2-5, 2007

Southern Asia-Pacific Division Chaplains Congress,
Bangkok, Thailand

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THE ADVENTIST CHAPLAIN is a quarterly publication of Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries, the chaplaincy services department and official endorsing agency of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

This newsletter is distributed worldwide to chaplains, institutions, church leaders and others involved in chaplaincy. To be added to our mailing list, call us at 301-680-6780. This number may also be used to let us know about Adventists who are in the U.S. military or those who are attending public colleges and universities. Articles, comments, photographs and questions are always welcomed!

Quoted Bible verses are taken from the New King James Version, unless otherwise noted.

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The ACM Committee – We Do It All for You!

By *Martin W. Feldbush, Director
Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries*

Many of you will remember McDonald's 1975 advertising slogan, "We do it all for you!" That could very well express the work ethic of Adventist chaplains committed to helping others. For that matter, it also captures the dedication of our ACM Committee members. A



Marty Feldbush



Don Schneider



Ted Wilson

talented group of people representing the General Conference (GC) and the North American Division (NAD), they meet with your ACM leaders at least six or seven times each year in support of what our chaplains and chaplaincy leaders are doing in the field. Without them and the ecclesiastical endorsements they vote, most of you would not be serving where you are right now. Gary Councill and I are known in the pastoral care community as endorsers, but in fact we process, manage, implement and monitor the endorsements this group of men and women vote. We owe them a debt of gratitude.

What is the work of the ACM Committee? The job description, or terms of reference, of the ACM Committee stipulates six core responsibilities:

1. Advise and oversight for the GC/ACM Department in its work with the ACM Departments in the division territories.
2. Advise and oversight for the NAD-based work of the department in coordinating chaplaincy in correctional, educational, healthcare, military-related and volunteer settings.
3. Serve as the ecclesiastical endorsing committee for NAD, supporting the department as recruited, screened and nurtured for chaplaincy and related ministries.
4. Serve as operations committee for NAD-based military-related ministry, including operation of the overseas Adventist Military Support Centers.
5. Work with ACM leaders in reviewing fiscal needs and making budget recommendations to GC and NAD treasuries.
6. Serve as a strategic visioning/planning committee for ACM Department work in all division territories of the church.

Occasionally a subcommittee will be tasked with a specific responsibility; one such is functioning currently. That is the subcommittee on revising endorsement policy and procedures. Nik Satelmajer, GC Ministerial Association, and Carolyn Forrester, NAD Associate Secretary, are working with

Gary Councill and me on this important task about which you'll soon hear more!

You've probably heard the old joke about a committee being the unwilling led by the incapable to accomplish the unnecessary; nothing could be further from reality in the case of our committee. You've read the description above – does it sound like the unnecessary

to you? Remember that most of you can work where you do because of the work of the ACM Committee! I can vouch that the committee is certainly not the unwilling. In fact, we are currently experiencing the highest consistent level of attendance and participation in all my years with ACM. And, as for capable talent, one only needs to look at our membership. We are a unified joint committee serving both GC and NAD, so our co-chairs are Ted Wilson, GC Vice President and Don Schneider, NAD President, and our Vice Chair is Ernie Castillo, NAD Vice President. Members come from GC and NAD, including Vern Parmenter and Carolyn Forrest (GC and NAD Secretariat); Steve Rose and Ken Osborn (GC and NAD Treasury); John Fowler and Gerald Kovalski (GC and NAD Education); Kathleen Kuntaraf and DeWitt Williams (GC and NAD Health Ministries); Jim Cress (GC Ministerial); Gary Swanson (GC Sabbath School and Personal Ministries); J. Alfred Johnson (NAD Adult Ministries); John Graz and Hal Thomsen (GC and NAD Public Affairs and Religious Liberty); Hiskia Missah and James Black (GC and NAD Youth). All division ACM Directors are members of the committee and will attend when in Silver Spring. ExOfficio members include Jan Paulsen (GC President); Matthew Bediako and Roscoe Howard (GC and NAD Secretary) and Juan Prestol (NAD Treasurer). Our legal advisor is Todd McFarland from the GC Office of General Counsel. It is my privilege to be the Secretary of the committee, and for Gary Councill to be the Assistant Secretary.

