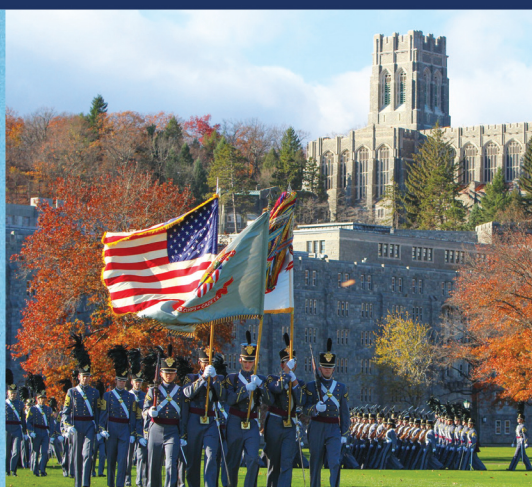


AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST

MNA MINISTRY TO STATE + MNA CHAPLAIN MINISTRIES





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Presbyterian Church in America

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From the Coordinator

“Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples....’” —**Matt 28:18–19 (ESV)**



North America is becoming increasingly post-Christian. This is no great newflash. But, we often live in a kind of denial about the members who are walking out of our evangelical congregations in growing numbers, showing no immediate signs of coming back. For sure, many hop around from church to church; but many others are hopping out of church altogether. And seekers are not crowding into

our buildings to experience our worship services or to check out our special events. We keep working harder on what happens inside our four walls, but more and more folks don't really seem to care what happens within them.

That's the bad news. The good news is this: Jesus still reigns! (Psalm 97:1). He is bringing in his kingdom through his gospel (Mark 1:15). And the knowledge of his glory will indeed fill the earth, even as the waters cover the seas (Habakkuk 2:14).

As we live in this space of certain future glory and great current challenge for the church in North America, we are brought back to Jesus' Great Commission, to take the gospel and go out, out to all the groups of people in all the places around us, places close by as well as far away. The Great Commission is always crucial to the life and health of the church, but perhaps never more than now for the North American church. Jesus reigns and he does so by using and blessing our Great Commission engagement.

Two beautiful expressions of this Great Commission movement are MNA Chaplain Ministries and MNA Ministry to State. These avenues of ministry press the gospel out — out to soldiers and their families, to those in hospitals and hospices, and to those serving in police and fire departments; and out to those connected with the government sector at national and state levels. Hear their stories; support their ministries with your prayers and your gifts. And consider how you might be able to partner with them in taking the good news of Jesus out!

Paul Hahn
MNA Coordinator

AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST

Written by Don Baret

Mission to North America provides resources to strengthen PCA churches and presbyteries as they serve, grow and multiply for the advancement of the gospel throughout North America. Key to this advancement is prayer that God will renew the hearts of his people to trust him for a greater harvest in the gospel, through the power of the Spirit in opening minds and hearts to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

In this issue, we look at MNA Ministry to State and MNA Chaplain Ministries – each with its own unique mission field that impacts the leadership and welfare of North America. Both ministries bring God’s people into direct engagement with non-believers, opening many opportunities to serve as “ambassadors for Christ” (II Corinthians 5:20).



MINISTRY TO STATE: SERVING THOSE IN GOVERNMENT

Ministry to State (MTS), based in Washington DC, is a relationship-oriented ministry serving men and women who work in government. Ministry Director Chuck Garriott explains, “We are not about politics or policy, we are about people.”

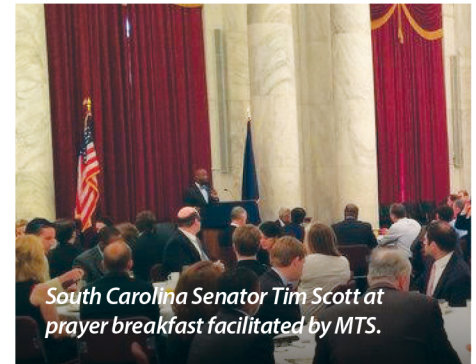
MTS has five areas of focus:

- 1) Gospel:** expose those in the government community to the transforming truths of the gospel through healthy relationships.
- 2) Worldview:** provide encouragement and support in the development of a Biblical world and life view for those in government who make a profession of faith.
- 3) Conscience:** strive to be instrumental in establishing and maintaining a Biblical conscience throughout the government community who both create and implement policy.
- 4) Church:** provide a healthy means to connect the church in a non-partisan manner with those in government.
- 5) Prayer:** promote and facilitate specific and intelligent prayer by the body of Christ for those serving in government.

Outside of Washington DC, MTS serves in seven state capitols: Tallahassee FL; Atlanta GA; Raleigh NC; Harrisburg PA; Helena MT; Oklahoma City OK; and Denver CO. MTS has key contacts with potential for future ministry in Ottawa Canada, along

with several other national capitals around the world.

