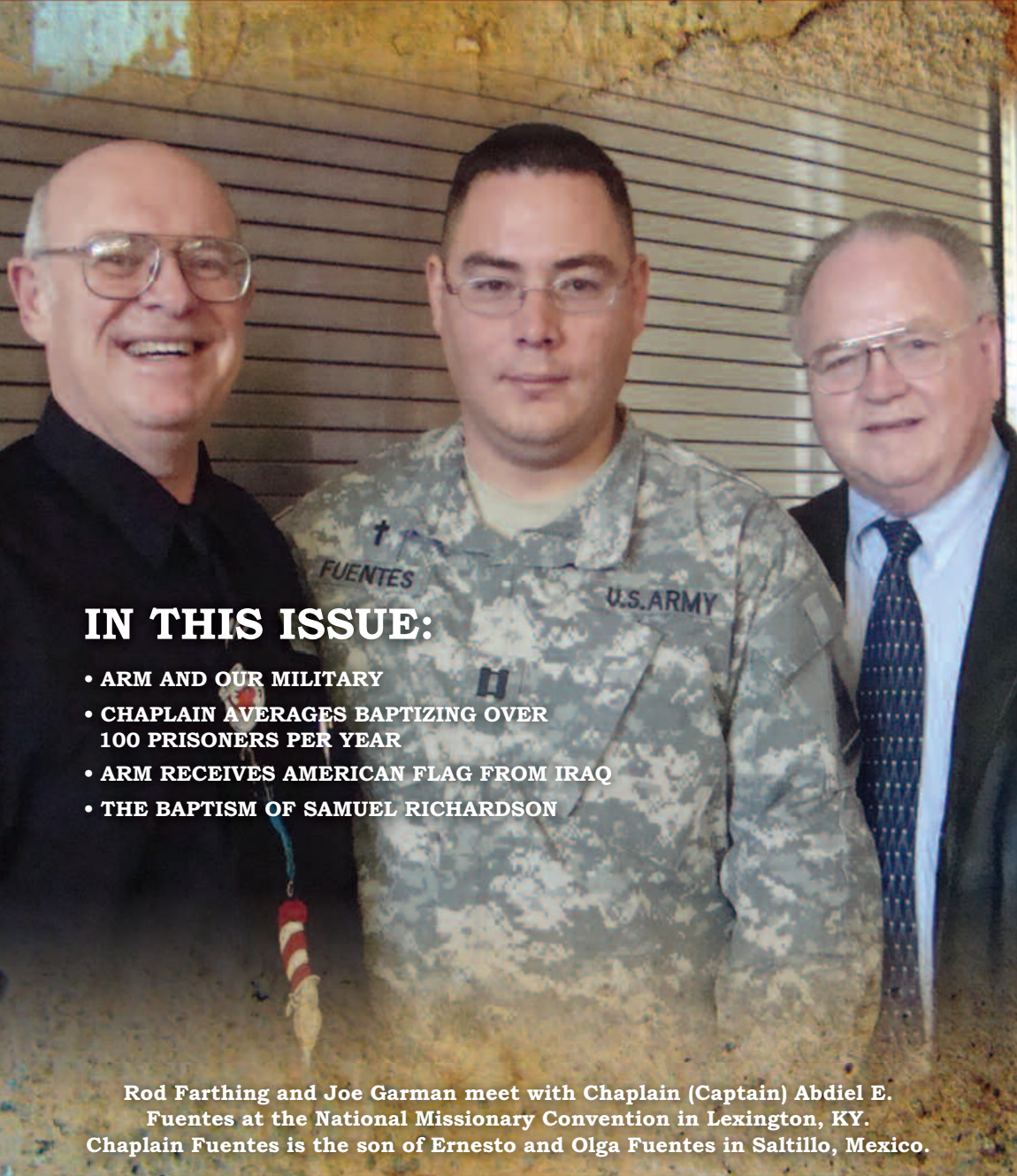




THE MISSION WITH AN ARM AROUND THE WORLD



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Rod Farthing and Joe Garman meet with Chaplain (Captain) Abdiel E. Fuentes at the National Missionary Convention in Lexington, KY. Chaplain Fuentes is the son of Ernesto and Olga Fuentes in Saltillo, Mexico.

"Inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these...you did it to Me." — Jesus

THE UTTERMOST FARTHING

BY ROD FARTHING

ARM AND OUR MILITARY



When Joe Garman announced that this issue of our newsletter would deal with ARM's relationship with the military, I immediately thought

of the many times I have sent out ARM's email updates listing the shipment of baptistries to military bases. These units have gone out to places like Edwards Air Force Base in California, Fort Bragg in North Carolina, and Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri, just to name a few.

Earlier, we were able to place a baptism at Fort Victory at the Baghdad, Iraq, airport. Another unit was sent to Northern Iraq. It's great to know many soldiers are able to obey Christ's gospel while on active duty.

An acquaintance of mine preaches in a Christian church in the Midwest and has served as a chaplain for two tours of duty in the Middle East. On one occasion he visited with a young officer as they waited for a helicopter flight back to their base.

Not much significance was attached to the conversation, but the next weekend, that young officer heard the chaplain's voice over a chapel loudspeaker as he made announcements prior to his sermon. The young officer recognized the voice of the chaplain he had met a few days before and was drawn into the chapel.

The officer listened to the sermon and began attending two Bible studies the chap-

lain was leading; one was on the book of Acts, the second was a topical study entitled "Every Man's Battle." Further one-on-one studies in John's Gospel led this officer to confess Jesus Christ as Lord.

The Acts study participants rejoiced a few weeks later when the chaplain immersed that young officer into Christ. Yet another officer who witnessed the grand event was soon baptized, too!

Another acquaintance told me the exciting story of how his own son-in-law was immersed into Christ while on active duty in Iraq. This heart-warming event led the home church to raise funds to sponsor an ARM baptism. They had seen how important it was for our soldiers to be able to hear and obey the gospel even while serving overseas.

The simple fact is this: The members of our military have spiritual needs, and our chaplains can better meet those needs with the help of baptistries such as ARM provides.

Rod Farthing



On Facebook?

Follow ARM Prison Outreach at:
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/ARMPrisonOutreach/348784274526>

You may also sign up for my ARM Updates, Ministers' Minute sermons, and/or the Foreign Branch Report by sending your request to rodfar@arm.org.

ARM Prison Outreach, International: Serving adult, juvenile and military correctional institutions around the world. National jail and prison distribution center for the American Bible Society and DaySpring Cards. Branch ministries in Cambodia, Korea, Mexico, Russia, and the Philippines.