I trust that the list above didn't read like the "begats" of a biblical genealogy, but I do want to portray the depth and breadth of the committee membership, along with their job description.

McDonald's hasn't said "We do it all for you" for over thirty years, but your ACM Committee still lives it out every day. The committee exists only because you are there. We do it all for you!

A close-up photograph of a man wearing a highly detailed Roman-style helmet with a large, upright plume of white and brown feathers. The helmet is made of polished metal, likely brass, and features a prominent triangular crest on the front. The man's face is partially visible through the helmet's visor. He is wearing a blue tunic with red accents and gold-colored metal plates. The background is a soft, out-of-focus sky with a warm, golden light, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall composition is dramatic and emphasizes the texture and detail of the armor.

Putting On The Armor Of God

By Deena Bartel-Wagner

A good story always has some behind-the-scenes action. Dick Stenbakken's journey from serving as a military chaplain to his current passion of portraying Biblical characters in correct period dress has some amazing behind the scenes action that are definitely God-led.

"I was stationed at Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri and Christmas was coming," recalls Stenbakken. "My command chaplain called me in and said he wanted a Christmas program for our chaplains and assistants that wasn't a repeat of past years. What could I do but say, 'Yes sir!'" Stenbakken began to pray and do some research, finally settling on the idea of using a first person sermon by Fredrick Speakman, a noted Presbyterian preacher, portraying the Christmas story through the eyes of Jesse, the innkeeper in Bethlehem, who is telling his story to Luke. At first he considered using a dramatic reading but as Stenbakken says, mission creep began to take over. "I decided that I could dress up as Jesse to do the dramatic reading. Then I thought that perhaps I should tell the story as if I was Jesse, instead of just reading it," recalls Stenbakken with a chuckle. When the final production was complete, Stenbakken discovered he enjoyed the process and the results amazed him. "I had one chaplain tell me he had experienced Bethlehem that night. Then I was requested to repeat the program at two worship services for the troops the next day." During the presentations, Stenbakken noticed that the young soldiers were leaning forward in their seats, enthralled with what they were witnessing.

"I eventually became convinced that the Lord was trying to tell me something," says Stenbakken. "Telling biblical stories in first person is a very powerful way to present the gospel. This is especially important in today's society which is so audio-visual oriented."

Stenbakken didn't move into full-time acting after his portrayal of Jesse. He continued on with his military chaplaincy work and retired as a full colonel after 24 years of active duty. Following his military career he served as the Director of Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries at the General Conference for 14 years. During that time he continued to research historical background, collect props, design costumes and get into the heads and skins of his characters. His collection of theatrical beards, first-century Roman signet rings, coins, and other props has grown along with his repertoire of characters, which now exceed 60 different biblical people (with more in the works).

He makes all of his own cos-

tumes, including the first century Roman Centurion armor that he says is, "accurate from the brush on the top of the helmet to the hob-nail pattern on the sandals."

Stenbakken also had the opportunity to hone his skills as he presented various characters to a broad audience, including youth groups; senior leadership meetings for the Army Chief of Chaplains, and Army-wide staff; prayer breakfasts at the Pentagon; Bible study sessions for the US Senate; major health-care organizations; leadership conferences; college campus settings; and a diverse variety of military and civilian congregations of many denominations across the US, Canada, Africa, India, Asia, Europe, Japan, and Germany.

"I am fortunate to have a background of education and training that allows me to make this work," says Stenbakken. "One of the keys is to make sure I've done a solid job in research. My stories are well studied and theologically accurate and the costumes and props support my presentation because they are historically correct. However, none of this would work if everything that is presented weren't saturated in prayer. I spend a lot of time turning this over to God and asking Him to lead me."

