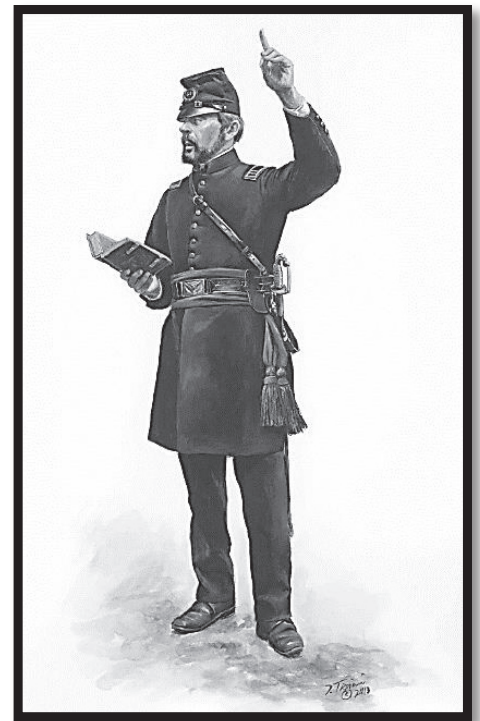


CHURCHES OF GOD,  
GENERAL CONFERENCE

# Historical Society

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## SERVING CHRIST AND COUNTRY—HONORING CGGC MILITARY CHAPLAINS

Edited by Don Dennison

The Second Continental Congress established the Chaplain's Corps on 29 July 1775. In doing so, they authorized one chaplain for each regiment of the Continental Army, with pay equaling that of a captain (<https://armyhistory.org/u-s-army-chaplain-corps>).

Our denomination's attitudes and involvement with the military are well expressed through the articles published in "The Church Advocate" which have been brilliantly captured by Pastor James Moss, Sr. in his four-volume, A History of the Civil War: As Presented by The Church Advocate (Volumes 24-35). We have no record of any Churches of God, General Conference pastors serving as chaplains until the Civil War (12 April 1861 – 9 April 1865). According to Pastor Moss' research, thirty-three CGGC pastors either enlisted or were drafted into the Union Army.

### From The Civil War Through The 19th Century

Of the 31 CGGC pastors known to have enlisted or been drafted into the Union Army, some may not have

served as Chaplains, such as **George Upton Harn** [see "Churches of God, General Conference Historical Society News," Vol 8, No. 2 (Spring 1999) for details on his story].

Limited information is available about those who did serve as Chaplains. **John W. Hawkins** was born in Tennessee but volunteered from Grand View, IA and served in the Union Army: 19th Iowa Volunteer Infantry, Company G. He enlisted as a Private on August 12, 1862, and reported for Active Duty on August 21, 1862. By mid-1863, Hawkins assumed the duties of Chaplain with the 11th Louisiana Infantry (known as the Corps d'Afrique). Originating in New Orleans, it was the first all-black regiment to fight in the Union Army. Hawkins was discharged from military service on July 10, 1865, at Mobile, Alabama.

**David Keplinger** was "a pioneer preacher in southeastern Kansas" (Forney, 797). Born September 1, 1823, in Virginia, Keplinger was ordained by the Ohio Eldership in 1849. He served a prominent ministry in the Indiana Eldership and later in Missouri. He was a charter member of the Kansas Eldership (Forney, 702) and died

in Kansas at the home of his son, when there on a visit from the Soldiers' Home in California on November 13, 1907.

**Franklin F. Kiner** was born in Landisburg, PA. He began pastoring in the Churches of God in 1854 and received his ministerial license at North Bend, Iowa in 1861. He enlisted as a Private in the Union Army from Ida Grove, Iowa on October 5, 1861 and served in the 14th Iowa Regiment Volunteer Infantry. He was later an Orderly Sergeant for 18 months. Taken prisoner of war at the battle of Shiloh in 1862, Kiner spent time at Memphis, Mobile, Chattanooga, Macon, and in the Confederate Libby Prison in Richmond, Virginia. As a part of a prisoner exchange, he was promoted to Chaplain (Captain) of his regiment at Cairo, Illinois. He remained in that position until the expiration of his regiment's time of service.

Kiner began law studies in 1878 and was admitted to the Iowa bar in 1880. He wrote a book about his experiences and participation in the battle at Fort Donelson (February 11-16, 1862 on the Kentucky/Tennessee border) and the battle of Shiloh (April 6-7, 1862 in southwestern Tennessee) where he was captured. His book, *One Year's Soldiering* was originally published in 1863 by the Editor of "The Church Advocate." It has been reprinted by his family and is available from Morgan Avenue Press, Prior Lake, Minnesota 55372. Kiner died on April 15, 1901, in Marshalltown, Iowa, and is buried in Iowa Veterans Home Cemetery (Section C, Row 11, Grave 3).

**D. H. Mumma** was ordained in 1871 by the East Pennsylvania Eldership. He labored for some years on different circuits being instrumental in many conversions and also building several houses of worship. He "served both his country and his Church with zeal and fidelity" (Forney, 376-7).

**David Neidig** was licensed by the Ohio Eldership in 1844 and preached principally in western Ohio and Indiana (Forney, 125). He "sacrificed his life on the altar of his country at Memphis, TN, July 3, 1863...having died after a furlough for home from the Army at Corinth" (Forney, 612).

**George Sandoe** was born on December 31, 1926, in Hinkletown, Lancaster County, PA. Ordained by the East PA Eldership in the Fall of 1850, he was sent as

a missionary to the southern part of Illinois in 1851 (Forney, 528). Sandoe volunteered from Martinsville, Illinois to serve in the Union Army (123rd Illinois Volunteer Infantry, Company G). He enlisted as a Private on August 14, 1862, and was activated on September 6, 1862. Promoted to Sergeant, Sandoe was then promoted to Chaplain (Captain) on January 11, 1865, and served with his regiment through the rest of the war, being discharged June 28, 1865. He died May 22, 1890, and is buried in Rupp Cemetery (Martinsville, Clarke County, IL).

