

Friday Evening, May 8, 2020

BREAKING UPDATE MRFF VICTORY!!!



MILITARY RELIGIOUS FREEDOM
foundation

AIR FORCE OFFICER ENDS SUNDAY "PORCH PREACHING" TO CAPTIVE COVID-19 LOCKDOWN AUDIENCE AT USAG STUTTART

Every Sunday during the COVID-19 lockdown at USAG Stuttgart, Germany, Air Force Lt. Col. David McGraw was forcing the other military personnel and their families in his on-base military housing apartment area to listen to his "Porch Pulpit" Christian worship services.

After MRFF's demand to his commanding officer, Lt. Col. McGraw has delivered a letter of apology to his neighbors informing them that he is stopping his Sunday "Porch Preaching."

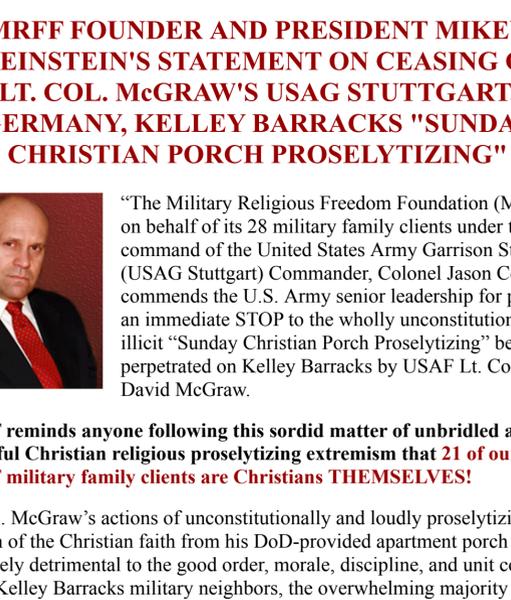
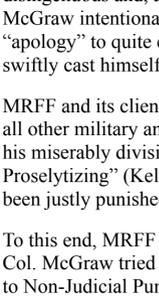


PHOTO CREDIT: MILITARY RELIGIOUS FREEDOM FOUNDATION

MRFF FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT MIKEY WEINSTEIN'S STATEMENT ON CEASING OF LT. COL. MCGRAW'S USAG STUTTART, GERMANY, KELLEY BARRACKS "SUNDAY CHRISTIAN PORCH PROSELYTIZING"



"The Military Religious Freedom Foundation (MRFF), on behalf of its 28 military family clients under the command of the United States Army Garrison Stuttgart (USAG Stuttgart) Commander, Colonel Jason Condrey, commends the U.S. Army senior leadership for putting an immediate STOP to the wholly unconstitutional and illicit "Sunday Christian Porch Proselytizing" being perpetrated on Kelley Barracks by USAF Lt. Col. David McGraw.

MRFF reminds anyone following this sordid matter of unbridled and unlawful Christian religious proselytizing extremism that 21 of our 28 MRFF military family clients are Christians THEMSELVES!

Lt. Col. McGraw's actions of unconstitutionally and loudly proselytizing his version of the Christian faith from his DoD-provided apartment porch was extremely detrimental to the good order, morale, discipline, and unit cohesion of his Kelley Barracks military neighbors, the overwhelming majority of whom he happens to conveniently outrank.

Should Lt. Col. McGraw be providing an alternate location for his formerly illicit Christian proselytizing, MRFF reminds the USAG Stuttgart senior leadership that any such location must strictly comply with all relevant and germane time, place, and manner requirements and restrictions of the U.S. Constitution, its construing Federal caselaw, all DoD and U.S. Army directives, instructions and regulations, the U.S. Army/USAF Core Values, the mandates of the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ), and all Host Nation Regulations.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, MRFF finds the unsolicited hard copy message of Lt. Col. McGraw's "apology," which he left on the front door step of his Kelley Barracks neighbors this morning, to be, at best, obviously disingenuous and, at worst, blatantly dishonest. It seems that Lt. Col. McGraw intentionally engineered the self-serving wording of that hard copy "apology" to quite efficiently serve as a useful and beneficial accelerant to swiftly cast himself in the clothes of a martyr for the cause of Christ.

