

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

What do you have to offer?

By CHAPLAIN (MAJ.) TERRY PARTIN
177th Armored Brigade Chaplain

A recent television show on the History Channel titled, "The Man Who Predicted 911," focused on Rick Rescorla, head of security for Morgan Stanley Bank. Long before Sept. 11, Rick Rescorla developed an employee evacuation plan for the bank. The offices were situated high up in the World Trade Center Tower Two. Rescorla, convinced that Osama Bin Laden would use jet planes to destroy the WTC, developed a "battle drill" for such an occasion. The plan and its preparation were very unpopular with the staff, many of whom thought Rescorla to be fanatical.

When the first plane hit Tower One, Rescorla ignored building officials' advice to stay in the building. He began an orderly evacuation of the 2,700-plus employees under his care. Stories speak of him using a bullhorn, singing God Bless America and shouting encouraging words to keep order and focus.

Rescorla had most of the Morgan Stanley employees as well as many other workers out of Tower Two when the second plane hit the structure.

Having reached safety, Rescorla re-entered the building to bring others out. Knowing he had a wife and two children at home, Rescorla bravely gave his life so that others might live. He and three of his deputies were in Tower Two when it fell.

He did not adopt a "Cain Attitude" when it came to helping those in need. "I am not my brother's keeper" was not one of his creeds. He used the talents, and abilities that he was given to help the people around him. He didn't wait on others to do what he knew needed to be done.

The rest of the story is that Rick Rescorla was no stranger to being helpful in difficult situations. His penchant for being an encourager began many years before. The old adage that true Soldiers never retire, they just get lost in the paper work must be true.

Earlier in his life, Platoon Leader Lt. Rick Rescorla found himself in the Ia Drang Valley in Vietnam as, a platoon leader, with B Co 2/7 Cav.

"The Mudville Gazette" website paid a hero's tribute to Rescorla for his valiant courage under fire...

"Rescorla and Bravo Company were evacuated by helicopter. The rest of the

battalion marched to a nearby landing zone. On the way, they were ambushed, and Bravo Company was again called in for relief.

Only two helicopters made it through enemy fire. As the one carrying Rescorla descended, the pilot was wounded, and he started to lift up. Rescorla and his men jumped the remaining 10 feet, bullets flying at them, and made it into the beleaguered camp.

As Lt. Larry Gwin later recalled the scene, "I saw Rick Rescorla come swaggering into our lines with a smile on his face, an M-79 on his shoulder, his M-16 in one hand, saying, 'Good, good, good! I hope they hit us with everything they got tonight - we'll wipe them up.'

His spirit was catching. The enemy must have thought an entire battalion was coming to help us, because of all our screaming and yelling. (Sept. 11, 2008, Mudville Gazette)

We too have been given abilities and talents to help others. Some are innate; others are trained or learned in the school of hard knocks. Truth is, each person has within their God-given personality the ability to help others.

Question is, will we?

Yes, it takes of our time and resources and sometimes may even cost us a little. In the end, it is truly worth the effort. Take time today to be an encourager. Use what you have to make someone else's life a little better. Never fall to the idea that "someone else will do it." If you see a need and have something to offer, as the commercials once said, just do it.

"What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace, be warmed and filled,' without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? (James 2:14-15; English Standard Version)

God reminds us that words often are just not enough. It is easy to say "we will be praying for you." When we can do more, God expects more. You may not be able to do everything, but you can do something. Ask yourself, "what have I been given, what can I do, how can I help someone else?" Once that evaluation has been made, make the hard decision to step up and serve.

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

Unit Ministry Team holds Easter Service overlooking lake

By STAFF SGT. MICHAEL WILLIAMS

CSJFTC Public Affairs

Having an Easter service in a church building is more traditional, but here at Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center, having an Easter service outside, overlooking a lake, can be a bit different, but quite inspirational.

The Unit Ministry Team at Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center held their annual Easter Sunrise Service March 31 at Lake Walker to commemorate Easter in a unique worship environment.

"The Easter Sunrise Service is held each Easter to specifically commemorate the sacrifice that Jesus Christ paid for us all when he died on the cross and rose again for our sins and salvation," said Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Edward Coutta, CSJFTC Installation chaplain.

"We have 52 Sundays a year to worship the Lord, but the sunrise service is a chance to especially thank God for his gift in a unique worship environment."

Both the chaplains and their assistants came together to coordinate an Easter service to be held outside, overlooking a foggy lake for different motives.

"The services are held outside for a couple of different reasons," said Coutta.

"One, it allows us to recognize that Easter is a special day in the Christian calendar.

"Second, in the Bible, in Mark 16, it talks about how Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, brought spices to Jesus' tomb to anoint his body. It was at that time, they saw the stone rolled away, His body missing and the angels appeared to them."

The idea of having an Easter Sunrise Service outside by a lake had originally started eight years ago when Chaplain Glenn was the installation chaplain. Interestingly, so far there has never been a bad weather day in which we had to hold the service indoors, said Coutta.

Coutta said that he hoped the Soldiers received inspiration and hope to continue living faithfully for Christ.

The service attracted nearly 60 Soldiers, Family members and Youth Challenge Program cadets. Coutta mentioned that next year's service might be at Lake Dogwood under a pavilion to reduce the work due to the decrease of UMT members.

Nearly 60 Soldiers, Family members and Youth Challenge Cadets gathered at Lake Walker March 31, to participate in Camp Shelby's Easter Sunrise Service.



U.S. Army photo by Master Sgt. Vincent Burnwell, CSJFTC NCOIC during the Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center Easter Sunrise Service March 31.