**J.R. Snavelly** was a member of the Iowa Eldership and was licensed in 1859. With shattered health, he returned to die at his mother's home in Johnson County, Iowa.

**Charles Cain** was a CGGC pastor living in Channahon, Illinois when he enlisted on January 25, 1864, in the Union Army, 64th Illinois Volunteer Infantry, 1st Battalion, Company G (Yates Sharp Shooters). He reported for active duty six weeks later. Private Cain was captured as a prisoner of war and was discharged from military service on May 30, 1865.

Charles White writes in "*Chaplains in the Civil War*," "*From the beginning of the war, the War Department recognized the need for spiritual guidance among the troops. Due to this fact, the War Department authorized the appointment of regularly ordained ministers as chaplains with the quota being one per regiment. Chaplains held no command rank but instead entered the army with the rank of private.*"

*On October 31, 1864, Congress and the War Department awarded the chaplains with the pay and allowances commensurate with the rank of captain in the cavalry. Because the law gave them captain's pay, they wore the uniform and insignia for that grade as well as sword and pistol. For this reason, chaplains were sometimes mistaken for command officers. Unlike the Union, chaplains within the Confederate army held no rank whatsoever but were still paid as members of the military at the rate of one-half the pay of a first lieutenant" ([www.cyberneticlight.com/REDESIGN/Chaplain.htm](http://www.cyberneticlight.com/REDESIGN/Chaplain.htm)).*

Certainly, there were CGGC congregations in the Deep South at the outbreak of the Civil War. The only known CGGC pastor (*name unreported*) to join the Confederate military in Texas was forced to do so under threats.

## World War I

While likely that additional pastors served in World War I, the only CGGC Chaplain for whom we have any record is **B. L. C. Baer** who had pastored the Mechanicsburg First Church of God (Eastern Conference). He entered the U.S. Army Chaplaincy in 1918. He served until October 1921 when he became pastor at Middletown, PA.

## From World War II Through The Remainder Of The 20th Century

### CH (COL) David Maugans U.S. Army Active Duty Army Reserves (1943-1978)

**David Maugans** was from the McClay Street Church of God (Harrisburg, PA). He graduated from Findlay College and then from the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Gettysburg, PA. Following his East Pennsylvania Conference ordination, David was assigned to Mt. Carmel Church of God in 1940. His pastorate at the Camp Hill Church of God was interrupted in 1943 by a call to the Army Chaplaincy during World War II. He served from 1943-1946 with the U.S. Army, 66th Infantry Division, Special Troops.

A most tragic memory for Chaplain Maugans was the U-boat sinking of the troop ship S.S. Leopoldville, when hundreds of his fellow 66th

Infantry Division Soldiers on their way to the Battle of the Bulge were lost at sea.



**Company Commander, First Sergeant, Chaplain Maugans (2nd from right), and Chaplain Assistant.**

Upon release from Active Duty, Chaplain Maugans served the Green Street Church of God (1946-1951), while continuing his Chaplaincy ministry in the U.S. Army Reserves.

His affiliation with the Churches of God, General Conference ended in the early 1950s. While attending the Lancaster Church of God, he served as the first executive secretary of the United Churches of Lancaster County (1951-1953). He later accepted the call to become pastor of a mission church: Hamilton Park United Church of Christ, Lancaster (1954-1989). The congregation thrived under his leadership.

Chaplain Maugans remained very active in community organizations where he served and was awarded an honorary doctorate from Ursinus College. He retired with the rank of Colonel from the Reserves after 32 years (including 18 years with the 313th Infantry Combat Team; and eight years as MOBDES, 1st U.S. Army).

### CH (CDR) Theodore Bowers U.S. Navy Reserves (1965-1992)

**Ted Bowers** was a son of the Lillyville Church of God in western Pennsylvania. He pastored Banksville



Baptist Church in the South Hills of Pittsburgh while at Geneva College (Beaver Falls, PA). After graduation from Geneva, he went on to Winebrenner Theological Seminary. During his Winebrenner years, he pastored the Hepburn and later the Bluffton Evangelical United Brethren circuits comprised of three churches each.



The East Pennsylvania Eldership granted Ted ordination in 1962, during which year he began serving the Mt. Joy Church of God. A few years later, *“having given up hope that I was going to be a Navy Chaplain, I followed my leading to serve a church in the inner city because I was highly involved in the*

*Civil Rights Movement in the early ‘60s. I accepted the appointment to the Maclay Street Church of God, Harrisburg.”* Becoming the first chaplain the Churches of God had endorsed for military duty since WW II, the process took nearly two years. He was commissioned on November 16, 1965, into the U.S. Navy Chaplain Corps (Reserves) as a Lieutenant Junior Grade.

Chaplain Bowers recalls: *“Two months after I moved to Harrisburg, I received my notice to report for induction into the Navy Chaplain Corps. Since the church had made a significant sacrifice to bring me aboard as their pastor, I felt I should not abandon them. As the Vietnam War was then heating up, Navy line officers advised me to not apply for active duty which would take me away from my ministry to the local church.”*

From 1965-1992 his Reserve Chaplaincy assignments were all in the Pennsylvania region, sometimes with Marine Reserve units and other times with Navy Reserve units: Harrisburg, Columbia, Williamsport, Philadelphia, Folsom, and Willow Grove. These were a wide variety of units: Field Artillery Maintenance, Searchlight Battery, recruiting, Destroyer Forces Atlantic, Naval Surface Force Atlantic, Marine Amphibious Force, Marine Aircraft Group, and Navy Field Hospital. In 1966, Ted had sought and received standing in the United Church of Christ denomination.

After the Vietnam War, the military was downsizing, which included a reduction in Navy Chaplains. An

additional issue was that Chaplain Bowers had quickly risen in rank while in the Navy Reserves. The combination of those factors worked against his desire to become Active Duty, and he anticipated being released from the Reserves.

But after six months of drilling with the 876th Combat Engineers National Guard unit in Johnstown, PA, Chaplain Bowers checked in with a former Navy colleague recently assigned in the Navy Chief of Chaplains' office. As a result, he was able to continue in the Navy Reserves.

