



FRONTLINES

“...A ministry to those who serve our nation.”

Published by Presbyterians Caring for Chaplains and Military Personnel representing the sponsoring Churches

Cumberland Presbyterian Church

Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America

Korean Presbyterian Church Abroad

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Fall 2013

www.pccmp.org

Chaplain Conference and Family Retreat

“After we send men and women off to war, how do we bring them home to peace?” is the opening line to Rev. Dr. Rita Nakashima Brock’s book, “Soul Repair.”

Dr. Brock, our guest speaker for this year’s Chaplain Training Conference, offered tools for our military and VA chaplains as they contemplated this subject. The Montreat Conference Center just outside of Asheville, NC, was the perfect place to contemplate such a subject. Here in these beautiful surroundings provided by God, many a soul has been examined and repaired.

Dr. Brock provided four hours of lecture and countless hours of sharing with our chaplains over the two-day training conference. During the formal training sessions conducted on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings, she shared the difference between PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder) and what is now becoming known as “Moral Injury.” Although on the surface they may appear similar there are clear and definable differences be-



Rev. Dr. Rita Nakashima Brock, author of “Soul Repair: Recovering from Moral Injury after War” speaking at Montreat.

tween them. “Moral Injury is disruption in an individual’s confidence and expectations about his or her own moral behavior or others’ capacity to behave in a just and ethical manner.” Because of the nature of this type of injury, she argues that chaplains and churches are prime agencies of care in what they offer to bring healing. Healing comes through the rituals and support for lamentation because they allow complex feelings to be experienced and understood.

Chaplains and faith communities can facilitate this healing process by developing regular programs of deep listening and lamentation. We can also provide support to veteran recovery and transitioning to civilian life and support of families of soldiers while the service members are away. Critical to this is that chaplains and faith communities can help families prepare for homecomings that build pathways back into society for service members. And she concluded with three other aspects that includes educating employers of veterans in communities,





being attuned to secondary trauma and support other professions that experience moral injury such as medical, law enforcement and social workers, and finally care for caregivers.

It is hard to sum up the wonderful ministry that Rev Brock provided our chaplains in just a few words. The conversations over dinner or sitting around the lobby of Assembly Inn added not only more information, but genuine healing for several chaplains. We were also blessed to have the Rev. Mary McCaskey Benedict as our preacher for the evening worship services. She too provided a much needed balm for our weary chaplains. The goal of our annual Chaplain Training Conference is to provide our chaplains with theological stimulation, peer support, family fun and relaxation. This year nearly 100 individuals participated, with representatives from all four of our denominational partners. This conference could not take place except for your prayers and support. Thank you to all for supporting such a successful conference.

Director's Thoughts



Brogans visiting chaplains and their families in Okinawa, Japan

It is a great pleasure to serve our military and VA chaplains and help them maintain strong relationships with their home presbyteries. Ch Don Wilson and I spend large parts of our days in writing to or calling our chaplains. We work hard to ensure they have regular visits from their endorsers – us. We have seen over 90% of our active duty chaplains in the past two years. Over this past year, we've criss-crossed the United States and have travelled to Korea, Japan, Alaska, and Hawaii. We function like a Presbyterian mission agency whose "mission field" is the US military. We extend the care of Presbyteries to their chaplains who labor incredibly far "out of presbytery bounds." We covet the prayers and financial support of our denominations to continue this critical ministry.

Our chaplains are remarkable – Presbyterian clergy called from around the nation to serve those in uniform, their families, and veterans. Chaplains are routinely far from home; their families know well of the sacrifice of deployment, frequent moves, and distance from families. Yet, our chaplains serve gladly knowing they have an important call from God to serve their very distinctive "parish."

I'm glad that the recent wars are slowing down and our troops are coming home. Our chaplains will be renewed in their call to provide spiritual and moral support at home bases. As the military budget is being cut, our chaplains are becoming more creative in finding resources to serve all and disciple those in the Protestant programs.

Please help us to find more of our clergy who can answer the call to serve in uniform. We're always ready to explain what that means. The Army, Navy, and Air Force are constantly asking us for more chaplains who can baptize babies, celebrate the sacrament of the Lord's Supper, and provide sound worship leadership. The military also seeks women and minorities to serve; this provides wonderful opportunities for many of our Presbyterian clergy.

On Veteran's Day, take time to pray for those in military uniforms, for the chaplains who serve them, and for your Presbyterian Council for Chaplains.

- Ed Brogan



Chaplains Kaiser, Wainwright, McGovern and Bracken, PCCMP Chaplains serving in Alaska

Special Operation's Chaplain helps build Playground

Chaplain Craig Nakagawa completed a tour with JSOTF-P in the Philippines. Here is a story done by the US Embassy in the Philippines on his ministry.

ZAMBOANGA - Children and staff from the Talon Talon Orphanage and U.S. service members celebrated the completion of a new playground donated by members of the Joint Special Operations Task Force – Philippines (JSOTF-P) here last week.

“This is a great opportunity for us to get out and do something for these children,” said Marine Lt Anthony Brich, Marine Security Element commander, who helped organize the event.

