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**James 5:7-8:** "Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near."

**DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE**

**Holding the Standards High**

For approximately 150 years, chaplaincy ministry has been an integral and vibrant part of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, tracing its roots to Battle Creek College in 1875. What began as a pioneering vision to provide spiritual care in academic and institutional settings has grown into a broad, impactful ministry reaching people in hospitals, prisons, the military, campuses, and beyond. In 2015, Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries (ACM) was formally established in the North American Division (NAD) as the Church's official endorsing agency, responsible for affirming, supporting, and equipping chaplains for effective service.

Today, the NAD endorsement process reflects both the sacred trust placed upon chaplains and the Church's commitment to professional excellence. Current requirements include:

- A Master of Divinity (MDiv) or an approved MDiv equivalency
- Two years of post-seminary pastoral experience
- Ordination as a local church elder
- Favorable character references from church administrators, professors, and ministry peers

Remarkably, in just the past three years, more than 300 chaplains have successfully met these rigorous requirements and received NAD endorsement—representing a 33% increase since 2022. This growth is more than a statistic; it is a testament to God's guiding hand and to the Church's recognition of the vital role chaplains play in delivering spiritual comfort, moral guidance, and emotional support within a diverse range of communities and institutions across North America.

Recognizing the increasing interest in chaplaincy and the need for endorsement as a prerequisite for service, ACM continues to collaborate with the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary and other educational institutions to create accessible, clearly defined pathways for students and ministers who feel called to chaplaincy. This includes acceptance of an MDiv equivalency to meet educational requirements.

In addition, ACM is currently developing an orientation specifically designed for new Seventh-day Adventist chaplains who have met the endorsement requirements but did not attend a Seventh-day Adventist institution.

A key part of ACM's mission is to ensure that endorsement standards remain in harmony with the requirements of organizations that mandate an MDiv or an MDiv equivalency, such as:

- The Department of Defense
- The Association of Professional Chaplains
- The Federal Bureau of Prisons

Maintaining these high standards is essential, as chaplaincy is a sacred calling that requires deep theological understanding, proven ministerial competence, and a Christ-centered character.

As the apostle Paul wrote to the believers in Corinth, "You are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read by all men" (2 Corinthians 3:2-3, NKJV). In the same way, chaplains serve as living letters of God's love, read daily by those they encounter. May every chaplain, wherever God has called them to serve, continue holding the standards high—faithfully representing the mission and message of Christ in every place and circumstance.

# Announcements

*You are invited to send and share with us any job opportunities and special highlights in your ministry*

## **New NAD Resources for Chaplains' Spouses**

We are excited to share valuable new video resources for chaplains' spouses in this edition of the ACM newsletter! During the 2024 NAD Year-End Meeting, several insightful presentations were created exclusively for ministerial spouses, offering practical guidance and encouragement. These resources, generously provided by the NAD Ministerial Spouses' Department, cover a range of important topics, including grief management, tax preparation for ministers, building resilience, and much more.

We invite you to explore these resources at your convenience—simply click the link below to access the topics that interest you most. We hope these presentations will be a blessing to you!

<https://www.adventistlearningcommunity.com/resources/series/432>

**Please send us any prayer requests as we dedicate a special time on Mondays for our chaplains and their families.**

**1 CEU (10 CE Hours)**

Seventh-day Adventist Church  
NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION

ADVENTIST CHAPLAINCY  
MINISTRIES

WINTER 2025 (IN-PERSON)  
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TRAINING

PROFESSIONAL  
ETHICS

Celebrating 150 years of  
Adventist Chaplaincy Ministry: 1875-present.

Michael Campbell Ph.D.  
Director, Archives, Statistics & Research  
North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists

Oakwood University, Huntsville, AL

SAVE THE DATE

Pastoral Evangelism Leadership Conference (PELC) • December 6-10, 2025  
Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries Training • December 7, 2025

## Recent Events

Chaplains World Congress 2025, St. Louis



Click on the link below to read the article about:

[Adventist Chaplaincy World Congress Celebrates 40 Years With a Call to Serve - Adventist Review - Adventist Review](#)