At the age of 53, Ted was called to Active Duty for the Persian Gulf War as Senior Chaplain of a 500-bed Combat Zone Hospital in A1 Jubal, Saudi Arabia. This was the major hospital that served over 80% of the casualties. In this role, he supervised three Chaplains and four Religious Program Specialists (Navy equivalent to Chaplains Assistants).



**Ted in Saudi Arabia between two British Chaplains.**

Following his new affiliation with the United Church of Christ, Ted served in many pastorates across central Pennsylvania: Dover, Lewistown, Williamsport, Littlestown, and East Berlin. His final pastoral role was ten years at the Masonic Homes of Pennsylvania (Elizabethtown, PA). He authored a book entitled Islam: What You Should Know.

Chaplain Bowers retired as a Commander in the Navy Reserve Chaplain Corps having served 1965-1992 and settled in south central Pennsylvania.

## CH (LCDR) H. W. Meador U.S. Navy (1968-1985)



**Hal Meador**, one of only two of our U.S. Navy Chaplains, was a graduate of Findlay College and Winebrenner Theological Seminary. He was serving his third Ohio congregation as the Vietnam War was becoming more heated. After one of his young parishioners at Hopewell Church of God was killed in Vietnam, a doctor

friend asked Hal to take his ministry to our sailors.

Hal's Navy Chaplain Basic training was held in Newport, Rhode Island in 1968. Over his lengthy and meritorious career, he served on D & S Piers Destroyer Division 362 Commodore's staff and David Adam's Memorial Chapel (Norfolk, VA); base chapel at Roosevelt Roads (Puerto Rico); 3rd Marine Battalion at Camp Lejeune (Jacksonville, NC); Chapel of the Sun, Navy Annex (Yokohama Japan); and Recruit Training Command Chapel (Orlando, FL).



Chaplain Meador's Vietnam War tours of duty in south-east Asia were perhaps the most significant. He recalled one situation following the loss of eight crewmen due to a fire on a destroyer. *"The Captain asked me to have prayer for the crew. Because the sea became especially calm, the crews of our other ships could hear my voice and stood uncovered with bowed heads in response."*

*The Navigator said it was so awesome how God had touched their lives."*

Throughout a career, a Chaplain sometimes has the opportunity to reconnect with sailors from earlier assignments. When Hal was with the Marines on Vieques, he was called to be with a Marine who had been run over by a tank. Fortunately, due to the soft sand that cushioned the weight of the tank, his injuries were limited to broken legs. Years later, when stationed at Camp Lejeune, a young Marine tapped him on the shoulder and asked if Hal remembered him. Hal confessed that he did not (with 35,000 Marines on base). The fellow revealed that he was the Marine that Hal visited in the hospital because he had been run over by a tank.

Chaplain Hal Meador retired in 1985 with the rank of Lieutenant Commander. After his military career, he pastored Home Acres Church (Toledo, OH); Faith Presbyterian Church (Sarasota, FL); and Chapel by the Lake (Haines City, FL).

## CH (COL) Thomas Lucas U.S. Army (1968-1992)

**Tom Lucas** grew up in a pastor's home in the Eastern Region. He graduated from Messiah College and attended Evangelical Theological Seminary (Myerstown, PA). While in college, Tom served as interim pastor to several churches. During his middle year of seminary, someone spoke about the military Chaplaincy and, even though he had a strong interest in it, the Chaplaincy was put on the 'back burner.'

Following seminary he pastored Mt. Carmel, Smithville, and Harmony Bethel Churches of God. While serving the Shiremanstown and Wormleysburg



**Preston Lucas, Judy, Tom, Dr. Ken Boldosser in 1968**



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Churches of God, the desire to become a military Chaplain returned front and center. He was commissioned and entered the Chaplain Basic Officer Leadership Course in 1968.

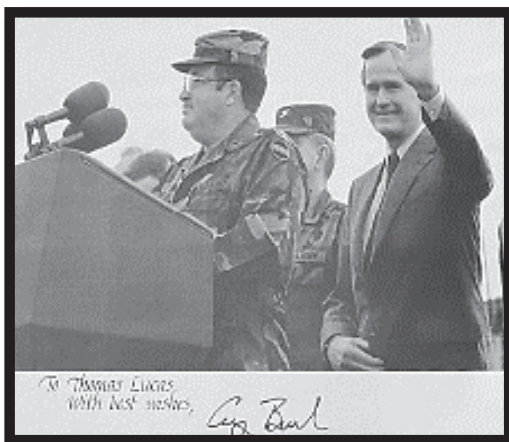
Tom's initial years as a Chaplain led to assignments in Vietnam, South Carolina, Alabama, West Germany, New York, Texas, and Virginia. His responsibilities increased considerably over the latter part of his career: Chaplain of Resource Management, U.S. Army Europe Headquarters (Heidelberg, West Germany); 1st Armor Division Chaplain (Ansbach, West Germany); Deputy Post Chaplain and later Post Chaplain (Fort Stewart, GA); Deputy Training and Doctrine Command Chaplain and then Acting Training and Doctrine Command Chaplain (Fort Monroe, VA).