Members of JSOTF-P have been visiting and helping with projects at the orphanage since 2002. According to Capt Craig Nakagawa, the JSOTF-P command chaplain, “We are always looking for ways to help the Talon Talon Orphanage, and other area groups, as a way of being good ambassadors, even as new people rotate in and out.”

“We’ve been wanting [new equipment] for so long,” said Jessica Augustin, the orphanage’s nurse. “I talked to the group, told them what we needed. We did not expect this much.”



Child with US Marine from JSOTF-P helping her down the slide



Children from the Talon Talon Orphanage and service members from JSOTF-P play on the new playground.

Through the chaplain’s office, service members collected money through various fundraising events to begin refurbishing some of the older equipment. Earlier this spring, the group received a sizeable donation from one member in particular.

“One of the Marines, who has since rotated out, personally collected and donated PHP 200,000. With that, we were able to complete the project on a grander scale than we had originally planned.” said Nakagawa. “None of this would have been possible without the dedication of our awesome JSOTF-P team members.”

Talon Talon Orphanage, at any one time, takes care of approximately 50 children who have been surrendered, abandoned or orphaned; including children with severe autism and cerebral palsy. The children come from throughout the Zamboanga Peninsula. According to Augustin, in addition to state funding, the center relies on dona-

tions to operate.

The JSOTF-P’s mission is to advise and assist Philippine Security Forces partners at the tactical, operational and strategic levels against violent extremist organizations throughout the southern Philippines at the request of the Government of the Republic of the Philippines.

In addition to the playground project, service members from the JSOTF-P have donated more than PHP 50,000 worth of food and supplies and have made more than five trips this year to the Talon Talon Orphanage as part of their desire to help the local community.



US Marine holding an orphaned child.

To Active Duty

Heeja Han, Army—PCUSA
Grace Kim, Army—PCUSA
Joanne Martindale, VA—PCUSA
Robert Rose, AF—PCUSA
Jose Torres, VA—PCUSA

Retired or Retiring

Larry Greenslit, Navy—PCUSA
Leslie Hyder, AFNG—PCUAS
Gregory Horn, Navy R—PCUSA
Anthony Hedrick, Navy—CPC
Jeffrey Bell, Army R—PCUSA
Nathan Byrd, Army—PCUSA
Edward Pease, Navy—PCUSA

You can help our chaplains!

1. Pray! Pray for our chaplains and their work. Pray for their families and the units they work with. As simple as it is, it is still the greatest gift you can give us in this work.
2. Adopt a chaplain...become their prayer partners. Send them care packages when they are deployed. Cards and letters of encouragement really makes them feel good on bad days.
3. Talk to young people who are contemplating service in the military. Let them know we have chaplains there to support them...and some of those chaplains are even Presbyterians.
4. If you know of a person who might be interested in ministry as a chaplain...give them our contact information and have them talk with us. Email address is: info@pccmp.org Phone 202-244-4177
5. Friend us on Facebook a great place to find out what is going on with the PCCMP.
6. Ask your church/presbytery to add a link to our website.
7. Sign up for a copy via email or postal mail for "Frontlines" our newsletter. It highlights the work of our chaplains and what they are doing around the world.
8. Consider making a gift to the PCCMP annual budget and encourage your church to consider this as one of your missions.
9. Let us know your story. We have discovered many came to be Christians and even Presbyterians while serving in the military...because of a chaplain they met or were mentored by. We love to hear about those events.

VA Chaplains working hard taking care of Veterans



VA Chaplains are our unsung heroes. Their ministry is second to none, and they have the biggest hearts in the world. We are blessed to support 22 incredible full time VA Chaplains and 10 part time. Their work goes un-noticed but is none the less important. In the photos above starting on the left, Chaplain Lyn Junkniess provides warmth and love to a patient in Palo Alto VA Medical Center in California, and in the second photo, she consults with the staff concerning patient care and how she can help. The third photo is a CPE Group at Jack C Montgomery VAMC in Muskogee, Oklahoma where Chaplain Ken Blank, far right side of the photo, is a CPE supervisor and mentor to individuals seeking to be great hospital chaplains.

PCCMP cares for Chaplains and their families through prayers, visitation and retreats
173 Military Chaplains
22 Full-Time VA Chaplains
10 Part-Time Chaplains with the VA
54 VA Endorsed Chaplains
25 Seminarians - Chaplain Candidates
36 Civil Air Patrol Chaplains
And handle about 170 inquiries from ministers and seminarians looking to become chaplains every year.

Also: Friend us on Facebook

A great place to find out about what our chaplains are doing real time is to "Like" us on Facebook. Search for us as "Presbyterians Caring for Chaplains."

Financial Support and Gifts

The work of the PCCMP is not possible without the prayers, gifts and support of our chaplains, friends, our churches and denominational partners.

Military members can provide those gifts through the annual Combined Federal Campaign. Our CFC number is 11336

We are also asking congregations to support us through their mission giving or taking a special Veterans Day Offering for our work with chaplains