

CHAPLAINS NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2017

Message from Don:

On behalf of Alliance chaplains in Alberta, I want to express my sincere appreciation to Gerard Barabash for his leadership as National Representative and Chairman of the District Chaplaincy (AAC-WCD) Lead Team since 2015. He has served at the District for the past 7 years as a member of the team. He recently accepted a transfer with Canadian Armed Forces to Toronto and anticipates moving in late October. Under his leadership the number of chaplains across the WCD Greater Chaplains Network grew to 63.

Thank
You!



Canadian Armed Forces:
Primary Chaplain Branch Badge

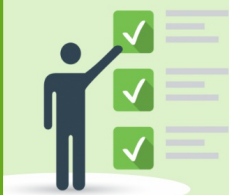
Gerard diligently carried out his responsibilities with a pastor's heart of love for all those he represented. He's led us well. A recent event he helped initiate was the morphing of our annual chaplaincy forum from a one-day event to a 48 hour retreat. This event took place last May and was well received by all in attendance.

I personally have enjoyed working with Gerard and will miss his leadership. We anticipate announcing a replacement sometime next month following the Lead Team meeting in early October. We wish Gerard and Linda (his wife) God's richest blessings as they begin a new season of life and ministry in Ontario.



Don Neufeld is the National Coordinator of Alliance Chaplains and also serves as one of three Church Effectiveness Coaches in the Western Canadian District C&MA.

For more information about the AAC and Chaplaincy, please visit our website:
<https://www.cmacan.org/alliance-chaplains>



We have sent out a "Chaplain Status Update Form" request to you recently. Thank you for taking the time to complete this short form / survey. We truly value the information you have provided in helping us ensure that your records with us are up to date. All data is confidential and will not be used or shared with any third party.

If you have any questions, please contact Wendy Ng (wng@transformcma.ca).

If you did not receive the email and wish to update your records with us, please go to the following link to complete the form.



This Month's HIS - story...

I was raised in a non-Christian home by my parents where my dad worked for Bell Canada most of his life and my mom was a homemaker. I came to faith in Christ through the ministry of Pastor Jim Frost (Sturgeon Alliance Church, AB). A "road to Damascus" experience in February of 1993 started the journey and another 2 years before getting baptized in the summer of 1995.

At our baptismal service (My wife Tammy & I were baptized at the same time), Pastor Frost's wife (Maureen) came to talk to me and prophesied that the Lord was going to use me as an Alliance pastor one day. I went into the military in 1999 to pursue the possibility of joining the military chaplaincy unit. I was told a definite "no" at the time because there were no openings available. I was strongly advised to get out of the military if I felt this was what God had called me to do. Initially, I was encouraged by other Christians in my church to pursue this because they saw something in me that I didn't see in myself. After I was turned down by the military to pursue chaplaincy, I put this idea on hold and carried on with my life thinking that maybe I had misread the Holy Spirit's call to ministry.

In 2000, I served on my 1st tour of duty in Bosnia. I worked along a military chaplain by the name of Ralph Rains (Vineyard movement). After serving together on the tour for a period of time, we built a strong trust and friendship together. About 4 months into the tour, he asked me if I was willing to take over his responsibilities as a chaplain while he was going on vacation for 3 weeks back to Canada. This meant conducting the Sunday worship services and looking after the pastoral needs of our military personnel. He told me that he had already asked for his superior's approval and wanted to know if I was willing to do so. After much prayers & encouragements, I felt that I needed to be obedient to God and so I accepted. The experience was the cornerstone for me in becoming a military chaplain. God told me that these 3 weeks were the stepping stones to which He would lead and light my path afterwards.

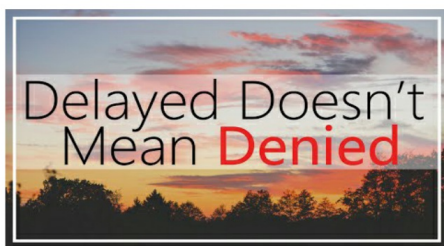


Steeve Arseneau
Alliance Chaplain in the St-Lawrence District

I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name.
(Revelations 3:8)

In 2001, we were transferred from Edmonton, AB to Belleville, ON (CFB Trenton) right after the September 11 events. After settling in our new home and we began attending Quinte Alliance Church, we progressively began to be involved more & more into the church's ministries. After about a year there, I was asked to preach and overtime, people saw something in me that they felt that God was using me to challenge them in their walk with God. My wife Tammy encouraged me again to go back to the military and see if there is another opportunity. She felt that my experience in Bosnia was from God and that I needed to test & confirm if this was God's way of reopening the door of chaplaincy for me.

In 2002, I was told by the military authority that not only did they now want me to become a chaplain but that they would also pay for my education as well (Rev 3:8). The lesson I learn from this is that GOD'S DELAY DOESN'T MEAN GOD'S DENIAL! I began to work on my bachelor of theology out of CBC (Canadian Bible College) and took a few online courses thereafter.



In 2003, I was re-deployed this time to Dubai (UAE) for another 6 months tour. I put on hold my studies because I felt that I wasn't going to be able to do both things effectively. Once I finished my tour, I had a long & hard conversation with my Lead Pastor (at the time-Randy Roebuck). He said to me that if my goal was to become a military chaplain, then I need to apply into a Master program and not a bachelor one.

Why did he know this information? Because he had himself pondered about chaplaincy and knew what academic credentials were required. He helped me with the application process at Tyndale University & Seminary where I began working on my MDIV until I graduated in November of 2009.

Following graduation, I immediately applied to join the chaplaincy unit. I was accepted in the spring of 2010 and was posted back to Edmonton to work in a local alliance church of my choice to complete a pastoral internship of 2 years; fully funded by the Canadian military. I was accepted to work my 2 years tenure at Spruce Grove Alliance under the leadership of David Chotka. During those 2 years, I was ordained and was exposed to all aspects of church ministries where I learned where my gifts & abilities were and where I need supported from my pastoral colleagues.

Following graduation, I immediately applied to join the In August of 2012, I left the church and the people of SGAC to begin my full-time career as a military chaplain in Cold Lake, AB. I served with a small team of 6 chaplains representing Catholics & Protestant ministers of various denominations. This experience not only enriched my own walk with God but, it has also created opportunities to work & minister alongside some pretty amazing people as well.

Finally, in the summer of 2014, I was posted once again to beautiful Québec City where I served as the unit chaplain of the 3R22R famously known as the 3rd battalion of the Vandoos. In January 2016, I deployed with my unit to Ukraine for a 7 months tour to help the Ukrainian soldiers become better equipped in defending the sovereignty of their nation. Once again, I work as the only Canadian chaplain there but, I also worked with 2 amazing US chaplains and we cooperated at many levels in our ministries to our respected soldiers.

I am now awaiting my upcoming posting this summer to CFB Kingston. Since becoming a chaplain, I have moved 4 times in 7 years. As the military claims: THERE IS NO LIFE LIKE IT!