Chaplain Lucas speaks for each of the military Chaplains when he said: *"I want to thank the CGGC for originally endorsing me in 1968 and for the prayers and other support from across the General Conference; that followed me and has followed our other Chaplains over the years."*

Highlights he remembers include: *"My assignment to Vietnam in 1969, during the first year of my career, is a highlight. Giving the Gospel to Soldiers in a time of war was most rewarding. They were anxious to hear and respond and for many it was permanent."*

*A second favorite memory is the time spent at major Army Headquarters. These assignments enabled me to see that administrative and other support of the ministry is a ministry in and of itself; additionally, the location of these two HQS (Williamsburg, VA; Heidelberg, Germany) were fantastic places to live as a family.*

*My third choice is Fort Stewart, GA where I quickly learned that war is harder on families than it is on Soldiers. After sending 38 of my 41 Chaplains off to Kuwait, the Army gathered eight*

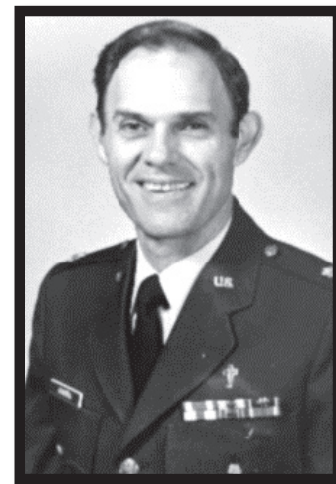


*retired Chaplains, gave them to me. and then tasked us with taking care of the spiritual and emotional needs of over 25,000 spouses and family members. It was also at Ft. Stewart that I had the unique privilege of standing beside President H.W. Bush and offering prayer before he spoke to the families."*

After his military career concluded in 1992, Tom continued ministry in a variety of settings: initially, at Winebrenner Seminary (1992-1995) and then the Camp Hill Church of God (1995-2007) as senior pastor and then as an associate. From there he served as interim Eastern Regional Conference director for a period, followed by a season as its Pastoral Care Director. Prior to retirement in 2017, Chaplain Lucas was interim pastor at several churches: Doubling Gap, United, Penbrook, and Mt. Laurel Churches of God.

### **CH (MAJ) Wayne Gosnell U.S. Air Force (1977-1994)**

Our only Air Force Chaplain to date, **Wayne Gosnell** is a son of the Brunswick Church of God (Maryland, ERC). He is one of four members of the congregation to enter full-time ministry, a group that also includes Army Chaplain Thomas Lucas. Prior to graduating from Findlay College, Wayne filled pulpit supply opportunities. He then went on to graduate from Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C.



Following seminary and ordination by the East Pennsylvania Conference in 1977, Wayne accepted the call to pastor the Rockville Christian Church and served there for two years. While there, a leader in the congregation became like a second father to Chaplain Gosnell. Art Hinton asked Wayne if he had considered a Chaplaincy in the military. Wayne doesn't recall if he knew that such a ministry existed. Art, a retired Chief Master Sergeant in the U.S. Air Force, had maintained his good connections with the Air Force and arranged a face-to-face meeting for Wayne with the Air Force Chief

of Chaplains. This sounded intriguing to Wayne, so he and Christina prayed about it. Wayne later submitted his packet and was selected for Air Force Chaplaincy in 1977.

Chaplain Gosnell served at Minot AFB (North Dakota), Spangdahlem AB (Germany), Langley AFB (Virginia), Nellis AFB (Nevada), Incirlik AB (Turkey) and Maxwell AFB (Alabama).

After the Gulf War ended in 1991, there was a major convocation at Incirlik Air Base (Turkey) to celebrate the success of the mission. Chaplain Gosnell's base Chaplain was supposed to offer the invocation but, for some reason, he deferred to Wayne to do the honors. Wayne was a bit anxious about this prominent prayer opportunity as there were several Generals, a congressional delegation from the U.S., and over 10,000 people present. Wayne led the group in prayer and was eager to walk off the platform and get behind the scenes again. However, before he got very far, a General rose, stopped Wayne, and brought him back to the podium. The General announced, *"This was the best prayer I ever heard!"* The people applauded that announcement. Wayne said that he was simultaneously somewhat elated and quite embarrassed.



**Chaplain Gosnell with General Colin Powell.**

Following his military retirement in 1994, Chaplain Gosnell went on to serve several Eastern Regional Conference Churches of God congregations: Newville, Harrisburg First, Bowmansdale, and Goldsboro. Eventually, Wayne retired to West Virginia, and there pastored Calvary United Methodist Church (Keyser, WV).

## **CH (COL) Joel W. Cocklin** **U.S. Army (1982 – 2009)**

**Joel Cocklin** was born in Mt. Pleasant, PA. Following his undergraduate work at Findlay College, Joel went on to earn his M.Div. at Winebrenner Theological Seminary, with additional studies at the Lutheran Seminary at Gettysburg, PA.

Early ministry efforts included McComb Presbyterian Church (OH) and Philippian United Methodist Church (Rudolph, OH). He was ordained by the Eastern Regional Conference (1972) and pastored the New Cumberland First Church of God (ERC) from 1972-1982.

His calling to military Chaplaincy was a gradual one. Elected to the General Conference Administrative Council in 1977, he served on the Commission on Vocations, which was his first exposure to military Chaplaincy.

About the 7th year of ministry at the New Cumberland First Church of God, he began to sense God calling him to a greater challenge:

*"After much prayer and searching for about two years, I was convinced that God was calling me to serve in 'the largest youth group in the free world' (the United States Army) as a Chaplain. The accession process took over a year, but as a result, I was selected to represent the Churches of God, General Conference and entered Active Duty in June 1982."*



Chaplain Cocklin served in many roles over his career: battalion Chaplain, squadron Chaplain, community Chaplain, special projects officer, family life Chaplain, brigade Chaplain, deputy division Chaplain, command staff Chaplain, installation command Chaplain of Ft. Benning, command Chaplain US Southern Command, and installation command Chaplain of Ft. Bragg.





*"At my first duty station where I was serving as a battalion Chaplain, a senior non-commissioned officer was court-martialed and stripped of his rank, all benefits, and sentenced immediately to military prison leaving his wife and four children literally 'out in the cold' with nothing. As her husband's unit Chaplain, I was the only advocate his Chinese wife (a practicing Buddhist) and their children had. I worked with post housing to extend their eviction notice allowing the children to finish the school year. I met with the school officials and teachers so they were aware of this tragedy in the life of the children...I developed a good relationship with this devastated mother and her children."*

*"On departure day, they had all their worldly goods boxed and loaded on a truck ready to head off toward an uncertain future. She expressed her gratitude for all I had done for her and her children. Then as we walked toward the front door to pull it closed one last time, she took my hand, looked me squarely in the eye, and said these words: 'I'm liking your Jesus more and more!'"*

*"I knew then that my Christian witness to her had been what I wanted it to be: a message of Christ-like love that might touch her heart to discover more of who Jesus is. I am so thankful the Army Chaplaincy gave me the privilege of offering a cold cup of water to this woman in need (Matthew 10:42)."*

Following retirement in 2009, Chaplain Cocklin served Winebrenner Seminary in various administrative positions (2009-2018) and earned a D.Min. degree while serving as Academic Dean. He and Kay eventually settled in Arkansas.

