

AGC Chaplain Ministry Report

The Associated Gospel Churches

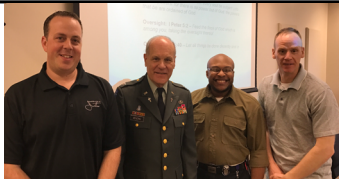
Enabling Local Church Missional Access into Restricted Institutions for over 75 years!

We will rejoice in Thy salvation, and in the name of our God we will set up our banners. (Ps 20:5a)

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April 2017

Proclaimers of the Resurrection!



CH Ron Benzing, USA, (Ret.)
AGC Vice President,
with three VBTS Seminary
Students that he just taught
Article by CH Ron Benzing

Pat Doney, who recently retired after serving as the AGC National Field Representative for many years, shared with me one day that God fulfilled his desire to be a missionary by commissioning him as a Navy Chaplain. The promise of Jesus to His disciples in **Acts 1:8** that the Holy Spirit would come upon them, empowering the Apostles to become witnesses of Him to all the world, Pat experienced as he traveled to the “uttermost part of the earth.” He was in fact an apostle, (a sent one), by Jesus, but paid by the US Navy to fulfill the Great Commission.

The Lord challenged the Apostles with a clear and Great Mission in Matthew 28:19-20: “Go ye therefore and teach (make disciples) of all nations...” When they sought a replacement for the betrayer, Judas, Luke recounted that he “must be one ordained to be a witness with us of his Resurrection.” (**Acts 1:22**).

Called and commissioned by Jesus, these twelve men faced an impossible task. If not for the filling of the Holy Spirit, they would have failed miserably. Isn't the same true for us who are also called and commissioned by Jesus?

Because they were witnesses of the Resurrection of the Savior, their lives were radically changed. No longer did they hide in fear. No longer were they silent. The transformation of the disciples is one of the clearest and most profound evidences of the literal, bodily Resurrection of Jesus.

Luke describes several events in which the twelve proclaimed boldly the powerful Message of the Resurrection of Christ. May I remind you of these times?

Peter's Pentecost Sermon (Acts 2:22-24, 36). Peter identifies the responsibility for the death of Jesus with the sovereign plan of God and the sinful action of his Jewish brethren. “Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death.” He concludes his sermon, “Therefore, let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made the same Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ” (36). Three thousand souls were added to the church!!

Peter and John at the Beautiful Gate (Acts 3). The healing of the lame man gave opportunity to give witness to the Resurrection. Verse 15, “And killed the Prince of life, whom God hath raised from the dead: whereof we are witnesses.” They were thrown in jail.

Peter and John before Sanhedrin (Acts 4). As a result of this encounter, Peter was filled with the Holy Spirit and preached...

with power. Luke recounts, “And with great power gave the apostles' witness of the Resurrection of the Lord Jesus; and great grace was upon them all.” Many were saved, “And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart” (32).

Peter was released from prison and preached to the religious leaders (Acts 5:27-32). The Apostles had been directed by the Jewish leaders not to preach in the Name of Jesus but their reply was, “We ought to obey God rather than men.” Peter continued, “The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom ye slew and hanged on a tree... And we are his witnesses of these things...” The leaders “took counsel to slay them.”

Stephen witnessed the Resurrected Jesus as he faced his death as the first Christian martyr (Acts 8:56). “Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing on the right hand of God.” That testimony cost him his life.

The Resurrected Christ encountered the Pharisee Saul on the road to Damascus (Acts 9:5). “I am Jesus whom thou persecutest!” Paul was converted and became the great Christian Missionary who proclaimed Christ in Antioch in Pisidia (13:29-31). He preached, “they took him down from the tree, and laid him in a sepulcher, But God raised him from the dead: And he was seen many days of them which came up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are witnesses unto the people.”

Peter proclaimed the Resurrection to the Gentiles (Acts 10:39-40). Peter's sermon concluded with these words, “And we are witnesses of all things which he did both in the land of the Jews, and in Jerusalem; whom they slew and hanged on a tree: Him God raised up the third day, and showed him openly.” The Roman Centurion, Cornelius and his household were saved!

As a Pastor (Missionary) in Uniform, you have been chosen, called, and commissioned by Jesus to preach the same message as the Apostles did. God calls some men to remain in their home town and faithfully proclaim the Message for years like Chuck Flesher. Chuck was the Pastor at Greencastle Bible Church in Ohio for 36 years while also serving as an AGC Army Reserve Chaplain. Others God leads to preach the Resurrection of Christ in distant and dangerous places.