Stenbakken relies on his experience from the first presentation he did of Jesse back at Ft. Leonard Wood for his structure of the Bible characters he portrays today. "I don't memorize a script for what I do in these stories," says Stenbakken. "I make an outline and have an idea of what I'm going to say. I know the facts and then intertwine those with dialogue. This allows me to have total and continuous eye contact with my audience and that is crucial."

As his work has grown, Stenbakken has been humbled in the ways God has opened avenues of reaching people in ways that he couldn't have dreamed of when he was researching Jesse, the innkeeper. "The presentations are available on three sets of DVD's for people to view in their homes. Additionally, I've had opportunities to be involved with Hope TV, Trinity Broadcasting Network, LifeTalk Radio, Faith For Today, and recently shot an eight part TV series with Shawn Boonstra, at It Is Written."

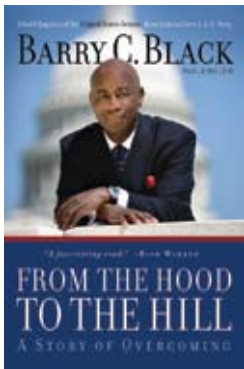
Richard Stenbakken may portray over 60 Biblical characters but his desire to share Jesus has one hope. "I make these characters come alive with the desire that as people see them in a new light it will be the beginning or the continuation of a personal journey with Jesus." With that as his desire, Stenbakken will continue to tell stories and share Jesus in a way that reaches young and old alike.

For more information on the DVD's or Stenbakken's ministry, check out his website at www.dickstenbakken.com.



Adventist Chaplains Are Published

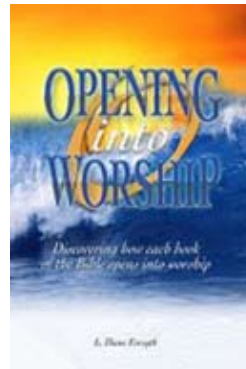
Adventist chaplains are sharing ideas they have learned in their ministry and personal growth with others through the written word. Three chaplains who currently have books available include Barry Black, Diane Forsyth and Larry Black.



From the Hood to the Hill is the story of how a young boy, who grew up in the ghettos of Baltimore, eventually found himself serving lawmakers in the United States Senate as the first African-American Chaplain of the United States. You'll read of a mother's love and the poverty and discouragement of ghetto life. Through his career decision to become a minister and Navy Chaplain, Barry Black chose to commit his life to leading others in a Godly

manner. The book takes readers through Black's life and career and shares lessons he's learned along the way. *From the Hood to the Hill* is available through the Adventist Book Center and various online booksellers.

Opening Into Worship is Diane Forsyth's third book. Through this book the reader is challenged to examine and experience worship through the individual books of the Bible. Forsyth encourages readers to discover how



each book in the Bible opens into worship, the theology of worship and making worship their own experience. Forsyth's book can be ordered through her website at www.charistis.org.

Larry Black is an active-duty Navy chaplain currently assigned as Staff Chaplain at Portsmouth Naval Hospital. His book, *Discontentment: Being Content is a Discontented World*, directs the reader to a holistic

approach of reaching contentment. Black writes about the step-by-step process of trace, erase and replace that can be used to reach a state of contentment. The holistic process has been clinically tested and proven effective as a self-help tool, which can be used, by professionals or laypersons. The book is available through the Potomac Adventist Book Center, 1-800-325-8492 or through www.amazon.com and www.bn.com.



ACM Welcomes Dina Muldoon

by Martin W. Feldbush, ACM Director

From the streets of San Salvador, capitol of beautiful El Salvador, Dina Guzman Muldoon has come to Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries. There were other places of employment en route, but Dina's Latin heritage and fluency in Spanish is a definite plus in an office serving a world field. We welcome Dina to the Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries family!



Dina's primary responsibility is providing administrative assistance and support for Gary Councill, ACM Associate Director/Military Endorser. She brings a variety of skills from an employment background that included stints with Control Data, an

investments firm and the General Conference Ministerial Association. She enjoys working at ACM and is learning as much as possible about military-related matters. Dina also assists Chaplain Councill with his campus-ministry related duties and other tasks.