Chuck believes it’s important for the church to have a healthy non-political relationship with those in positions of power and leadership, “MTS is a step in that direction. If I sit down with a member of



congress or a staffer and they ask me who I am, I tell them I’m representing the Presbyterian Church in America in developing a relationship for the sake of the gospel. If you are accenting the gospel, preaching Christ and teaching on the scriptures you will be amazed at how many people you can reach.”

MTS staffers frequently have breakfast or lunch with men and women from all branches of government. These conversations often include White House and Capitol Hill staffers in addition to employees from a wide range of governmental agencies. MTS leads Bible studies meeting weekly on the Hill, often including

“IF YOU’RE ACCENTING THE GOSPEL, PREACHING CHRIST AND TEACHING ON THE SCRIPTURES YOU WILL BE AMAZED AT HOW MANY PEOPLE YOU CAN REACH.”

—Chuck Garriott, MTS Ministry Director



“THE HUMILITY LESSON IS AN IMPORTANT ONE... SO, SEE HOW I TOTALLY NEEDED THIS PRAYER TODAY... IT'S NOT IMPORTANT WHO GETS THE CREDIT BUT WHO GETS THE BENEFIT.

—*MT State Legislator in a note to Steve Bostrom*

senators, congressman and even members of the President's Cabinet.

MTS staff member Mary Frances Dunlap has been quietly developing relationships since 2017. Recently she hosted a dinner party at her home for twenty-five Capitol Hill staffers and friends. The evening was dedicated to worship, prayer and a devotional led by another MTS staffer, Will Stockdale. Along with those who meet with Mary Frances for Bible study, discipleship

Christian, he is called to be salt and light in a city starving for God's grace and truth. Chuck commented on how refreshing and inspiring it was to those attending to hear a member of Congress talk freely about his relationship with Christ.

Steve Bostrom is MTS Director in Helena MT. If you ask him about his ministry, he'll begin by telling you to focus on prayer. Steve encourages many he comes in contact with, both in and outside of government, to set their phone alarms to 4:06 pm (406 is the area code for the entire state of Montana). The alarm is a reminder to pause every day at that moment and pray for the state of Montana. Steve vividly remembers hearing phone alarms going off all around him at 4:06 pm on a visit to the State Capitol.

Pray1Tim2.org is a website that provides the names of elected state officials, a great aid to implement God's call in 1 Timothy 2:1-2, "First of all, then, I urge that supplication, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgiving be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions...." The names and contact information on Pray1Tim2.org are listed by individual states and rotate each month. Steve says, "I contact them, pray for them and years later I might have a relationship with them. It's the primary way I build relationships."

Each day brings a different prayer focus on Pray1Tim2.org. Steve sent a note to a Montana state legislator on the theme

of humility and received the following response: "Thank you, Steve. The humility



Congressman Moolenaar (second from right) and Chuck Garriott (far right) at dinner forum.

lesson is an important one. The ego in me gets jealous that the [Majority party] gets their bills passed, gets asked to carry and pass important policy, yet we in the Minority get nothing. So, see how I totally need this prayer today? I need to reinforce my inner being, knowing that we all benefit; that it's not important who gets the credit but who gets the benefit. I do believe that in my heart and soul."

Chuck would like to see local churches reaching out to people in all levels of government. "What would it look like if congregations contacted state or local legislators and offered a casual invitation to a home, with a legislator sharing who they are and what their work is, and asking only for prayer? We haven't seen that take place yet in our state capitols, but it's really needed, and we pray God will lead some of his people to do that."



Singing hymns at Mary Frances Dunlap's dinner party.

and prayer, she keeps in close touch with non-Christians from the entire range of the political spectrum.

In 2019, Chuck and Debby Garriott hosted an MTS dinner forum at their home in Washington DC. Close to fifty people attended the gathering from all segments of the DC community. Michigan Representative John Moolenaar was the featured guest for the evening. The Congressman shared how the gospel has impacted his life, family and work on Capitol Hill; that as a

CHAPLAIN MINISTRIES: SERVING OTHERS WHO SERVE

More than 300 chaplains, a mix of military and civilian, are endorsed by the Presbyterian Reformed Commission on Chaplains and Military Personnel (PRCC). The PRCC serves seven member denominations:

- Associated Reformed Presbyterian Church
- Korean American Presbyterian Church
- Orthodox Presbyterian Church
- Presbyterian Church in America
- Reformed Presbyterian Church in North America
- Korean Presbyterian Church in America (Associate Member)
- United Reformed Churches in North America (Associate Member)



MNA Chaplain Ministries Coordinator Jim Carter (center) with US Army Chaplains.

After serving more than 24 years in the US Army, including two combat tours in Iraq, and reaching the rank of Colonel, retired

Chaplain Jim Carter now serves in the dual role of MNA Chaplain Ministries Coordinator and PRCC Executive Director. The PRCC provides the necessary credentials, along with pastoral guidance and oversight



United States Air Force Academy.

(in conjunction with Presbyteries) for the chaplains from its member denominations. Around 200 of the PRCC chaplains serve in the military and another 100 in a civilian capacity. The latter includes facilities such as VA hospitals, correctional institutions, fire and police departments, retirement homes, health care facilities, hospices, industries and schools.