You are fulfilling **Matthew 28:19-20** and **Acts 1:8**. You are giving witness of the Resurrection of Christ. You are part of the large throng of “sent ones” that God continues to dispatch to the uttermost part of the earth. **Be joyful, thankful, and faithful!**

Mark your Calendars now!
AGC Annual Sustainment Training

5-9 February 2018

OCF Camp, White Sulphur Springs, PA

CH(COL) Ken Lawson, Fort Dix, NJ

A Soldier understood that he did not have the strength on his own to heal his marriage,...He realized that many of his marriage problems came from him not being a spiritual leader, and that as an unrepentant sinner, he was unable to guide his family to the Lord...my throat was very swollen and sore, but the Lord allowed me to lead him to faith in Christ. In my office, I saw a miracle - **I witnessed a sinner converted by the grace of God to faith in Jesus Christ...**I was physically ill, but God superseded that to convert a Soldier to Jesus Christ.

CH(LT) Nathanael Gentilhomme

U/W on USS FRANK CABLE (AS-40)

I left Guam on March 6 aboard USS PASADENA (SSN 752), a visiting submarine home-ported in San Diego. I was able to ride along with them and provide much needed chaplain support. (I then met up with my ship in Majuro, Marshall Islands.) My Sub ministry included marriage counseling, sharing the Gospel, daily deck-plate, and of course, learning about submarines. This was my fourth submarine ride. Dave and Donna Utter, missionaries on Majuro, helped us set up COMRELS, and were a blessing. In transit from Majuro to Pearl Harbor, HI, we were able to show "The Great Debate" video between Ken Ham and Billy Nye. This was a great way to open discussion about our Creator God.



CH(MAJ) Scott Crosley, TX NG, opened the TX Senate Session with his Invocation.

I had two meaningful and productive conversations after the (Chapel) service. The first was with a young female Soldier and mother of four kids who had an abortion the week prior. She is wrestling with guilt and the decision that she made. The second was a young man seeking the Truth. I shared the Gospel with him and **he accepted Christ that night...**yahoooo!

CH(Major) Wade Matuska, USAF Keesler Air Force Base, MS

Early in January we found out that my line number was called for promotion on February 1st. We spent the first part of the month planning a promotion ceremony and getting some family members set-up to visit. On 27 January we had a great ceremony with assistance from Ch Nupson and Ch Brown. My Bible Study on Thursday Evening has been at a standstill. My previous attendees all graduated and moved on to their next base. I have been working hard to advertise and get my next group started.

CH(CAPT-Sel) Emile "Mo" Moured, US Navy Region Northwest, WA

Continuing with the management, training and mentoring of the Chaplains and their teams around Navy Region Northwest; Continued a study on Revelation on Friday nights and a weekly study in the workplace on the book of John. Met with Admiral Tammen and area chaplains, discussing the role of God and Gospel in changing lives where training and tradition simply cannot change the human condition; Provided training to all area Chaplains on providing casualty / death notifications.

CH (MAJ) Chuck Gilbertson, USA Operation Freedom's Sentinel

Ministry has been great with the brigade deployment to Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan. We completed our transition of authority and now are working the ground and air intelligence collection mission for Operation Freedom's Sentinel and Operation Resolute Support. This puts personnel all over the theater and provides a broad opportunity for ministry. Working at the Enduring Faith Chapel for contemporary Protestant service each week; also leading a unit focused Bible Study beginning in Genesis. Have had numerous counseling opportunities and seeing a lot of openness to the things of God! Looking forward to a profitable deployment in light of eternity! *Please pray for Chaplain Gilbertson*



CH(LtCol) Scott Nupson, USAF with Chaplain (LtCol) Don Mikitta, Civil Air Patrol at Maxwell, Air Force Base, in Montgomery, Alabama

CH(MAJ-P) Jimmy Black, Army NG 31st Chemical Brigade Tuscaloosa, Alabama

Things are going great just very busy. I have the largest Brigade in the state with 6 Battalions. We are sending several units on deployment this year. I will be doing a 3 week AT the end of April and May. As always Soldiers have things to work over and through with these deployments. I have one Chaplain that will be going to the Basic Course in May. If funds are available the Commander said I could go to Fort Jackson for graduation.

CH(LT) Ben Mayhugh, USN Camp Pendleton, CA

March was a busy month. The battalion executed a field exercise at three different sites from Camp Pendleton to Twenty Nine Palms. This gave me the opportunity to employ my RP in handling the logistics of travel, berthing, and rigging services. He executed his duties extremely well. In five days we delivered 4 field services with communion to 27 Marines and Sailors; and my CO and SgtMaj attended a service. Deb is ready to deliver our son. We have a delivery date of May 15. I'm negotiating orders right now hoping we get to move to Texas to serve with the USCG. Thank you for you prayers.



