

August 2023

Chaplaincy endorsement opens ministry opportunities outside the church.

Gloria Taylor

"Chaplaincy is not about doing and fixing or teaching and making chaplaincy. It's about being in the moment and connecting heart to heart."



I attended the APC conference (Association of Professional Chaplains) in June and was impressed by the first plenary speaker. Dr Naomi Paget spoke on "Rediscovering the Art of Chaplaincy through Japanese Principles of Ikigai". This is her introduction, "The journey through the dark night [the pandemic] has taught us that chaplaincy is not about doing and fixing or teaching and making chaplaincy. It's about being in the moment and connecting heart to heart. Being fully present to another is more than physical and emotional presence. It must also be spiritual and organic. Chaplaincy must be a calling that translates into a way of lifelong practice that models healing, harmony and health." She shared with us the principles of Ikigai, which is defined "as the ability to live life with purpose and passion and a reason to get up each day."

As she talked, she shared personal stories of her life growing up as a third generation Japanese immigrant, learning from her grandmother some of the philosophies of their culture. Later, going over what she said really got me thinking. Am I living my life with purpose and passion? Do I have a reason to wake up every day? I can answer these questions by sharing my story, but I would rather share someone else's.

My daughter Leah has always had a love for animals since she was little. So, we

accumulated several pets during her upbringing. After college she lived with us for a while and started to foster kittens. Or should I say WE fostered kittens. The deal was this: the tiny babies she would take care of at night because they needed to be fed every 2 hours. We would help during the day. She would take them to the vet for health checks and shots, etc. And on the weekends, when they were old enough, she would take them to adoption events, decorating the cages they were in and even dressing them up. She fostered and found homes for over 70 kittens. Today Leah is a happy, contented child of God who has found her purpose and passion as a groomer living with her 5 cats, all fostered and raised by someone who loves them.

Do you find purpose and passion in the ministry that you are doing? Do you wake up each morning excited to do what you know God has called you to do or has that changed?

I read a story in a book, "Illustrations for Preaching" by Benjamin P. Browne about a Christian who was standing before an angry Roman Emperor facing serious charges. "I will banish you," raged the emperor.

"You cannot," the Christian replied, "for the whole world is my Father's house."

"Then I will slay you," said the emperor.

"Neither can you do that, for my life is hid with Christ in God. I fear not them who have power only to destroy the body but have no power to destroy the soul."

Then retorted the emperor, "I will take away your treasure."

The Christian responded, "You cannot do that, for my treasure is in heaven where moth and rust do not corrupt".

Frustrated, the emperor finally said, "I will drive you away from man, and you shall have not a friend left to be near you."

The Christian quietly affirmed, "No, you cannot do that either, for I have a friend from whom you cannot separate me. There is nothing you can do to harm me for neither life nor death nor things present nor things to come can separate me from his love." There was no doubt that this Christian's purpose and passion was in his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Eric Liddell (who ran in the 1924 summer Olympics) in the movie *Chariots of Fire* tells his sister Jennie that "God made me for a purpose--[to be a missionary in China]--but He also made me fast. And when I run, I feel His pleasure."

Again, I ask you, do you know God's purpose in your life and ministry and are you passionate about it. I guarantee that if you do you will experience His pleasure.



Quarterly Reports

Didn't see last month's reminder about the Quarterly Reports? No worries, we've got you covered! Simply click the button below to fill it out.

[Quarterly Report](#)



Upcoming Trainings

August 16-18: Rochester, MN: ICISF – Assisting Individuals in Crisis and Group Crisis Intervention

August 19: Rochester, MN: ICISF – Psychological Body Armor

November 13-15: Fayetteville, TN: ICISF – Assisting Individuals in Crisis and Group Crisis Intervention

November 16-18: Memphis, TN: ICISF – Assisting Individuals in Crisis and Group Crisis Intervention

Email for more information about trainings and possible scholarships which are available to endorsed AG Chaplains.

[Email 461Response@ag.org](mailto:461Response@ag.org)



Chaplain Cordero

Leading the Chaplains Conference July 30 and July 31 in Columbus, OH. Attending General Council and participating in the General Presbyter's meeting from July 30 to August 5.



Chaplain Denley

Attending the Chaplaincy Conference and General Council in Columbus, Ohio, from July 31-August 5.



Chaplain Taylor

Visited chaplains in Downers Grove, Illinois, from July 9-11. Attending the Chaplaincy Conference and General Council in Columbus, Ohio, from July 31-August 5.



Chaplain Odean

Visited chaplains in Wisconsin from July 9-15. Attending the Chaplaincy Conference and General Council in Columbus, Ohio, from July 31-August 5.



Chaplain Reighard

Attended ICPC National Training in Phoenix, Arizona, from July 14-22. Attending the Chaplaincy Conference and General Council in Columbus, Ohio, from July 31-August 5.



Chaplain Williamson

Attending the Chaplaincy Conference and General Council in Columbus, Ohio, from July 31-August 5.

2023 Major Events

July 31 - Aug 1 Chaplaincy Training Conference

Columbus, Ohio

Oct
6-9

National Faith & Blue Weekend

[Download the Save the Date Flyer](#)

Nov
6-8

Commission on Chaplains

Springfield, Missouri



Significant Achievements:

Army chaplain Yandy Leyva was selected for promotion to Major on July 10, 2023.

Army chaplain Andrew Muilenburg was selected for promotion to Major on July 10, 2023.

Air Force chaplain Tony Davy was selected for promotion to Major on July 21, 2023.

Chaplain Paul Linzey was elected president of ICPC (International Conference of Police Chaplains).

We celebrate with these chaplain!

"Lillian Sparks is an ordained minister, an internationally known speaker, an author, a former National Director of the Assemblies of God Women's program, a former editor in chief of Women's Touch magazine, and a Hospice Chaplain of 14 years. She knows firsthand what it's like to see a loved one suffer,

her son, for 21 years with an incurable disease. A great woman of faith with a heart of compassion I am honored to have Chaplain Sparks as Chaplain of the Month."

Gloria Taylor

Chaplain of the Month



Chaplain Lillian Sparks

As the oldest of three daughters, born to parents who were early church planters, I learned that following Jesus is a walk of faith. A pivotal moment in this journey occurred as a seven-year-old, when I needed a new pair of shoes. My soles had quarter-sized holes which caused painful blisters. I knew that money was tight, so I knelt beside my bed each night and asked the Lord to send me new shoes. My faith was great! I looked under my sheets in the morning hoping to find a new pair. Just when I was about to give up...

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Read [the rest of this great article](#) on the secure side of the chaplaincy website. If you are not already logged in, you will get a 403 Forbidden warning when you click the link. That's okay. Click on the Chaplain Login button in the top right corner, log in using your AG Passport username and password, and in the NAVIGATION box, select Articles.



Chaplaincy Prayer Wall




Access the Prayer Wall to submit your request, pray for your fellow chaplains, and know when you are being prayed for in real time!

Log into the Secure Side of the chaplaincy website and click on "Chaplain Prayer Requests" or, if you are already logged in, click the button to go directly there.

If you click the button and you are not logged in, you will get a **403 Forbidden warning** when you click the link. That's okay. Click on the Chaplain Login button in the top right corner, log in using your AG Passport username and password, and in the NAVIGATION box, select Chaplain Prayer Requests.

[Prayer Wall](#)

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Contact us

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