



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
2000 NAVY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20350-2000

IN REPLY REFER TO
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Ser N097/01292
19 Oct 01

Dear Colleagues:

Where are our Jeremiahs today?

Another week is ending, and again I'm reminded of God's faithfulness. In spite of recent tragedies and trials, our Nation and our Corps have been sustained by a loving providence. Physical and psychological wounds are healing. A remarkable unity now permeates the fabric of our daily living.

In this new world of fearful fluctuations, we have a greater awareness of our finitude. And from such awareness, we are rediscovering that God's faithfulness is a dependable, sustaining constant. Scores of emails remind me that people are praying. This change of spiritual focus is empowering us to embrace more significant priorities and reject the distractions of temporal and transitory things.

The spontaneous outpouring of patriotism has inspired us all. In fact, we have been blessed in October with our best recruiting month in five years. Eighteen new chaplains have joined our active duty ranks. This is a fitting tribute to Americans' love of country and devotion to duty. I believe this devotion has spiritual roots.

In one of our recent office devotions, a chaplain shared a verse from Jeremiah 42 in which God's people, in the midst of a grave national crisis, asked the prophet for guidance. Jeremiah responded: "I will pray to the Lord your God, and I will tell you everything He says. I will hide nothing from you."

We pondered that image for a moment and then another chaplain asked: "Where are our Jeremiahs today?" This is a worthy question. Where are our Jeremiahs? Do we have chaplains throughout the Sea Services who will pray for our people in this crisis? Do they hear God's answer and convey that word to honest seekers? I believe we do. Let us, then, cheerfully accept the challenge of delivering innovative, life-transforming service to God's people.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "B. C. Black", is positioned above the typed name.

BARRY C. BLACK
Rear Admiral, CHC, U.S. Navy
Chief of Chaplains