



“STAYING CONNECTED” Free Methodist Chaplain Newsletter

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THANK YOU!!! Chaplains, Chaplain Families, & all who Pray/Praise for Free Methodist Chaplains, Pastors, Missionaries, all other CHRIST-Followers!

Merry Christmas to you all!!! Be encouraged in your walk with the LORD!! What could possibly be more encouraging than to know that the “Heart of the Universe” loves you and cares for you! Think about it: God **loves** you and all of humankind individually, generally, and particularly. That love is so great that God **suffers** for us! And **invests** in us – Jesus on the cross – The Incarnation – The gift of the Holy Spirit – God **lives** in us/**works** in us to accomplish our “extreme makeover;” and God **includes** us in his eternal project: the love-one-another Kingdom of God! Wow!!!

MERRY CHRISTMAS! indeed! For Christmas to be “merry and blessed” requires gifts of love, purpose, faith, caring, and service. Let’s open these gifts: The Great Command in Matthew 22:36-40, The Great Commission in Matthew 28:18-20, The Great Challenge in Matthew 25:31-46, and practice them all year around as Peter writes, “Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms ... so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.” And **Merry Christmas AMEN!**



NSC Elder (2003) **Paul L. Peterson** is the evangelistic pastor that has served the FMC Church 180 and the Rock Hill SC community since 2009. His zeal for leading skeptics to Christ has driven him to consider the open field of being a Chaplain to Army personnel and their families. His hobbies include Mixed Martial Arts, being a Physical Trainer, and (not a hobby, but his mission!) engaging people in those venues with questions about their appreciation for the Person who died and rose again for them. He and his wife **Sherri** have six children, from age 7 to 15. He has a B.A. in Ministerial Ed from God’s Bible School and College, an M Div from Reformed Presbyterian Theological Seminary, and M.S. in Professional Leadership from St. Bonaventure. His ministry appointments prior to Church 180 include (2000-2005) as Sr. Pastor at New Castle FMC, PA, Sr. Pastor at Northgate FMC (2005-2007) in Batavia NY, and church planting internship (2007-2008) with Mountain Lake Church in Cumming GA. Years before his call to ministry he enlisted in the National Guard, but only served 21 months and was discharged with a broken knee. His references reveal a man of disciplined obedience, strong integrity, a deep love for Christ, one whose churches grew more by people coming to faith in Christ rather than by transfer, spiritually mature, a godly example of what a man, father, and husband should be, has a Christian soldier personality, is passionate for reaching the lost and passionate about healthy living – spiritually and physically, and he lives what he preaches. Paul has the faith and fortitude to serve well in the Armed Forces. He will advance the Kingdom of God faithfully & represent our F M C – USA honorably. Paul will start his Army Chaplain training in January. “Our prayers are with you & your family Paul!”



ANDREW A. BAIRD is an impressive young man who served several F M Churches in Oklahoma & North Michigan. He has served for nearly five years as a Chaplain in the Army National Guard. His call to service came early and is reflected in his Worship Arts Ministry degree at Central Christian College of Kansas (2009) and an M Div from George Fox Evangelical Seminary (2014). His CMC service was as a part time Pastor (2013-2015) at Edmond OK FMC. Andy was ordained an Elder in 2014. He was born and raised in a solid FM family and met his wife **Allison** in 2012 at McPherson KS. He is spiritually resilient, has strong empathy for others, demonstrates great skill in shepherding the people under his care, loves the **Lord**, is a good listener and leader. In his full time ministry at the Hastings MI FMC, Associate Pastor Baird leads the worship services & Adult Discipleship. He is an inspirational leader, a team player, loves people and is well organized. Andy is going soon into the vital mission field of active duty Army. Besides praying for Andy and his family, please add Army Chaplain **Jim Souza** and Air Force Chaplain **Tim Porter** to your prayers! Chaplain Major Jim Souza is deployed to units in Kuwait and Chaplain Lt Col Tim Porter is deployed to Afghanistan, and **Jesus, thank God** is deployed to planet earth by the **Holy Spirit**. Merry Christmas every one!!