Currently, and for the first time, there are PCA Chaplains at the US Military Academy, the US Naval Academy Annapolis, and the US Air Force Academy. Jim Carter believes this is a significant development for our Nation. Jim rightly points out, “Our presence at the academies, with a biblical, reformed and Christ-centered principled

approach to work and life views produces leaders not only of character, commitment and courage, but also godly leaders who will contribute to the well-being of our nation.” Over the years, alumni of the three academies have led in many fields, including 3 US Presidents, 28 members of the US Congress, 5 state governors, 2 Nobel Prize Winners, 97 astronauts, 60 Rhodes Scholars and over 18 CEO’s of major US Corporations.

Chaplain MAJ Jason Hill, one of the PCA Chaplains at West Point, describes the uniqueness he’s found in the corps of cadets, “There is something different about the kids here. They’re eager to learn a lot and their minds are soaking up knowledge like a sponge. The opportunity to talk to cadets about faith and the Lord is all over the place.” Jason notes that the cadets welcome the solid Christ-centered biblical teaching that they’re *(continued on reverse)*



Chaplain Jason Hill with cadets at West Point.

“OUR PRESENCE AT THE ACADEMIES, WITH A BIBLICAL, REFORMED AND CHRIST-CENTERED PRINCIPLED APPROACH... PRODUCES LEADERS NOT ONLY OF CHARACTER, COMMITMENT AND COURAGE, BUT ALSO GODLY LEADERS...”

—Jim Carter, MNA Chaplain Ministries Coordinator

AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST *(continued)*

“EVERY MORNING AT 0600 WHEN THEY ASSEMBLE FOR PHYSICAL EDUCATION, OUR CHAPLAINS ARE THERE... THEY SEE WE ARE WITH THEM, THAT CHAPLAINS ARE PART OF THEIR LIVES.”

—Jason Gregory, Chaplain at the US Naval Academy

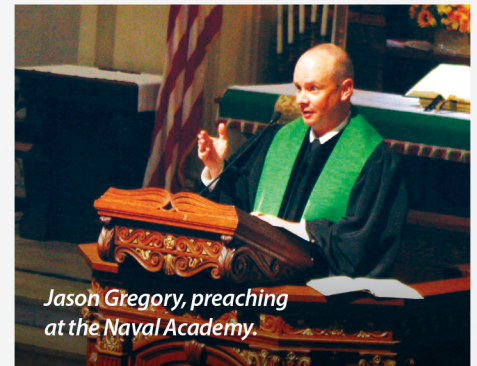
getting from the reformed tradition, “I think they are hungrier for scripture than anything else. What is the Bible saying and how do I live it out in my life? How do I live it out with others in a community?”

Incoming freshmen at all three academies begin their first year with an intense and demanding 7-week boot camp experience prior to the start of the fall semester. At the US Naval Academy, Chaplain (LCDR) Jason Gregory explains the significance of this first meeting, “Every morning at 0600 when they assemble for physical education, our chaplains are there. We do push-ups with them, we run with them, we do obstacle courses. If someone falls back in the pack, we fall back

too. It starts there at our first interaction with them. They see we are with them, that chaplains are part of their lives.”

The Navy calls it a “ministry of presence,” being there to offer guidance and insight in the moment. It is needed in the daily lives of the men and women they serve. At the Air Force Academy, Chaplain (MAJ) Jeff Kreisel (currently a US Army Reserve Chaplain), serves with Reformed University Fellowship (RUF). RUF is authorized by the Academy Chaplain’s Office through a program called SPIRE – Special Programs in Religious Education. Jeff reports, “We currently have about 80 cadets involved in our ministry and we seem to have a lot of momentum right now. Our goal is to equip cadets for a lifetime of ministry by helping them view their faith as something that is central and not peripheral to their stories. I’m not here just to help them become better leaders in the military. I want their entire world view and every aspect of their lives to be impacted by the Gospel.”

God calls his people to faithful prayer for those engaged in all phases of government



Jason Gregory, preaching at the Naval Academy.

service, from those who serve in our legislatures to those who serve in the military: “The God of Israel spoke, the Rock of Israel said to me: ‘When one rules over people in righteousness, when he rules in the fear of God, he is like the light of morning at sunrise on a cloudless morning, like the brightness after rain that brings grass from the earth’” (2 Samuel 23:3-4).



RUF at the Air Force Academy.

Mission to North America exists to celebrate and share the gospel of Jesus Christ in the United States and Canada by coming alongside the local and regional church in church planting, church renewal and missional partnerships. For a list of MNA staff, visit our website at pcamna.org. Material in Multiply may be reproduced with permission. Address comments to Don Baret, Managing Editor. Design provided by Big Bridge in Asheville, NC (thebigbridge.com). Multiply is published by MNA. [Facebook.com/pcamna](https://www.facebook.com/pcamna), twitter.com/pcamna & [linkedin.com/company/mission-to-north-america](https://www.linkedin.com/company/mission-to-north-america)

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