## **CH (LTC) Timothy Bartlett U.S. Army (1983- 2010)**

Born in Rochester, NY, Tim grew up with positive influences about serving in the military. His father was a World War II Veteran who talked about how his faith and the community of believers in the war helped him through those times. Tim also had a youth pastor who had been drafted into the Marines during Vietnam and shared stories of ministry.

After completing his undergraduate work at Cairn University (Philadelphia College of Bible), Tim received a Th.M. degree from Dallas Theological Seminary (1979). He was ordained by the Eastern Regional Conference and pastored the Washington Boro Church of God.

With the support of that local church, Tim began investigating Chaplaincy within the U.S. Army Reserves. While attending the Chaplain Basic Course, he heard a Chaplain talk about U. S. Army Active Duty Chaplaincy and pursued that option with the full endorsement of the CGGC.

Chaplain Bartlett completed his D.Min. at Palmer Theological Seminary (1997).

One of Chaplain Bartlett's most memorable experiences occurred on September 11, 2001. He was meeting with others considering new applicants for Active Duty Chaplaincy when told they had to vacate the building. Once outside, they saw the smoke from the Pentagon.

*"We all immediately went to the Pentagon area. It was only chaos for a short time. Civilians were coming on the shutdown freeway on bikes to bring water. Every once in a while, we were told to shelter under the*



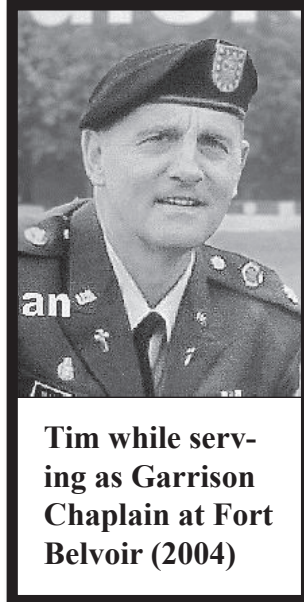
**Arriving at Fort Sill on Active Duty in 1984.**



*underpasses as there was worry about another plane. Very quickly order was restored. I was very proud of the military at this point. Only hours afterward, support areas were set up for different functions: Chaplaincy, Red Cross, medical, etc. A gravel road was already being built to the impact area. Technical rescue personnel were already at work.*

*Over the next few days, many conversations were held and prayers offered with rescue workers, people from the building, and people who had lost loved ones in the building. As is typical in these things after a few days there is more help than is needed. I moved back to Ft Belvoir (14 miles away) and began the process of memorials, notifications, and ministry to individuals and an anxious community.”*

Following retirement as a Lieutenant Colonel in 2010, Chaplain Bartlett settled in the state of Washington.



**Tim while serving as Garrison Chaplain at Fort Belvoir (2004)**

## **CH (COL) Stephen B. Show U.S. Army Reserves (1987-2015)**

**Stephen Show** was born in Somerset, PA. He is a graduate of the University of Findlay and Winebrenner Theological Seminary. Steve was one of a few Chaplains who had prior enlisted military experience. His enlistment in the Air Force began in 1976 and then completed his original contract in the Air Force Reserves from 1978-1981.

The Show family's physician also happened to serve as a doctor in the Army Reserves. While Steve was in the Air Force Reserves in Ohio, the doctor encouraged him to remain in the Air Force and become a Chaplain. Even after his 1981 discharge from the Air Force Reserves, the good doctor continued to promote the Chaplain role. Finally, in 1985, Steve submitted a packet to become a U.S. Army Reserve Chaplain. In 1986 he was commissioned as a First Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Reserves, with that same Dr. Saloom administering his Oath of

Office. Steve expresses a deep debt of gratitude toward that man.

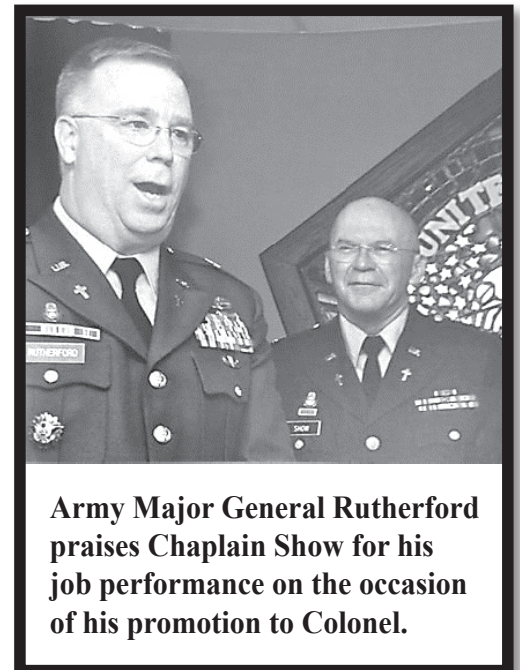
While in Ohio Steve pastored Anderson Bethel (1978-1980) and Salem Church of God (1980-1982). Following seminary, Steve was ordained by the Ohio Conference and accepted a call to western Pennsylvania and served lengthy and productive pastorates at Lillyville Church of God and later Kingwood Church of God.



**Steve and Carol Show in front of the White House in 2012.**

From 1987 to 2003, his Army Reserve Chaplain assignments across western Pennsylvania were quite varied: chemical battalion, field artillery brigade, military police brigade, quartermaster group, and culminated as 99th Regional Readiness Deputy Command Chaplain.