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CHAPLAIN AVERAGES BAPTIZING OVER 100 PRISONERS PER YEAR SINCE 2005

BY MEL BRADFORD

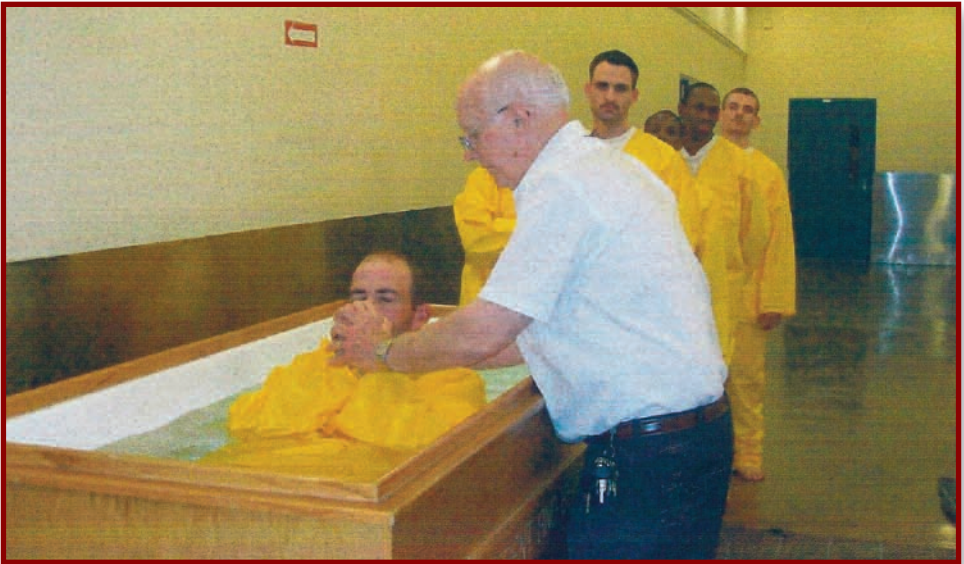
My name is Mel Bradford. I have served as senior chaplain for the Omega Technical Violators Center, a Department of Community Corrections facility in Malvern, AR, for five and one half years.

I have been preaching the Word for 56 years. The Lord has used me to pastor several churches, foreign mission works, teach at two Bible colleges, found "Welcome Home" ministry for alcoholics and drug addicts, print gospel literature and serve in radio and jail ministry. I must say though, that Omega has been the most fulfilling.

a phone call asking me to preach at a new prison facility that had only been open two weeks. It was Easter, 2005.

After volunteering there for three months, preaching on Sunday mornings and Thursday evenings, I became their first chaplain. By doing some research, I discovered that at the very time I received the order to resign the pastorate in Texas, the dirt work for the foundation of Omega was being done.

The management, staff and residents made me feel at home. Serving here is a ministry, not just a JOB. My experiences



Chaplain Mel Bradford baptizes a prisoner into Christ, as others stand in line awaiting their turn.

I was pastor of a wonderful church in Texas. I had been there for five years, and as far as the congregation and I were concerned, we were looking forward to another five years. But God spoke to my heart and told me that He was finished with me there. I was shocked. My wife and the congregation were too. However, when He says go we best listen.

He didn't tell me where to go or what His plans were. We did feel led to move to Malvern, AR, but didn't know why. He doesn't have to explain all the whys. The door opened a year later when I received

and rewards have been too numerous to name. I will say that ARM has blessed this ministry abundantly.

They arranged for us to receive a baptistery in which over one hundred men a year have been baptized. More than 600 men have registered for American Bible Academy courses. ARM has also blessed us with ABS Bibles and other Christ-centered materials.

This is the way Christ's Church is supposed to operate ... and *"The gates of Hades shall not prevail against it"* Mt. 16:18.

A GLIMPSE INTO MILITARY CHAPLAINCY AT WAR

BY CHAPLAIN (CAPTAIN) ABDIEL E. FUENTES

When we first arrived at FOB (Forward Operating Base) Warrior, we did not know what to expect. Training prior to leaving Fort Bliss had prepared us for the worst but the reality was that none of us, not even those with prior experience, could have known what our new home would be like. The battlefield is always changing, and even though this was my second deployment, I knew better than to assume things would be the same as the last time.

I can recall our first night at FOB Warrior. Once the C17 had landed I could feel my nerves tense up a bit. Every single one of us wore our protective gear--everything from our ACH (Advanced Combat Helmet) down to our groin protection. It was already dark outside which only made me feel even more disoriented. Would we be shot at as soon as we stepped on this foreign soil? Did I need to run for cover? Would I survive?



Second soldier from left: Squadron Chaplain (Captain) Abdiel E. Fuentes

I said a short prayer and mustered the courage to step off the plane. After picking up my bags, the ones where I had packed enough gear to live in "for a whole year", I tried my best to make it look like I was not struggling under the weight of all that stuff. I did my very best to move quickly with the line as we ran off the runway.