CH (MAJ) Chuck Gilbertson with family at his promotion to Major at Fort Bragg. Right before he deployed



Reverend William "Carl" Standridge

*This address was given by
CH(COL) Ken Lawson at the Dedication of the
"Carl Standridge Conference Room"
at the New AGC HQ Building on 15 Feb 17*

The object of my thoughts today are on a pastor from Michigan named William Carl Standridge. He went by his middle name, Carl. I believe Carl Standridge's great-grandson, Jordan Standridge, is here today. Carl Standridge was the founder and first president of the Associated Gospel Churches. He served in that capacity from the founding of the group in 1939, until he handed over the presidency of the AGC to his close friend, W.O.H. Garman in 1942.

Early years.

Carl Standridge was born in 1898 and raised in the conservative Methodist Protestant Church. He was an intelligent man, a good student in school, and a lover of the Bible. He was a slender man of average height. One of his favorite hymns was "The Old Rugged Cross." He loved to sing and had a special way to teach children and teens that was effective. His marriage to Eliza was happy and they were together for about 60 years.

As a member of the conservative Methodist Protestant Church, Carl Standridge was moved from church to church every few years by the Methodist bishop of Michigan. He and Eliza started a family. And while all was well on the home front, and while the local churches Carl served all appreciated his clear and firm Bible teaching, there was a larger problem throughout America.

Theological Controversy.

By the 1930s, Christian liberalism had overtaken virtually all of Protestant America. The major Christian colleges and seminaries had gone liberal. Following the schools were the denominations. And following the denominations into liberalism were the local churches.

In Michigan, Carl Standridge and his friends preached against Protestant liberals and preached in defense of the fundamentals of the Christian faith. In 1938, the Methodists in Michigan voted to join together in creating a new liberal denomination, and voted to join the apostate Federal Council of Churches. Carl Standridge was the pastor of the Harger Memorial Church in Detroit when the Methodists rejected traditional Christian teachings and joined together in the new denomination. Standridge would have none of this. He and ten of his pastor friends did not vote to join the new group, and were excluded from fellowship.

The next year, in 1939, the new liberal Methodist denomination went after Standridge, forcing him to join the new group or lose his church and his home in the church parsonage. After several months, the 41-year-old minister with a young family was homeless and churchless. In 1939, Standridge and the other outcast pastors formed the American Bible Association, which a few months later changed its name to the Associated Gospel Churches.

Assisting Garman in getting military chaplains into the service

The tiny Associated Gospel Churches desired to join in the national fight against Protestant liberalism. They joined the American Council of Christian Churches



**Carl Standridge (right) with
Rev. Walter Patrick, and Army
CH (ILt) Chaplain Arthur Diffenbacher
Diffenbacher was Killed in Action
at Normandy in June 1944**

which formed in 1941 as an umbrella group as a national voice of protest against theological liberalism, and to preach and promote the fundamentals of the Christian faith.

The AGC remained a local Michigan ministerial fellowship until 1942, when

Standridge approached Garman to help³ expand the AGC. Garman was at the time a senior official in the American Council of Christian Churches, and was president of the Independent Fundamental Churches of America. So it made sense for Standridge to reach out to Garman to help build up the AGC to a national organization.

As World War II approached, conservative pastors in America saw the threat of atheistic Germany and imperial Japan as grave dangers to America. After the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, US troops prepared for war. Both Carl Standridge and W.O.H. Garman were concerned about getting Bible-believing chaplains into military service. During the War, Standridge and Garman and others fought to have fundamental Christian men allowed into the military chaplaincies. They were able to do this through the American Council of Christian Churches, while Garman was president of the AGC.

New Directions in Ministry after World War II

After World War II, Christian ministers had various new opportunities for ministry. For Carl Standridge, his focus became world missions, particularly those areas devastated by WWII, like Europe and the Philippines. For Garman, he saw the corruption in the Army and Navy chaplain corps and became passionate about getting Bible-honoring men into the military chaplaincies.

After World War II, Carl Standridge visited war-torn Italy on a ministry survey trip. At the time he was a successful pastor in Detroit, Michigan. The physical devastation he saw in Europe forced him to see the more important spiritual needs of the people. Carl's son Bill surrendered to missions and became a missionary to Italy around 1949. I have met Bill Standridge, who is about my dad's age, and I have met his son David, who is about my age. Both they and their families are career missionaries in Italy, to this day.