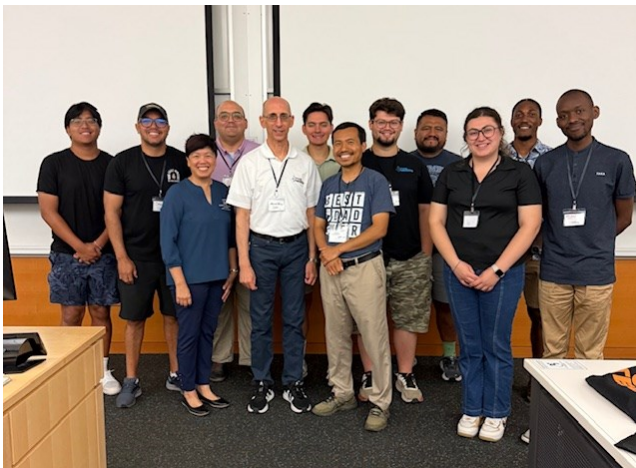
# Recent Events Continued



Chaplain Basic Officer Leader Course (CHBOLC) Graduation, 14 August 2025 (Graduating Chaplains Joel Rosana, Alcoln Thomas, and Devin Lilly),



Chaplain Basic Officer Leader Course (CHBOLC) at Fort Jackson, South Carolina:  
• CH (1LT) Devin Lilly • CH (CPT) Alcoln Thomas • CH (CPT) Joel Rosana attending .



NAD Adventist Christian Fellowship Institute (Public Campus Ministries) Seattle, July 27- August 3 and seminars: Importance of CPE and Introduction to Campus Chaplaincy Competencies.



APC Conference Breakfast in Minneapolis, June 2025

Pastor and chaplains are  
ministers called by God  
to serve in furthering  
God's kingdom wherever  
we are called.

-NAD ACM

## **ACM's Commitment & Expectations**

### **Our Commitment to You**

- Represent denominational interests related to chaplaincies to ecclesiastical, government, and professional agencies, institutions and organizations.
- Serve as your endorsing agency and liaison with your Conference
- Provide annual professional development opportunities
- Assist you with obtaining ministerial license/credentials
- Provide you with resources to aid in your ministry
- Support you in resolving issues around accommodation of religious practices.
- Publish ACM newsletter to be informative
- Attend special events in your ministry, i.e. promotions, ordinations.
- Offer mentoring and confidential counseling for your personal and professional growth.
- Pray for you and your loved ones.

### **Our Expectations of You**

- Faithfully and loyally represent denominational beliefs, practices, policies and interest to church members and the public as endorsed "ambassadors of Christ" and His church.
- Provide professional spiritual and moral support in a pluralistic environment
- Practice professional ethics aligned with your ministerial calling and credentials.
- Inform ACM of any potential difficulty that may impact your career progression or endorsement.
- Invite ACM Director and ACM Associate Directors to attend any special events (promotions, retirement, etc.)
- Keep ACM database current with your personal and professional information and submit annual reports to ACM. \*Military chaplains upload your "New Orders" to your profile.
- Obtain financial support from your employer for attending professional development opportunities.
- Engage with and support your local church pastor and congregation.
- Initiate contact with your local Conference officers
- Practice Self-care on a regular basis



# Associate Director's Corner



Dear friends and colleagues:

Praying you and yours are blessed by God's unfailing love and grace. As we witness suffering of others, may we be reminded that a part of God abides in each of us since the day we took our first breath. Therefore, I trust God experiences our hurt, suffering, trauma, joy, love, etc. As we minister and provide meaningful support, we are serving God in a very intimate way. What privilege we could tend to God in this way.

As God is in us, being connected to and loving ourselves are also acts of service to God. As we are about to enter another season, I invite you to spend time each day to connect with your inner self. Ministry is not easy as there are so many things to juggle in just one day. Take yourself for a walk, pause and sense what your needs are at that moment, and spend some time showing gratitude to yourself as you are your biggest supporter. Ignite the fire God intends for you to have. May your partnership with God continues to bring joy and fulfillment.

If you serve in a non-Adventist institution full-time and desire to be ordained/commissioned, please contact me.