Much to my surprise the operations Sergeant Major SGM Lowe, and the rest of the crew receiving us, were not wearing any of their protective gear. I dropped my heavy

bags to the ground and looked around in disbelief. I did my best to pierce into the darkness to ensure it was safe for me to dress down. I wanted to dress down. It had been hours since I last took my gear off and although the dark of the night engulfed us, it was still hot outside. I could feel the sweat permeating my brown army issued T-shirt and ACU (Army Combat Uniform) top.

Although I was nervous about what was to come, I was also excited to finally arrive. This was my first deployment as a Chaplain and I truly wanted to be there for the soldiers. I had heard many stories before of what it would be like to minister to these great warriors, and all truth be told, I was not disappointed. Our soldiers are wonderful people. With a rough exterior they still remain a very caring and loving group of individuals. Our soldiers understand sacrifice, service, duty and honor. These great men and women lay it all on the line for the sake of freedom, liberty and country.

As an Army Chaplain I can see no greater need for these warriors than that they come to know the Gospel of Jesus Christ. In some respects, I also believe it is easy for them to understand what He did on the cross for us. Why? Because soldiers know what it is like to submit your life to the control of another and they understand sacrifice.

I never thought my experience as a chaplain would be as rewarding as it has turned out to be. There is just something very special about holding service in the middle of a battlefield, knowing that the enemy would like nothing better than to kill us on the spot, especially for openly worshipping in His name. You see, for America this is not a religious war, but for many of the insurgents' forces it is. Iraqi Christians are constantly persecuted and murdered for their beliefs. It is all too often heard on the news how Christians are tortured, shot, beheaded or blown

A GLIMPSE INTO MILITARY CHAPLAINCY AT WAR

CONTINUED

up; how churches are targeted by the insurgents and lives ended simply because they believe in Christ.

Teaching and preaching in the midst of the enemy provided the opportunity to praise Him with songs of worship at the top of our lungs. We acknowledged him as the Almighty Omniscient Creator of all, as the God of Mercy but also the God of Justice. We embraced Him as our Eternal Heavenly Father. There, in the middle of it all, we would pray for peace in Iraq, for the salvation of the Iraqis, and for the destruction of His enemies. Time and again Romans 13 came to life for us. Time and again we could find no comfort but in His Word.

Some of those moments were when out on patrol. It is always a risky proposition for a chaplain to go outside the wire since we are not authorized to carry a weapon. Every time my assistant and I went out with the soldiers it required that I balance the benefits against the risk. But I know it always helped establish my ministry with the soldiers. On many occasions I sat in the back of the MRAP (Mine Resistant Ambush Protected) vehicle listening to them tell me who they are, why they served, what they missed most from home and what their greatest fears were.

I watched them spring into action when suspected enemy activity arose. It was there during those moments that we prayed to-

gether, clinging tightly to our faith. It was right there that Psalm 141:8-10 came to life: *"But my eyes are fixed on you, O Sovereign Lord; in you I take refuge—do not give me over to death. Keep me from the snares they laid for me, from the traps set by evildoers. Let the wicked fall into their own nets, while I pass by in safety."*

On a daily basis we could hear the Muslim prayers said over loud speakers at the local Mosques. Sometimes those prayers were not so friendly to American forces and thus we had a constant reminder that we served on foreign soil.

Fortunately for us, things were not as bad as we originally expected them to be. Although our tough men and women did engage the enemy numerous times, the most constant threat for us was the sound of the alarm announcing the impending incoming mortar and rocket attacks that forced everyone to grapple with the reality of death that surrounded us.

Every night as I lay in bed I couldn't help but wonder if that night would be my last. Would I ever see my children again? Would I come home at all? It was then I humbly prayed for assurance that God would protect us, remembering Psalm 4:8 which states "I will lie down and sleep in peace, for you alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety." Such are some of the activities and prayers of a military chaplain during wartime.

THE BAPTISM OF SAMUEL RICHARDSON



Brother Joe Garman baptizing Samuel Richardson into Christ.