In 1950, Carl Standridge helped form a mission board called Independent Faith Mission. The mission board still exists to send and support fundamentally sound, Bible-focused men to various mission fields worldwide.

Later years (continued on the next page.)



Reverend William Carl Standridge, Sr.

First AGC President 1939-42

Standridge and Garman remained friends and supported each other in exposing Christian liberalism and warning about the evil of atheistic communism. From 1941, both served together in various offices within the ACCC as they remained full-time pastors. A favorite Bible verse for Carl Standridge was Jude 3, where Christians are told to “earnestly contend for the faith.” Theologically, over the years as he studied the Bible, he changed from conservative Methodist to independent Baptist.

Carl Standridge continued to serve churches in Michigan, and supported Christian camps in his home state. In 1965, he founded the Interstate Baptist Church in Memphis, Tennessee.

Carl Standridge died in 1985. His wife Eliza died in 1991. Both he and his wife loved the Bible. On their grave stone is the Bible verse from II Timothy 2:15, “Study to shew thyself approved unto God.”

1LT James Johnson, UT Army National Guard

In March the entire UTARNG CH Corps had a training with 1st Army...the entire Corps attended Chapel services at the Sunrise Chapel on Camp Williams. I was asked to perform the non-denominational service...I was able to preach the Gospel to the entire CH Corps. *James was selected for Army NG Chaplaincy!*



CH(LT) Donny Keim on a Retreat with his Marines in Okinawa Japan



3 March at USAFE/HC at Ramstein AFB marks a milestone—an Air Force MAJCOM manned by an all ARC Team CH (Lt Col) Jon Trainer (back right)

CH(LtCol) Jon Trainer, ANG Ramstein AFB, Germany

This is an unusual ministry report, I know—not much tangible traditional ministry going on. The Air National Guard is experimenting with AFFOR Teams--placing RSTs in operational roles at a MAJCOM for periodic TDY’s over a span of three years to supplement the active duty staff. For the last six weeks life has been a blur of staff meetings, operational planning teams, working groups, strategic planning, capabilities based assessments, crisis action planning, OPLANS, and endless emails and problem solving...but it has been a blast! I have enjoyed working at USAFE and with joint partners at AF-RICOM. Please pray for wisdom, good listening skills, and creative ideas.

CH(CPT) Ian Roberts, USAR 316th QM BN Okmulgee, OK

This month I have had the privilege of supporting the 418th TC Company, a company within my BN, and the 327th TC. I was able to provide 2 Worship Services on each day for 17 Soldiers. I preached on Matthew 12 about the ministry of Christ in our lives and how he uses Scripture, applies Scripture, and fulfills Scripture in his ministry. Several Soldiers stayed after the sermon to discuss the passage, pray, and ask other questions surrounding Scripture. One in particular asked many questions about God and seems to be growing more interested in Christianity. Another asked me to perform his upcoming wedding in which I was able to offer guidance and mentorship surrounding honoring God in a relationship before marriage and then into marriage.



Congratulations to CH(CPT) Caleb Schumacher, “Airborne” qualified!

CH(CPT) Matt Zinn, USAR, 535th MP BN, 3677, Cary, NC 27519

Great 6 MUTA Drill weekend as Soldiers prepared for deployments and various annual trainings. Chapel Service was on 1 Peter 1:17, and extremely well received. The Soldiers seemed hungry for the Word of God. In one of the counseling sessions, a Christian Soldier went from asking questions attempting to justify sin to **asking how to repent and find forgiveness!** Praise God. Not a rededication of his life for Christ, but certainly a reckoning of himself dead to sin (Ro. 6:11)!

CH(LTJG) Kevin Marshman, USN Recruit Training Command (RTC), Great Lakes, IL

Our first child was born on January 17th! Please pray for the health/growth of our son Donovan, recovery for my wife, and our continued adjustment to this new life. I essentially just worked a half month this month since I was on paternity leave from January 17-27. Being gone for two weeks felt like quite a long time, but I am getting back into the swing of things quickly. We are still understaffed which means much more counseling and not as many deckplate hours/opportunities, but the counseling has been fruitful. *(Kevin has had a very fruitful mministry in a highly stressful basic training command atmosphere. Continue to pray for his many oportunitites!)*



CH(COL) Ken Lawson, USA, after teaching a Casualty Notification Officer (CNO) Class pauses for a picture with the CNO class.