Chaplain Show's initial Active Duty assignment arose in 2003 in support of Operation Noble Eagle working in Coraopolis, PA (2003-2005). He subsequently was mobilized as Assistant Staff Chaplain, U.S. Army Garrison, Kaiserslautern, Germany (2005-2006).



**Army Major General Rutherford praises Chaplain Show for his job performance on the occasion of his promotion to Colonel.**

The highlight of his military career began in 2006 when he received orders to the Army Office of the Chief of Chaplains, Pentagon, Washington, D.C. He continued

to serve until his retirement in 2015. During that period, Chaplain Show reviewed the unit ministry team mobilization and deployment requirements of the U.S. Army Reserves, putting Army Reserve Chaplains and Chaplain Assistants on Active Duty to provide Religious Support to Military and Civilian personnel in the US and the world.

For more detailed information about Steve's Chaplain ministry, see an interview in the March-April 2024 "Global Advocate" (Vol. 189, No. 2). Chaplain Show retired in 2015 at the rank of Colonel and settled in Florida.

**CH (BG) K. Edward Brandt**  
**U.S. Army National Guard (1989-2020)**

CH Brandt grew up in the Elizabethtown First Church of God (ERC) and first felt called to the pastorate at age 12. After earning a B.A. from the University of Findlay, he went on to earn an M.Div. from Princeton Theological Seminary and later a D.Min. from Lancaster Theological Seminary.



Brandt joined the National Guard in 1989 while serving as pastor at Cedar Grove Presbyterian Church (USA) in East Earl Township, Lancaster County. The Presbyterian Church (USA) became his endorsing body.

Ed was deployed to Iraq 2008-2009 with the Delaware National Guard with whom he later served as State Chaplain. His last duty assignment was at the Pentagon as the U.S. Army Deputy Chief of Chaplains. He was the primary Army National Guard liaison to the U.S. Army Chief of Chaplains. In that role, he advised the Director of the Army National Guard, provided leader care to Senior General Officers, oversaw resources, training, and policy providing religious support for over 800 chaplains serving nearly 350,000 Army National Guard Soldiers and their families. He retired at the rank of Brigadier General after serving 31 years.

CH Brandt states: *"It falls to the chaplain to be both a good listener and 'an honest broker' to the military brass who may not hear the criticism from their unhappy subordinates."*

Ed has served Presbyterian pastorates in Pennsylvania, Delaware, California, Florida, and Michigan. The Alumni Association of Lancaster Seminary honored him in 2020 with an Award of Excellence in recognition of his distinguished service. He currently lives in Naples, FL where he remains active in pastoral ministry.

**CH (COL) Charles Yost**  
**U.S. Army Reserves (1991-2015)**

"Charlie's" calling to military chaplaincy was a two-decade-long process. As a 20-year-old, he considered enlisting in the Army as a Chaplain assistant. At seminary seven years later, he made initial inquiries about military Chaplaincy. Another 12 years later during Operation Desert Shield, while pastoring in western Pennsylvania, he contacted the Commission on Vocations about a potential CGGC endorsement to become an Army Reserve Chaplain.

Following his commissioning (1991), Charlie continued serving the local church and had various assignments within the 99th Army Reserve Command. Some of these battalions had subordinate units that were 200 miles distant, which required some very creative scheduling for troop visitation. The demands of family, church and Reserve duty became overwhelming for him, and he went into the Inactive Ready Reserve in 1998.

A few days after September 11, 2001, Charlie asked to be reactivated



**Charles and Jeanne at Fort Bragg, NC**



within the Army Reserves. In January 2003, he was involuntarily transferred to the 323rd Military Intelligence Battalion, mobilizing under Operation Iraqi Freedom out of Fort Dix, NJ. That deployment began a period of service that included two additional overseas deployments (Kuwait and Iraq) and several Active Duty mobilizations to continental U.S. assignments: Coraopolis, PA; Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, NJ; Fort Bragg, NC; and Dover Air Force Base, DE.



**Serving the Families of the Fallen at Dover Air Force Base and supporting the Army staff and civilian employees of the Joint Personal Effects Depot (an incredible honor and privilege of a lifetime.)**

Some highlights from his military career include: serving as rear detachment Chaplain for the 82nd Combat Aviation Brigade, coordinating weekly 82nd Division spouses' support group meetings, and many deployed spouse retreats; coordinating and participating in the U.S. military's very first religious leader liaison with the Kuwaiti equivalent to the military Chaplaincy

During a briefing with all Unit Ministry Teams at Balad Air Base in 2007, *"my ears perked up when the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff two star Chaplain mentioned the contribution of Army Chaplain Joel Cocklin toward a unified military statement on confidential and privileged communications."* In Iraq, the senior Chaplain in the military referenced a CGGC Chaplain! Charlie deeply appreciates how CGGC Chaplains Tom Lucas, Joel Cocklin, and Steve Show mentored him and helped to facilitate his military career.

After retirement in 2015 with the rank of Colonel, Charlie returned to Pennsylvania and later pastored the Goldsboro Church of God (ERC).

## 21st Century

### **CH (CPT) Elizabeth McGraw U.S. Army (2008-2020)**

**Elizabeth (Kurtz) McGraw** graduated from Geneva College (Beaver Falls, PA) with a youth ministry degree and from Winebrenner Theological Seminary in 2008. The Eastern Regional Conference of the Churches of God, General Conference conferred ordination upon Beth in 2010.



**At Camp Humphreys, South Korea 2018.**

While Beth had a desire to join the military in high school, she started seminary without having a clear direction for what she was going to do after graduation. She talked to people about the different types of ministry involvement. She submitted her packet to be a U.S. Army Chaplain during her second year of seminary. She was commissioned as an Active Duty U.S. Army Chaplain after graduation and went to Chaplain Officer Basic Training in 2009.

Chaplain McGraw received a variety of specialized training: applied suicide intervention skills, casualty notification, casualty assistance officer, combat life saver, combat medical ministry, medical ministry substance

abuse, and the Chaplain's captain career course.

