

AGC Chaplain Ministry Report

The Associated Gospel Churches

Enabling Local Church Missional Access into Restricted Institutions for over 80 years!

We will rejoice in Thy salvation, and in the name of our God we will set up our banners. (Ps 20:5a)

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March 2023

2023 AGC ACST - “The Gospel Changes Everything!”



About fifty AGC Chaplains and twenty wives assembled in Virginia Beach, VA at Colonial Baptist Church (CBC) and Virginia Beach Theological Seminary (VBTS) for AGC’s Annual Certification Sustainment Training (ACST). This year’s theme was “*The Gospel Changes Everything*,” (“*If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free,*” John 8:31b-32). Our Theme song was “Ancient Words.”

Dr. Brent Belford, Pastor of Colonial Baptist Church brought messages from Romans 1:1-7. He left us with three poignant questions to consider; “*Whose am I?*” that is, to Whom do I belong? The Apostle Paul was a slave of Jesus Christ. Jesus owned him and we should remember that we have been bought with a price and we are not our own. *We are Christ’s!*

The next question Dr. Belford asked was, “*What is your Why?*” that is, what is your purpose in living? For Paul, he was set apart unto the Gospel. His purpose in life was proclaiming the Gospel (that had saved him) to the World. He looked forward to how God would use the Gospel that he would preach in Rome’s Capital City. The Apostle Paul had great confidence in the power of the Gospel, that it could/would transform Roman lives (just as it had his), so he was a diligent preacher of the Gospel.

The last question Dr. Belford asked us was, “*For whom am I?*” that is, for whom do I exist? Paul existed “*for His Name*,” that is, “for the sake of His Name” (Rom 1:4b). He had received grace and a calling to serve God in order to bring the Gospel to all nations, but especially to the Gentile nations. *The Gospel Changes Everything, Everyday!*

Dr. Daniel Davey challenged our Chaplains from Romans 12:1-2. Referring to the “mercies” of verse 1, he said, God demonstrated in Christ *the willingness of His heart to ease our pain*, and we should have the same willingness of heart in going to ease the pain of other hearts by faithfully bringing them the Gospel. The Gospel also transforms our minds and our lives (12:2) and we thereby discern the good, acceptable and perfect will of God. Again, *the Gospel changes Everything, Everyday!*

One of the highlights of the ACST was AGC Chaplains giving wonderful testimonies of what God had been doing through their faithful promulgation of the Gospel. Souls have been saved; new believers discipled; Chaplains have faithfully given Biblical advice to their Commanders who were struggling with some difficult decisions and incidents (our men were with them)!

Our ACST concluded with a Banquet on Thursday evening where Chaplains gathered in their dress uniforms. We enjoyed special music (*The Word is Alive*) and a good meal and then heard from a *modern-day Caleb*, CH(CDR) Hap Struthers USN (Retired.). Hap Struthers was the first AGC Chaplain to attain the rank of LCDR and CDR and then retire from the Navy after twenty-one years of service in 1976. Chaplain Struthers challenged our men from Daniel 11:32b, *but the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits*, and from John 15:16, *Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.* His final exhortation to us was, **Preach, Pray, and Plug Away!**



AGC's Most Senior Active Duty Chaplain, CH(COL) Thomas Brooks, US Army, opens our ACST in Prayer



Colonial Baptist Church Music Pastor Ben Kilcup welcomes AGC to the CBC/VBTS Campus and provided Special Music



AGC Chaplains and Wives met in the Virginia Beach Theological Seminary Chapel for our First Session on Monday



AGC VP Ron Benzing leading our singing and introducing our 2023 ACST Theme Song, "Ancient Words"



CH(LTC) Stu Kazarovich, gives testimony of those saved in 2022. He took over 500 Soldiers/Families to the Ark Encounter



Ch(Maj) Matt Wilson, USAFR who serves at US Space Command, gives testimony his Gospel ministry to a 1stSgt in his Command



As CH(LTC) Tommie Pickens nears retirement, he gave testimony of how God uniquely opened the Door for him to serve



CH(LT) Stephen Huebscher, shares a testimony about how a woman trusted Christ as a result of his visit to Princeton, NJ



Grateful for Mrs. Dee Hann and her ministry in music. Dee (CH Hann's wife) served as our pianist for the 2023 ACST



**(<=== Left)
The AGC Board met in person and via Zoom on Monday, 20 February, 2023 for the Annual AGC Board Meeting in the Virginia Beach Theological Seminary Board Room located in the Seminary Building**



While we met in VA, CH(LCDR) Donny Keim was preaching the Gospel on CGC POLAR STAR in Antarctica



CH(CPT) Steven Troupe (L) and CH(CPT) Caleb Wright checking out the Free Books at the AGC Book Table



Nancy Mikitta (L) hosting our AGC Chaplains during Breaks. Ch(Lt Col) Scott Nupson enjoying the snacks provided



AGC Chaplains singing our Theme Song, "Ancient Words," being led by CH (COL) Ron Benzing, AGC VP



AGC National Field Representative, CH(COL) Chuck Flesher, USA (Ret.) challenges our Chaplains from the Word!



Pastor Brent Belford, CBC, opens the Word of God and exposes its precious truths to our Chaplains and their families



AGC Chaplains and their families praying for all AGC Minsitries, their Nation (its leaders) and all AGC Families



Ch(Capt) Paul Kim, USAFR, gives a testimony of God's providence in opening the door for him to serve as a AF Chaplain



CH(LTC) Chris Wallace, USA, gives testimony of God's goodness in his career and of the AGC's good reputation in the Corps



AGC Chaplains during a team-building period visited the MacArthur Museum in downtown Norfolk, VA



(Left) CH(CDR) Joseph Mayer, USN praying for the preaching and teaching of God's Word from Romans "Mercy" is "the willingness of the heart to ease another's pain"



Virginia Beach Theological Seminary President, Dr. Daniel Davey teaches Chaplains from Romans 12:1-2



<---AGC is profoundly grateful for the faithful & sacrificial support of our wives; Ladies, we honor you and thank God for you!



AGC Prison, Public Safety, and VA Chaplains with our AGC Attorney, Arthur Schulcz (R)

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AGC Army Chaplains

(Active Duty, Reserve, National Guard, and Retired)



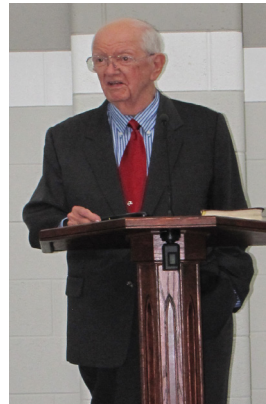
<---AGC USN Chaplains and AGC---> USAF and CAP Chaplains



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AGC Historian Dr. Ken Lawson reviews the History fo the AGC at the AGC Closing Banquet



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Chaplain Brown presents a Plaque to Dr. Brent Belford thanking him and his staff for their outstanding support of our 2023 ACST



<---CH Hap Struthers challenging AGC Chaplains to Preach, Pray, and Plug Away!

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CH Struthers, presented *The WOH Garman Legion of Merit Award*



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Special Music *The Word is Alive!*
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provided by CBC Staff and Volunteers