MRFF and its clients want to know and be assured that Lt. Col. McGraw, and all other military and/or civilian personnel who indirectly or directly enabled his miserably divisive, unconstitutional "Sunday Christian Porch Proselytizing" (Kelley Barracks Building Managers, this means YOU!), have been justly punished by the military command chain at USAG Stuttgart.

To this end, MRFF urges the USAG Stuttgart senior leadership to have Lt. Col. McGraw tried by military court-martial or, at the very least, be subjected to Non-Judicial Punishment via UCMJ Article 15."

EMAIL FROM ONE OF MRFF'S GRATEFUL CLIENTS AT USAG STUTTART WHO WILL NO LONGER BE HELD CAPTIVE BY LT. COL. MCGRAW'S "PORCH PREACHING"

From: MRFF Active Duty Member's E-Mail Address Withheld
Subject: Sending All of Our Gratitude to the MRFF

Date: May 8, 2020 at 10:04:51 AM GMT
To: Mikey Weinstein <mikey@militaryreligiousfreedom.org>

Hi Mikey,

I want to take a moment to thank you and everyone at the Military Religious Freedom Foundation for your facilitation of stopping the weekly religious service being forced upon residents here on Kelley Barracks. Your rapid response and ability to collaborate with those with the ability to stop the services from continuing is appreciated beyond measure.

The blowback has been fierce and several residents that were participants in the services are largely angry that someone used an alternate path for asking these services to be stopped. Their hostile responses displaying vehemence and loathing solidify exactly why we came to you vs trying to chase this through the military system. All Kelley Barracks residents received a notice this morning on our doorsteps that "the music will be moved to another location" from LTC McGraw.

We are optimistic that with your assistance, our local Garrison team, tenant units, and legal scholars will share with the community exactly how this was more than just a noise complaint for education, as well as to stop retaliatory services from springing up in place of the current situation. We also would like to see a program put into place that would allow extraordinary sensitive complaints to be put forth completely anonymously without retaliation. This very situation proved our fears were without question, absolutely founded in reality. We would also like to see a change in the housing liaison program. This could have all been stopped with immediacy if these managers involved would have used their own integrity and military knowledge that this was something that should have not been happening, much less continuing on for 8 weeks straight.

We want to reiterate that we are not anti-religion; we all hold our varied faiths close and dear to our hearts. We encourage others to seek fellowship, worship, and service in appropriate venues during times that are not easy.

Be well and thank ALL of at the MRFF so much for your kindness!

Sincerely, (MRFF Active Duty Family Member's name, rank, MOS/AFSC, unit, assigned command and armed forces branch all withheld)

LT. COL. MCGRAW'S LETTER TO HIS KELLEY BARRACKS NEIGHBORS

(Lt. Col. McGraw's spelling skills leave something to be desired, misspelling where he lives as "Kelly," not "Kelley," Barracks.)

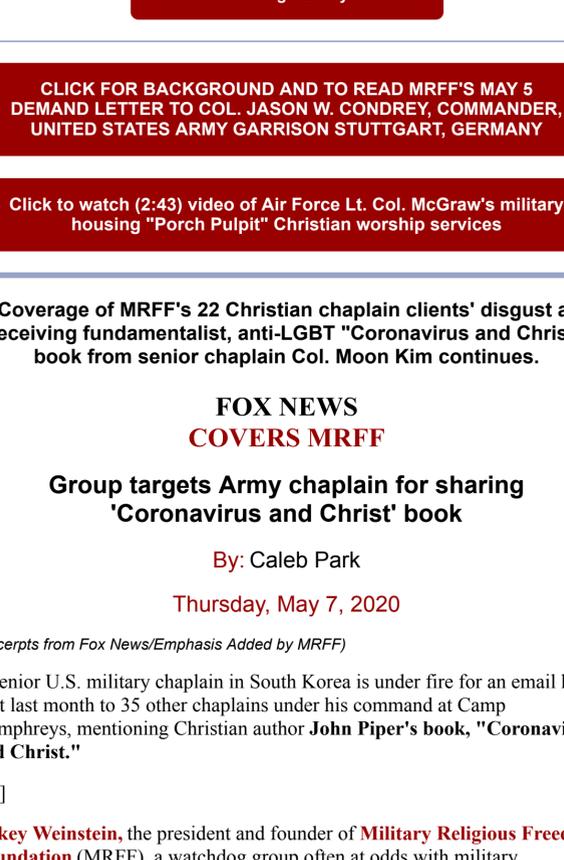


PHOTO CREDIT: MILITARY RELIGIOUS FREEDOM FOUNDATION

[Click to enlarge and read letter](#)