*"In 2010, I deployed to Afghanistan. When my unit first arrived there, I found out when all the religious services were being offered. My medics worked unique hours and spent most of the rest of the time on-call in case emergencies happened. A couple of them asked me if I would run a Bible study specifically for them in their office. I agreed. It started out with just a few of us meeting. After a while, the other medics who really didn't have faith in anything started to join our group. Over time, they became eager to learn more and asked all kinds of questions. Throughout that year, I had the chance to watch all of them grow in their faith or come to faith in God. Before we came back home, we were able to hold a baptism service. Three of the medics who accepted Christ as their Savior were baptized, and two who had wandered away from their faith but came back to faith asked to be baptized as well."*



**Beth at the DMZ, looking into North Korea in 2017.**

Chaplain McGraw deployed three times to Afghanistan and once to Korea. In addition to the Bronze Star Medal, Beth received numerous other awards. Due to medical issues, Beth retired to Louisiana in 2020 at the rank of Captain.

### **CH (MAJ) Matthew Shenton U.S. Army (2007 – present)**

**Matt Shenton** graduated from Shippensburg University with a degree in environmental science. While attending Winebrenner Theological Seminary, he served at The City Mission (Findlay Ohio).

The call to the military Chaplaincy came while he was at seminary. "The study room at Winebrenner had a small display about US Army Chaplains. *"I picked up a card and went home to talk with my wife. She was not quite sure this was a good idea, but we called the East-*

*ern Regional Conference and talked with Pastor Tom Lucas. After several conversations and many prayers, we decided to start the process. I was commissioned into the Army Reserves as a 2LT Chaplain candidate in March of 2007 at the same time that we adopted our third child, Faith. This was a true test of our faith but throughout, God remained faithful to our family, and He continues to lead us on this journey of service to God and country."*



**Matt, Joelle, and children in 2020.**

Matt was ordained by the Eastern Regional Conference in 2008. Later that year, he was commissioned as an Active Duty Chaplain and assigned as 188th Brigade Support Battalion Chaplain of 18th Fires Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, NC. Chaplain (Colonel) Joel Cocklin was the installation Chaplain there at the time. Subsequent assignments fell under 4th Infantry Division, 7th Infantry Division, 82nd Airborne Division (a 2nd time), and currently with 1st Army at Fort Knox, KY.



**Endorser Tom Lucas with three CGGC Chaplains simultaneously assigned to Fort Bragg: Cocklin, Shenton, & Yost.**



One of Matt's special memories: *"On my second deployment to Afghanistan, we had daily MEDEVAC missions bringing wounded to our forward support hospital. We carried many Soldiers, civilians, and enemy from the helicopter landing pad into the ER. After a year of seeing that kind of damage, it began to wear us out. But God is faithful; towards the end of our rotation, I had the privilege of baptizing three Soldiers and witnessing their rebirth in Jesus Christ. It was amazing to see God bringing new life, even in the destruction of war."*

### **CH (CPT) Brent Mangus** **U.S. Army National Guard (2018-present)**

**Brent Mangus** served seven years in the Maine Army National Guard and then the Pennsylvania Army National Guard as a Human Resources Specialist. In 2018 he was commissioned as a Chaplain Candidate and completed the Chaplain Officer Basic Leadership Course in 2019. *"Ever since I was 13 years old, I knew God called me to be in the ministry. I pursued ministry work from the time of my calling until today. After I went through a divorce in 2015, I enlisted in the military knowing I needed a new start to my life. While at Basic Training and Advanced Training, despite my divorce and other weaknesses, I saw God use me to minister to my fellow Soldiers. Because God continued to use me at these trainings, I felt God leading me to pursue Chaplaincy. This call was verified one day at a job interview for the Maine Army National Guard when the President of the Board asked me 'off record' why I wasn't pursuing Chaplaincy. That was the final push that I needed from God to begin pursuing Chaplaincy. I enrolled in seminary and became a Chaplain Candidate in the Pennsylvania Army National Guard (2018) and submitted my packet for National Guard Chaplaincy in 2022."*



FL) and a Master of Divinity from Evangelical Seminary (Myerstown, PA). Following ordination by the Eastern Regional Conference in 2021, he began pastoring the non-denominational Salem Church (Waynesboro, PA) in 2022.

*"I had the privilege of serving in Washington, D.C. for Protect the Capitol (post 1/6/2021) and the Inauguration mission. My battalion was tasked with controlling and blocking off several traffic points and intersections. I shared communion with Soldiers on the streets of our nation's capital. On our last full day there, one of our batteries went to the Capitol Mall. At the Lincoln Memorial, once again I was able to serve communion to four other Soldiers. This experience was certainly the highlight of my DC mission, and possibly my time as a Chaplain to date."*



### **CH (CPT) Byron Denman** **U.S. Army (2019-present)**

Born in Wurzburg, Germany, **Byron Denman** graduated from high school in Elgin, OK and later from Palm Beach Atlantic University (FL). He served in an enlisted role in the military for ten years, including two tours of distinguished service under Operation Iraqi Freedom where he was an Arabic linguist/ cryptologist. He also was certified as a senior parachutist, driver, and mechanic, and earned numerous awards including a combat action badge.



Brent's educational background included a bachelor's degree from Pensacola Christian College (Pensacola,

In addition to the tours in Iraq, Byron's enlisted service included the Presidio in Monterrey, CA; Goodfellow Air Force base, TX; Fort Campbell, KY; and Clay Kaserne, Germany.

Byron became a Chaplain Candidate at Winebrenner Theological Seminary and graduated in 2017. He served as Associate Pastor at Hopewell First Church of God and as Planting Pastor at Overflow Ministries in Tiffin, OH where he was primarily working with college students. In 2018 the Great Lakes Conference granted him ordination, and the U.S. Army approved his packet for Active Duty Chaplain.