We work a lot of Community Service Workers at ARM headquarters. These are young people who get into minor scrapes with the law and are court ordered to complete an assigned number of "community service hours" in lieu of jail time. Over the years we have baptized several and have directed others to churches in their local neighborhoods.

After Samuel began working at ARM as a community service worker, he fell in love with our staff

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AN APPEALING TIME OF YEAR

BY ROB SMITH



While sorting through the mail, have you ever wondered, “How did all these charities get my name?”

As you think about the many appeals you receive, we hope you will remember at least five things about ours:

We count you as part of our family.

Whether you are a recent friend of ARM, or a longtime supporter, we value your partnership with us to accomplish the Lord’s Great Commission.

We remain true to our mission.

As you know, our vision is the same as it has always been. We have not veered from our commitment to reach people with the life-changing message of the Bible, nor will we. We lay our plans, build our budgets and monitor our results to better achieve this goal.

We depend on your faithful partnership.

Whether a monthly offering, annual donation or estate gift, we rely on your loving support to be able to reach hurting people for Christ. The more you give, the more we can do for God’s Kingdom. It’s that simple.

We pledge financial integrity.

Irresponsibility by ministries brings shame on the whole body of Christ, and hurts the precious name of Jesus. That is the last thing we want to do. So, we sincerely affirm to you that financial integrity is of highest importance to us. Our books are always open to you. Your precious gifts are treated carefully and with a keen sense of stewardship before the Lord.

We offer personalized service to you.

Do you have appreciated stock or real estate that would make a great tax-wise gift to ARM? Do you need to receive lifetime income and tax benefits in exchange for your gift? To receive free information or personal service or just to simply talk to a knowledgeable person about these concerns, please call Bill Blair at ARM. He would be glad to confidentially serve you. His number is (417) 781-9100. Or you can use the form below.

(Please complete and return this reply form.)

Dear Friends at ARM:

- Please send me free information about planned giving.
- Please contact me about a personal visit or other assistance.
- I have already provided for ARM in my will or other estate planning document.
- Please tell me how to make a major gift and receive a lifetime income.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Mail this form to: Bill Blair, ARM • P.O. Box 1490 • Joplin, Missouri 64802

“ARE YOU THE ONE?”

BY JOE WELCH

During a recent sermon, a preacher challenged everyone in the sanctuary to pray for “just one” person to enter full-time Christian service. Many illustrations are available to demonstrate how powerful “just one” life can be when dedicated to the Lord’s service, and a phone call this morning immediately provided me with “just one” more example.

Ten years ago, a man I will call Michael was sentenced to ten years in prison. During his incarceration, one person introduced him to the free Bible correspondence courses available through the American Bible Academy. Upon receiving his own personal copy of the *Gospel of John* course, Michael immediately noticed something very different about this course—it was not just another elementary fill-in-the-blank study. Rather, it was a professionally produced 120-page course.

Michael completed this course and kept it with him throughout his incarceration and upon his release back into society. This morning, Michael called my office and told me that he still had his course and shared how it had touched his life.

Today, Michael is enrolled in a Christian university pursuing a degree in Pastoral and New Testament Studies to prepare for the located ministry. In addition, he is a volunteer chaplain in a correctional facility near his home. He emphasized that the inmates in that facility were well beyond the basic elementary studies that were available, and they were in need of the comprehensive Bible courses of the American Bible Academy. Michael shared that he still had his old *Gospel of John* course and would show it to

the inmates in that facility, and he quickly concluded that he needed 50 pre-enrollment forms A.S.A.P.

Who would have imagined that “just one” Bible course would make such an impact in the lives of so many inmates? Who would have imagined that “just one” supporter of A.R.M. would make such a contribution to the Lord’s harvest fields! One inmate’s life was pointed in a new direction, one more man is enrolled in a Christian university, one more minister is preparing for a lifetime of Christian service, one more chaplain is sharing the Good News in a correctional facility, and 50 new pre-enrollment forms will soon be heading my way!