We are grateful to the chaplains who have graciously agreed to be Hub Leaders as they volunteer their time to help coordinate gatherings and/or Chaplains' Sabbaths in their residing areas. So far, we have:

Arizona – Phoenix area: Chaplain Osvaldo Maysonet, [tanon.osvaldo@gmail.com](mailto:tanon.osvaldo@gmail.com)

Colorado – Denver: Chaplain Carol Turk, [hurleyturk@yahoo.com](mailto:hurleyturk@yahoo.com)

Kansas – Kansas City: Chaplain O'Donovan Yarde, [ODonovan.Yarde@adventist.com](mailto:ODonovan.Yarde@adventist.com)

Texas – Austin and vicinity: Chaplain Denise Grant, [dmrq03@yahoo.com](mailto:dmrq03@yahoo.com)

We have a chaplain in our region desiring to mentor and/or volunteer:

Chaplain Martin Gwasira, is willing to mentor BCCI applicants. Please reach out to him directly. His email address is: [martin.X.Gwasira@kp.org](mailto:martin.X.Gwasira@kp.org). If you are willing to give back to our colleagues with your expertise, feel free to let me know.

May mercy, peace, and love be yours in abundance,

**Chaplain Angela Li, Healthcare & Campus - Mid-America, Southwestern, and West Regions**

Cell: 310-617-2897/[angelali@nadadventist.org](mailto:angelali@nadadventist.org)

Greetings Fellow Chaplains,

As we step into the fall and the second half of this year, I greet you with deep respect, gratitude, and solidarity. The changing seasons remind us that our call to ministry is not bound by comfort or convenience; it is forged in endurance, adaptability, and faithful presence, especially in times when the world feels uncertain and strained.

In these trying times, our leadership matters more than ever. To lead as chaplains is to stand as a steady voice in the storm, to offer clarity when the path is unclear, and to bring peace into spaces charged with tension. It is to be both shepherd and sentinel, guarding the hearts of those entrusted to us while pointing them toward hope.

May we lead this season with renewed courage, anchored in compassion and unwavering in conviction. May our example remind those we serve that God's presence is unshaken, His promises still stand, and His love is enough for every circumstance.

I pray you find fresh strength for the road ahead, wisdom for the decisions before you, and joy even in small victories. Thank you for answering the call with faithfulness, for sowing seeds that will one day bear lasting fruit.

Let us press forward together, steadfast, unmovable, and expectant for the greater things yet to come.

With respect and encouragement,

**Chaplain Gilda Roddy, Healthcare & Campus -**

**Southern, Lake, Columbia and Atlantic Regions**

Cell: 240-904-8038 / [gildaroddy@nadadventist.org](mailto:gildaroddy@nadadventist.org)

Greetings and Salutations,

It's back-to-school season! Many of you have already seen or posted those cherished "first day" photos filled with excitement and nervous anticipation. In my home, however, there won't be a "first day" picture this year—a gentle reminder that time stops for no one.

We all receive the same 24 hours in a day. Henry Blackaby, in his book *Spiritual Leadership: Moving People on to God's Agenda*, writes: "The term time management is misleading. Time will proceed second by second, minute by minute, hour by hour, despite leaders' best efforts to administer it. What leaders can manage is themselves."

We've already entered September. The year has flown by, yet so much has transpired in our lives and ministries. I encourage you: take a moment to slow down. Re-center. Refocus. Ensure that your heart remains fixed on the most important thing—God. Allow His will to shape each second of your day.

As chaplains, it's easy to give so much to others that we forget to allow ourselves to be ministered to. Please know that you are both seen and prayed for. Your story matters—both to God and to us here at ACM. Don't hesitate to reach out. You are not alone. I am here to walk with you in this journey.

## Important Reminders:

● **Military Chaplains:** Please complete your annual survey. I need this to finalize our yearly report to the Department of Defense.

**Corrections & Community Chaplains:** A dedicated survey will be coming to you soon.

Thank you for your ongoing ministry and dedication. Every day, you carry the Seventh-day Adventist name with excellence and bring a needed word of hope in Jesus to the world.

**Blessings,  
Chaps Mike**

**Chaplain Michael Monroig, Armed Forces, Law Enforcement, Corrections & Community**

Cell: 240-972-4995 / [michaelmonroig@nadadventist.org](mailto:michaelmonroig@nadadventist.org)

## The Grace of Grief and Gratitude

From ship decks to combat deserts, icy outposts to tropical islands, military chaplaincy provides essential spiritual care in environments marked by stress, trauma and uncertainty. Chaplains in the military serve at unique crossroads, where duty meets humanity, and where the cost of service is not only counted in medals and missions, but in memories, losses, and healing.

Over the past 17 years, I have walked service members and their families through life-altering events, while praying with my whole heart for God to reach out and touch, reach out and heal, reach out and deliver...the service member, the family member, the unit about to deploy, the Commanding Officer of service members who are not coming back home alive...Lord, reach out, please minister to the brokenhearted.