Dina Muldoon is married to Brian Muldoon, Planning Specialist for the Howard County, MD Transportation Department. They are members of the Beltsville, MD Seventh-day Adventist Church. They also have two sons; Brian, a university student and Joshua, a pastor in the New York Conference. Dina's hobbies include gardening ("That's what really relaxes me!") and sewing. We're pleased to have Dina as a new staff member at Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries.

Ministry Kit Developed for Public Campus Students

Imagine yourself a young adult, eighteen or nineteen years old, away from home for the first time attending a large public university. Your dorm-mate is not a Christian and whose lifestyle makes it hard for you to have a consistent devotional life. Some of your professors espouse views that undermine Christian beliefs and values. Some labs or tests are scheduled for Saturday. Of course, prime athletic and social events occur during Sabbath hours. Sooner or later, a year or more of such persistent attack in this kind of spiritual warfare is bound to find a point in the defense lines of even the strongest Christian student. Adventist youth need our support during their student years.

For a variety of valid reasons Adventist youth attend public colleges and universities. Sometimes the courses they need are not offered at Adventist schools. "It's estimated that between 60,000 and 70,000 Adventist students attend public colleges and universities in the United States," reports Gary Councell, associate director of Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries (ACM). "They represent the leadership and stewardship base of the denomination fifteen to twenty years from now. Out-of-sight, they are often out-of-mind by the churches, and soon they are out-of-touch and out-of-church; not because that is their intent, but often distance and absence makes the heart grow fonder of other interests. The spiritual life imperceptibly slips into casual, then careless neglect."

For nearly fifty years a similar kit, the NSO Bible Kit, has proven a positive factor in creating a caring link and/or communicating a sustaining link between the Church and its members in uniform. Pastors and chaplains present a Bible

kit to the young adult entering the military and have a special dedicatory service and prayer for him or her. The Bible kit is the opening key to a host of other support literature and services provided by the denomination for those serving in the Armed Forces. This plan has worked so well that it could be adapted for students in public schools with similar results.

The kits for college students contain a modern translation of the *Bible, Steps to Christ* by Ellen G. White, a subscription to *Dialogue* magazine, a change of address card and CD of church resources for students.

Imagine the impact on a young adult in your family or church, if the pastor arranged for a brief, but special dedication service before he or she departed for a public college or university. The pastor commends the student, challenges them to be a faithful witness, offers a prayer for them and presents them with a Student Bible Kit.

To further help young adults on public campuses, a Campus Ministries Leader Kit is available for student leaders who are establishing ministry programs on their local public college or university. These backpack kits include *The Serendipity Bible; Steps to*

Christ with study guide; *AMICUS Handbook; 27 Fundamental Beliefs; Reaching College Students through Cells; Friend to Friend; Jesus in Blue Jeans; 12 Dynamic Bible Study Methods; Searching for a God to Love* with study guide and *The Path* with workbook. The kit also contains a CD with suggestions on how to use the materials as well as logos and other materials.

The Student Bible kits are available through AdventSource, 1-800-328-0525 or at www.adventsource.org. Requests for Campus Ministries Leader Kit should be made through the Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries office.



ACM Directory Now Online STAYING IN TOUCH

The new ACM Directory was recently added to the department's web site (www.adventistchaplains.org). The new directory lists only individuals who are endorsed and serving in one of the chaplaincies or related ministries. It contains only professional contact information for each chaplain, with no home or family information included.

In the past, ACM published a hard copy directory that was out of date before it came from the press. The new directory, however, will always be up to date as long as each endorsed chaplain maintains his or her entry in the private database. Each chaplain will be able to create a password and access his/her entry in the database, in order

to update the entry with new or changed information. A "filtering" process will then allow only the public contact information to be automatically updated in the online directory.

The directory is now operative and the database access system will soon be functioning. The key now will be for all endorsed chaplains to help us by keeping their database entry current. Your feedback is important and needed to help us maintain and improve these systems, and to create new ones in order to support you better.

THE ADVENTIST Chaplain

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*Without faith, nothing is possible.
With it, nothing is impossible.*

Mary McLeod Bethune