All this is evidence of God’s hand moving in the lives of those who have been touched by “just one” Bible correspondence course. “Just one” person made a difference in Michael’s life. If you are reading this article, then you are most likely a faithful supporter of A.R.M., and it warms my heart to think that maybe, just maybe, you were “the one”!



The Baptism of Samuel Richardson
continued from page 5

and Christian volunteers. After completing his hours, he continued returning as a volunteer. One day he let it be known that he too wanted to become a Christian. He chose to be baptized at ARM headquarters in the presence of our staff and volunteers.



WWW.ABARC.ORG • The Official Website of the American Bible Academy and Resource Center

Anyone with access to the Internet may view, study, print, download, translate or distribute a variety of **FREE** Christian literature from this exclusive website. Materials include Bible commentaries, courses, textbooks, tracts and other useful articles suitable for group or individual study. **ABARC** is a virtual “one stop Bible Study Center” that’s like having a Bible commentary in the palm of your hand.

A special section provides Christ-centered literary works in a variety of languages including German, Khmer, Russian, Spanish and Thai. Ministers and missionaries around the world are encouraged to link ABARC to their church or mission website so Sunday school teachers and church members can easily access this valuable information. It’s like having a Bible college at your fingertips.

ARM RECEIVES AN AMERICAN FLAG FROM THE US ARMY IN IRAQ

BY JOE GARMAN



THIS COMMEMORATES THE 123rd BAPTISTRY THAT WE HAVE PLACED ON VARIOUS MILITARY INSTALLATIONS AROUND THE WORLD.

Dear Mr. Garman:

Although the act of giving thanks is often overlooked by many, I must express my gratitude for the support you have provided to the Troopers of the 6th Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, of the 1st Brigade, 1st Armored Division. As the Squadron Commander, I want you to know that the welfare of the Blackhawks and their families is of the utmost importance to each and every one of the leaders under my command. Your kindness has made it easier for us to care for our American heroes.

It is not often that I have the honor of meeting someone like you who is ever so willing to go beyond the simple words of gratitude so often expressed by others. Every thank you and every handshake ever extended to any service member is deeply cherished by all that have answered the call to sacrifice for our country. Your willingness to go beyond has had a direct impact on the success of our current deployment mission in the northern region of Iraq.

Your sincere generosity in providing a portable baptistry to our Unit Ministry Team has enabled Chaplain (Captain) Abdiel E. Fuentes, our Squadron Chaplain, to care for the spiritual needs of our mighty warriors. I firmly believe that a Soldier's adherence to the principals of faith, whatever their particular faith may be, can greatly uplift the Troopers' morale and increase their desire to continue the fight. Your gift has provided for the care of our Troopers even in the midst of the combat zone.

We truly appreciate your thoughtfulness and support as it shows that we are not alone in our effort to promote peace and stability for America. Your efforts reflect great credit upon yourself and are in keeping with the finest traditions of support to our military.

In closing, I present to you a United States flag. This particular flag was flown in the face of the enemy on 4 June 2010 at the squadron headquarters and served as a solemn reminder to all our Troopers of who we are, why we sacrifice and why we fight. I now present it to you as a symbol of our appreciation and as a warm and heart-felt thank you for all that you have done to help us care for these true American heroes. Although we are thousands of miles away from home and away from our loved ones, it is nice to know that you believe in us, our mission and ultimately the freedom we so ardently protect.

Sincerely,
Brian J. McHugh
Lieutenant Colonel, US Army
Commanding

ARM thanks the Blackhawks for their "Courageous and Faithful" service to America. The above-mentioned flag is encased and displayed on the wall at ARM headquarters. It was an honor to receive it along with a certificate of authenticity from the Department of the Army. ARM also thanks our friends and supporters that made this baptistry possible.

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