

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Adding life to your days and days to your life

By **CHAPLAIN (MAJ.) TERRY PARTIN**
Deputy Installation Chaplain, CSJFTC

My son, do not forget my teaching, but keep my commands in your heart, 2 for they will prolong your life many years and bring you peace and prosperity. 3 Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. 4 Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man. Proverbs 3:1-4 (NIV)

With better science and medicine along with understanding nutrition, we have managed to add a few more days to our lives. For the most part, we are living longer than any generation before us. But, living a long life doesn't necessarily add life to our days.

The writer of this proverb gives us two things to put at the forefront of our lives if we are to live a full and prosperous life. Neither requires wealth or fame. Fortunately, the principles that are put forth do not require a great job or a lot of income. Nor do they require great friends or a winning personality. They are two things that any person can choose to cultivate in their

lives; love and faithfulness.

Everyone person can choose to love and be faithful to others. Though we may have gone through a difficult time or maybe even have been betrayed by another, we can choose our outlook on life from today forward. Many live long lives but they choose to live them in bitterness with a vengeful spirit. Others choose to be a victim of circumstances, blaming the world around them for their misery. But, this proverb reminds us that when we choose to live our lives in love and faithfulness, we are given an opportunity to not only have life but to live!

Notice that the writer calls for us to bind love and faithfulness around our necks. The idea from the custom of the time was that these things should be worn like a necklace, reminding us each time we saw it and others saw us, that love and faithfulness are a part of our lives. Much like we in the Army wear dog tags for identification, we should wear love and faithfulness in such a way as to be identified with their qualities.

For an example, one need only to look at a newly married couple who have little but

love to live on. They may not have the biggest house or the best vehicle. But, they have love. And, they have each other. Since they have a real love each for the other, they are also faithful to each other. They can count on each other to be there when needed. More than one couple has had to dig around for change to rent a movie and pop microwave popcorn for entertainment. They didn't have much but they had each other.

We may not all have someone to be there. But we can be that one who chooses to be there for others in our community. When we put love and faithfulness at the forefront of our lives, we find ourselves enjoying life much more fully.

The writer also reminds us that we must also bind love and faithfulness on our hearts. In the ancient Hebrew culture, the heart was considered the seat of emotions. So, we not only wear them outside so that we identify with and are identified by love and faithfulness, we also carry them in a way that they help us through the roughest of times. This trait helps us when others don't treat us well or when we give to others

but they refuse to give back.

This trait was recently live out by my son. He called to say that there was a small dog on the side of the road. The baggy skin and protruding rib cage said very clearly that the dog had been abandoned. He wanted to pick the dog up and take it to the shelter. I told him to do what he could do. Having already parked the truck, he got out to approach the canine. The dog would have none of it. It refused to allow my son to get near him, growling and barking every time he got close. After much effort, my son called me back asking what he should do. He had done all that he could do. He had to leave the dog. His heart led him to care, to do the best he could. In the end, he couldn't change the situation, but he was able to leave with the confidence that he had been faithful.

As we venture through this life, others may or may not respond to our care and faithfulness. If they do, we win and they win. If they don't, we still win, knowing we have done what is right. Choose to love and be faithful. It will give life to your years and years to your life.

CAMP SHELBY AREA WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

The following worship opportunities are available through Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center.

ON POST

General Protestant

Sunday, 9 a.m., Greer Chapel
Sunday, 12:30 p.m., Greer Chapel

Catholic Mass

Saturday, 2 p.m., Greer Chapel

(Confessions at 1:30 p.m.)
Sunday, 2 p.m., Greer Chapel
(Confessions at 1:30 p.m.)

For Jewish, Latter-day Saints and Muslim services, please contact the Post Chaplain for assistance at 558-2378.

Lutheran

Sunday, 8 a.m., St. John Lutheran

Church, 2001 Hardy Street, 601-583-4898.

OFF POST

*Transportation provided for Jewish, Episcopal, Lutheran, Muslim services ONLY (due to time scheduling) Units are responsible for arranging transportation by calling 601-558-2622.

Latter-day Saints

Sunday, 9 a.m., Latter-day Saints Meeting House, 1618 Broadway Dr., 601-268-2438/ Hall: 601-268-9706. Contact the Post Chaplain.

Episcopal

Sunday, 8 a.m., Trinity Episcopal, 509 West Pine St., 601-544-5551

Jewish

Friday at Temple B'Nai Israel at 801

Mamie Street, 601-545-3871. Every Friday at 6 p.m.

Muslim

Contact Post Chaplain

Others

Church of God at Bellevue, Hwy. 589, Hattiesburg
Jesus Christ of LDS, 2215 Broadway Drive, Hattiesburg

Perez is center team leader

By **DANA ELISE SMITH**
CSJFTC Public Affairs

Soty Perez serves as the Team Leader of the program coordinators



Perez

at Self Help Center at the Training Aids Support Center at Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center. The Self Help Center is a multimedia print shop. Her team's responsibility is to assist Soldiers to enlarge, print, bind and laminate digital media such as maps and images.

PERSONNEL PROFILE CIVILIAN

She said the center can do anything a commercial print shop can do.

Perez spent most of her life in Miami, Fla. She moved to Hattiesburg three years ago.

"I love my job here!" she said.

"Camp Shelby is amazing," she said. "My learning experience working here has been an amazing one. I wouldn't change it for the world. Camp Shelby has given me the opportunity to

meet amazing people, especially the ones I work for and work with. I love every minute."

Most of all, she enjoys serving Soldiers.

"I feel so much respect for the military. They fight for our freedom. My grandfather and uncle served in the military," she said.

When asked if she could sum up her work environment in one word, she said "Soldiers First!"



U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Michael Williams, CSJFTC Public Affairs
CHANGE OF RESPONSIBILITY... During a Change of Responsibility ceremony July 19 at Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center, Lt. Col. Billy Hardin, 1st Battalion 204th Air Defense Artillery commander passes the NCO sword to Command Sgt. Maj. Douglas King, incoming senior enlisted advisor to the commander. The "change of responsibility" ceremony is a time-honored military tradition. Units hold the ceremony when a senior NCO leaves a leadership position and a new NCO takes his place. The NCO sword is the symbol of an NCO's position of responsibility.



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