I know grief very well. Grief. 2009. Grief 2011. Grief 2017. Grief 2022. Grief. 2025-a member of the command dies suddenly.

What happens when you the Chaplain is working through your own grief? How do we carry the grief of others while also carrying our own? How do we minister authentically, compassionately, and effectively while wading through personal grief?

I share with you from my experience what the Lord has been teaching me:

**Acknowledge Your Own Humanity.** "Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you." 1 Pet 5:7-10 Life has taught me that Chaplains are caregivers AND we are also human beings with hearts that break, spouses that leave, family members that die, promotions denied and bodies that decline. The invitation is to name it. Identify what your grieving. Permit the emotion and practice self-honesty. In the military culture grief can be interpreted as weakness. But we are called to challenge that narrative for ourselves and those we serve. Grief is not weakness. It is enduring strength and with God ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE.

**Embrace the Ministry of Shared Suffering.** "Blessed be... who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction..." 2 Corinthians 1:3-4. When we are open- appropriately and sensitively- about our grief we build trust and spiritual authenticity. This humanizes our ministry and deepens connection.

A chaplain saying, I am walking through some grief too or I don't have all the answers right now but I know we can get through this together are powerful pastoral phrases that bring healing, hope and courage. The same words, we share with those we serve, also apply to us as caregivers. Hear me say to you, "You do not have to carry this alone.."

**3. Prioritize Soul Care, Not Just Self-Care.** Mark 6:31 "Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest." Self-care is vital but soul-care is what sustains us spiritually. There have been plenty of times where I could not physically go away to a quiet place...yet the Lord caused a quiet place to be raised up in my heart and mind, in the midst of chaos and despair. Whether it's in a field tent, a ship's corridor, or a barracks stairwell, pray for God to give you a space for reflection. When I was stationed on a ship, I would find a corner on the deck and it was my spot to breathe, pray, reflect, cry and have my hope renewed by the Lord. Remember, a depleted Chaplain cannot pour out. Ministry from an overflow is more sustainable than ministry from a deficit. Even brief moments of Scripture, silence and prayer can restore perspective and provide you with a peaceful presence.

**4. Let Grief Shape, Not Silence Your Ministry.** Psalm 126:5-6 Those who sow in tears shall reap with shouts of joy! Is it possible to grieve what we've lost and still be grateful for what we had?" This is an invitation to hold two powerful truths in tension: pain and praise, sorrow and strength. Ministry can still happen through weeping, not in spite of it. Grief can lead to fruitfulness, not silence nor stagnation. Sorrow is not the end of the story. Rather than replacing grief, gratitude reframes the grief into memories, honor, courage and commitment to living with purpose and resilience.

Today, as I write this, two weeks after the death of a colleague, I reflect on how as the Chaplain, I was invited to hold space with the department and share, how to cope with grief while living with gratitude. Wow! In the midst of the pain, the Lord designed a powerful ministry opportunity for gratitude and grief to co-exist. To acknowledge and honor what was, what is and what can be. As I spoke I prayed for God to meet every man and woman present in their grief. To speak to hearts and minds. I was comforted as I shared in community and processed my own grief along with everyone.

**God Meets Us In Our Grief.** "The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit." — Psalm 34:18 God listens, comforts and holds space for your pain. He will grow gratitude from the soil of grief. Gratitude does not dismiss the pain; it roots us in truth while we walk through it. I invite and encourage you today, to serve with resurrection hope even as you wonder and wait. Know that this pain is temporary and redemption is certain. God sees you and will continue to use every once of your pain for His glory.

**God Offers Hope Beyond the Hurt** "He will wipe every tear from their eyes..." Revelation 21:4 God promises that grief is not the final chapter. Chaplain, your grief may bend you but it will not break you. Not when our hope is anchored in the God who promises to wipe every tear from our eyes. God sees, hears you, is covering you with His banner of love and strength, courage and love.

Hold on...Hope will be a shining light (HOPE- Have Only Positive Expectation). We keep walking, serving, loving because the God of Hope, Grief and Gratitude has the final say.

A Prayer for Grief and Gratitude "God, I'm hurting—and I miss what I've lost. But thank You for being near, for catching every tear, and for giving me glimpses of grace even now. Help me hold both grief and gratitude in the same hands. Teach me to trust You with both." Amen.

By: Chaplain Adrienne Benton