Chaplain Denman states: *"I was called into ministry during the junior year of my bachelor's degree, but enlisted in the Army following the declaration of war that resulted from the 9/11 attacks. After years of service, my wife spoke with the voice of wisdom and reminded me that God had called me into full-time ministry. At that point, I applied for the Chaplain Candidate Program and began attending Winebrenner Theological Seminary. Despite deep interest in foreign missions and church planting, we discerned that God was calling us into the Army mission field, Where I have been happily serving our Soldiers since February 2019."*

Since commissioning as Chaplain, Byron has been stationed at Fort Carson, CO with the 4th Infantry Division, deployed to Poland, Fort Jackson, SC, and Fort Johnson (LA) with the Joint Readiness Training Command. For more detailed information about Byron's Chaplain ministry, see an interview in the January-February 2024 "Global Advocate" (Vol. 189, No. 1).



**Byron leading a field worship service.**

## **CH (1LT) Dylan Smith** **U.S. Army (2024 – present)**

**Dylan Smith** graduated from Big Spring High School in Newville, PA. As a 19-year-old, Dylan sensed a distinct calling to pastoral ministry which was confirmed in several unique ways. A few years later while attending San Diego Christian College, he sensed a more specific calling to military chaplaincy.



After enrolling at Liberty University in pursuit of his M.Div. degree, he became eligible to apply for the Chaplain Candidate program. The Chaplain Candidate Program (CCP) is designed to train candidates to become active duty, reserve, and National Guard military Chaplains. The CCP program gives seminary students supervised on-the-job training to evaluate each candidate as a prospective Chaplain. Chaplain candidates in the Air Force, Army, and Navy go through branch-specific officer training, as well as attend Chaplain School during summers while in the program.

All Chaplain Candidates are commissioned officers assigned to specific Army Reserve units and attend their monthly assemblies. In 2017, the CGGC endorsed Dylan and he was assigned to an Engineer Battalion in Pennsylvania.

Ordained by the Eastern Regional Conference, Dylan's civilian pastoral assignments included the Goldsboro Church of God and the South Fairview Church of God.

He was commissioned as an active-duty U.S. Army Chaplain in 2024. He is scheduled to attend the Chaplain Basic Officer Leadership Course at Fort Jackson, SC. His first duty assignment will be at Fort Sill, OK.



## For God and Country

Our military chaplains have served in significant positions of responsibility, some might say in a disproportional ratio based on such a limited number of chaplains representing such a small denomination. For example, **Joel Cocklin**, **Tim Bartlett**, and **Tom Lucas** all served as installation Chaplains: **Joel** once at Fort Benning, GA, and later Fort Bragg, NC; **Tim** at Fort Belvoir, VA; and **Tom** at Fort Stewart, GA. **Joel Cocklin** also served as command Chaplain of the U.S. Southern Command. **Steve Show** served for a decade in the Pentagon with the Army Chief of Chaplain's office. **Ed Brandt**, as Deputy Army Chief of Chaplains, achieved the highest level of responsibility among our CGGC-connected Chaplains.

Not surprisingly, our military chaplains share positive remarks about their experiences and highly recommend serving...though they may disagree on the preferred branch of service. Chaplain **Bartlett** describes the many opportunities one has to connect with unchurched personnel. *"You will be spending most of your time with a majority of people who are not churched, who do not clearly understand the gospel, who know little of the Scriptures. They will look to you for counsel about life, family, career decisions, etc. What a marvelous opportunity to reach beyond the typical sphere of influence afforded in a more typical pastoral situation!"*

**Chaplain McGraw** adds: *"I had the opportunity to be a part of Soldiers' lives in a way that I never quite experienced in civilian ministry. I think that is the best part of what I do. When I move to a new unit, I am there for 2-3 years. I work, train, and potentially deploy with the same group of people. Because we spend so much time together, I get to know the Soldiers in the unit very well. I walk with them through their struggles and joys. I get to meet them where they are in their lives, whether they believe in God or not. And I have the opportunity to show them God's love, help them find God in difficult circumstances, and celebrate with them in their victories."*

**Chaplain Denman** states: *"The need for spiritual care is tremendous among our Service Members. Many come from backgrounds wherein they were taught the name of Jesus but did not necessarily experience the love and grace that He provides. My experience has been that these Soldiers are desperately seeking the truth and, as a Chaplain, you would have a unique opportunity to*

*guide them toward Him during some of their darkest hours."*

**Chaplain Show** describes an additional benefit: "I have always said, *'The Church taught me how to be a pastor, but the Army taught me how to be a leader'.*"

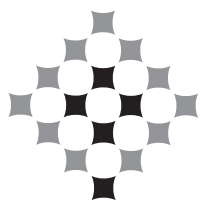
Regarding the valued counseling ministry that Chaplains provide, **Brandt** states: *"For some Soldiers, the experience was too much to handle. They can't go back to see their kids or family members for a whole year. Working relationships were a challenge. When you're with a lot of people you're not used to, you discover another side of yourself, which can be good or can be bad, so we dealt with them. 'I lost five guys this past week' is a real prayer concern. It's not like, 'help me find a parking space at Walmart!' It was a real-life moment. So you engage people like that. We took care of people."*

All the information for this article was contributed by the named chaplains and compiled by **Chaplains Charles Yost** and **Joel Cocklin** with the assistance of CGGC Archives Curator **Jim Marckel**.



Many timeframes exist since the founding of the CGGC in 1825 in which there is no recorded evidence of military chaplains serving. Therefore, a real possibility exists that individuals may have inadvertently not been listed in this issue. This omission is unintentional. Anyone having information or knowledge of CGGC military chaplains who are not acknowledged in this document should contact the Historical Society of the Churches of God, General Conference, Jim Marckel (Curator), 700 E. Melrose Avenue, P.O. Box 926, Findlay, Ohio 45839.

**Don Dennison** pastored churches in Illinois and Indiana for 28 years before joining the General Conference staff. He served as Director of Cross-Cultural Ministries (Global Reach) for 20 years (1995-2015) and now serves as a Transitional Interim Pastor. His twin brother, **John**, enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1967 and served two tours of duty in Vietnam.



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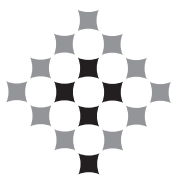
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CHURCHES OF GOD, GENERAL CONFERENCE

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