‘Living as a Called Person’

By Chaplain Douglas Vrieland

Recently I re-read a book that is an old favorite of mine, Ordering Your Private World by Gordon McDonald (Thomas Nelson, rev. ed., 2003). In that book McDonald contrasts the life of a driven person with that of a called person. A driven person, says McDonald, is someone whose “prime targets are all external, material, and measurable. Nothing else seems real; nothing else makes sense.” The called person, on the other hand, is inner-directed. She takes her cues from within, lives out of the center of her being, from her heart. McDonald writes: “Driven people often project a bravado of confidence as they forge ahead with their achievement-oriented life plan. But often, at the moment when it is least expected, adversities and obstructions conspire, and there can be personal collapse. Called people, on the other hand, possess strength from within, a quality of perseverance and power that are impervious to the blows from without.” McDonald ends his treatment of the driven and the called person with a chapter whose title heads this article: “Living as a Called Person.”

How does one live as a called person? Those who have reflected deeply on these matters agree, the called person understands who he is. In an interview with Bill Moyers, Joseph Campbell suggested that what God wants from us is usually the same thing as that which we most desire for ourselves, what he calls our bliss. Unfortunately for many of us, our own hearts are unexplored territory. We don’t know who we are or what the deepest desires of our hearts are. There are plenty of voices around us willing to exploit this situation tell us what we want, which is usually something that will benefit them. Buy this new car and you will achieve your bliss; change your appearance and you will be happy; make the next promotion and life will be good. It is easy to listen to these voices because they are loud and persistent. The voice of God, on the other hand, from which we gain an understanding of who we are and what is our heart’s deepest desire, generally comes in quiet whispers, what the Bible refers to as the “still, small voice.”

Living as a called person is not always easy. When we take our cues from inner convictions rather than outer pressure we risk the possibility of upsetting those who wish to control us. Furthermore, it means we bear more responsibility for the outcome of our behavioral choices. But I believe the benefits of such living, such as increased confidence, serenity, and joy, Far outweigh the disadvantages.

The idea that God’s desire for our lives is somehow connected to the deepest desires of our heart may be new to some of us, but it has been around at least since the time of St. Augustine, who said, “Love God and do what you will.” What is the deepest desire of your heart? Where is your passion? Who is God calling you to be, and how does that fit in with where you are serving at this time in your life? Are you living as a driven person, reacting to the pressures and desires of those around you, or are you living as a called person, responding to that still, quiet whisper that is the voice of God speaking to your heart?

Roth contributions to open to all active-duty troops

By Terri Moon Cronk, American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – Beginning Oct. 1, active-duty members of the Navy, Army, and Air Force will be able to contribute to the Roth Thrift Savings Plan as part of their investment planning, Defense Financing and Accounting Service officials said today.

The after-tax contributions will be electronically deducted from service members’ pay accounts.

Active-duty service members also can start their Roth TSP contributions now through their online MyPay accounts, which offer the fastest, easiest and most secure method to manage both Roth and traditional TSP contributions. The second option open to service members is to submit a TSP-U-1 form to their finance office.

Active-duty Marines, Guardsmen, Reservists and civilians paid by DFAS were able to begin making contributions to the program in June, officials said.

Additionally, the other branches of the National Guard and reserves will be able to make Roth TSP contributions by mid- to-late 2013.

The timeline difference between active-duty and other service members resulted from an interim solution for reserve component members, which didn’t meet Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board requirements, according to DFAS.

While work continues for options that will be available more quickly and satisfy the law and FRTIB requirements at the same time, the new schedule will allow time to make systems changes and electronic deductions that meet all requirements, DFAS officials said.

To begin making Roth TSP contributions, service members should determine how much of their pay is eligible. A Roth TSP worksheet can help make the calculations.

Military members are required to contribute an amount equaling 1 percent of their eligible pay to begin TSP contributions. For those who are not participating in traditional TSP investments, the initial Roth TSP election must meet this 1 percent requirement. The IRS maximum contribution to Roth TSP is $17,000 per year, DFAS officials said.

Military members can use pay earned in combat zones, and are excluded from federal taxes to contribute to Roth TSP.

For more information about Roth TSP contributions, visit: http://www.dfas.mil/militarymembers/rothtspformilitary.html.

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“That has never happened before, there has never been a military installation that dealt with that kind of disaster, responded to it and at the same time had to deal with a mandate to reduce its energy demand,” said Gabiga. “But, I think that is what really made us stand out. We were faced with something that hasn’t been done before, something unprecedented.”

The command also turned off the fountains, outdoor electronic signs in front of the food court, Navy Exchange and commissary, emphasized turning off monitors and computers when not in use, encouraged using the stairs instead of elevators, and turned off some street lights. Public Works Department and U.S. Naval Hospital Yokosuka moved high demand electrical tasks to off-peak hours.

“Together that saved us about $2 million dollars in electricity costs during the course of the year,” said Gabiga. “We’ve still got the same programs in place. There is the other mandate, the one from the [Department of Defense] to lower the amount of energy used by three percent every year. We’re on track to meet those goals. We want to keep this going, to keep finding ways where we can do better.”

Kinnick Sports

Week of Oct. 5 - 11

Volleyball

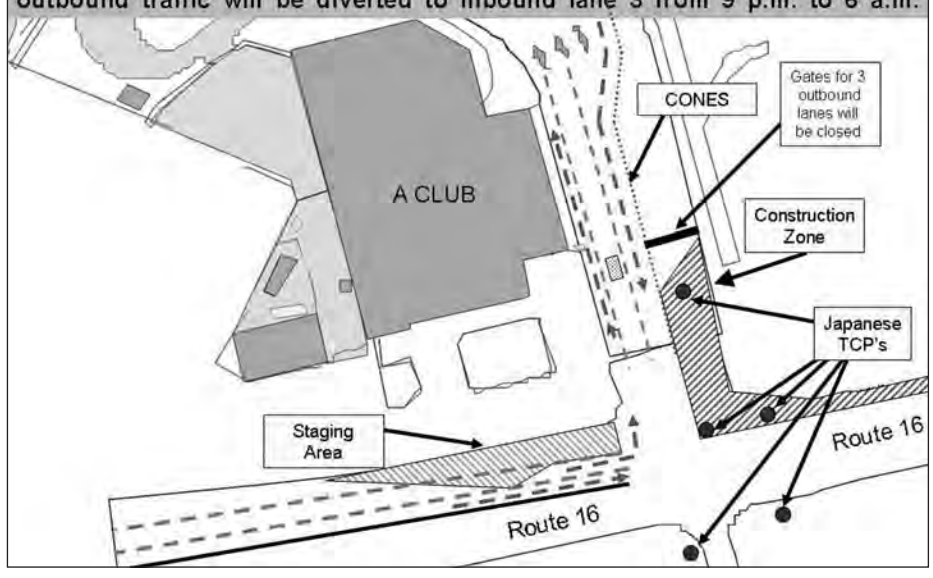
Oct. 16 at 5 p.m. CAJ at Kinnick
Oct. 23 at 5:30 p.m. ASIJ at Kinnick

Tennis

Oct. 10 3 p.m. Yokota at Kinnick
Oct. 16 at 5 p.m. ISSH at Kinnick
Oct. 24-26 Japan DoDEA Tournament (TBD)

Football

Oct. 6 at noon (junior varsity); 4 p.m. (varsity) Seoul at Kinnick

ROAD CONSTRUCTION ON ROUTE 16 NEAR CARNEY GATE

The City of Yokosuka will be repairing a damaged pipe on route 16 from Oct. 10-15, and then from Oct. 23-29. Carney Gate outbound lanes will closed and outbound traffic will be diverted to inbound lane 3 from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m.