STORY UPDATE POSTED TODAY, MAY 8

THE CHRISTIAN POST COVERS MRFF

Air Force officer faces backlash for leading worship services from apartment balcony

By: Samuel Smith

Thursday, May 7, 2020, UPDATE May 8, 2020

(Excerpts from The Christian Post/Emphasis Added by MRFF)

UPDATE: 2 p.m. ET May 8: U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. David McGraw apologized to residents of Kelley Barracks at U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart, Germany, for holding Sunday worship services from his military housing balcony over the past eight weeks following a complaint from some service members to the secular group, **Military Religious Freedom Foundation.**

In a letter sent to residents Friday and viewed by The Christian Post, **McGraw vowed to move his services to another location.** He said the goal of the weekly services, which began in March, was not to "deface the name of Christ by inflicting any adversity on those families around us."

"We solely sought to bless those families who could not worship together in Christ with an opportunity to sing praises and worship amidst the COVID realities we are living with, together," McGraw wrote in the letter. "Our desire is to bless the families on Kelley Barracks knowing the struggles everyone of us face on a "normal" day with work, family, and life."

[...]

[Click to read original May 7 Article](#)

[CLICK FOR BACKGROUND AND TO READ MRFF'S MAY 5 DEMAND LETTER TO COL. JASON W. CONDREY, COMMANDER, UNITED STATES ARMY GARRISON STUTTART, GERMANY](#)

[Click to watch \(2:43\) video of Air Force Lt. Col. McGraw's military housing "Porch Pulpit" Christian worship services](#)

Coverage of MRFF's 22 Christian chaplain clients' disgust at receiving fundamentalist, anti-LGBT "Coronavirus and Christ" book from senior chaplain Col. Moon Kim continues.

FOX NEWS COVERS MRFF

Group targets Army chaplain for sharing 'Coronavirus and Christ' book

By: Caleb Park

Thursday, May 7, 2020

(Excerpts from Fox News/Emphasis Added by MRFF)

A senior U.S. military chaplain in South Korea is under fire for an email he sent last month to 35 other chaplains under his command at Camp Humphreys, mentioning Christian author **John Piper's book, "Coronavirus and Christ."**

[...]

Mikey Weinstein, the president and founder of **Military Religious Freedom Foundation** (MRFF), a watchdog group often at odds with military chaplains, sent a letter to Secretary of Defense Mark Esper on April 29 demanding Kim "be officially, swiftly, aggressively, and visibly investigated and disciplined in punishment for his deplorable actions."

[...]

The MRFF argues Kim sent "unsolicited" copies to "subordinate chaplains, promoting the book's message that the coronavirus is God's judgment for sins, including homosexuality."

Weinstein, in his letter, said he is representing **22 Christian military chaplains** from multiple branches of service, not all of whom were included on the original email. They complained about the email and wanted to maintain anonymity because they feel they would be subjected to "retaliation if they attempted to register their objections via the chain of command."

[...]

[Click to read Article](#)

RELIGION NEWS SERVICE COVERS MRFF

Watchdog seeks discipline for Army chaplain who shared John Piper coronavirus book

By: Adelle M. Banks

Thursday, May 7, 2020

(Excerpts from Religion News Service/Emphasis Added by MRFF)

(RNS) — A military religious liberty watchdog has asked Defense Secretary Mark Esper to discipline an Army chaplain for his recent distribution of a new book by Christian author John Piper titled "Coronavirus and Christ."

Mikey Weinstein, president of the **Military Religious Freedom Foundation**, is representing **22 active-duty Catholic and Protestant chaplains** who he said objected to receiving an email with a digital attachment of the 114-page book, which connects the **coronavirus to God's judgment.**

[...]

[Click to read Article](#)

[CLICK FOR BACKGROUND AND PREVIOUS COVERAGE OF CHAPLAIN \(COL.\) KIM'S SENDING ABHORRENT "CORONAVIRUS AND CHRIST" BOOK TO SUBORDINATE CHAPLAINS](#)

"I find your organization to be just another worthless cause"

I find your organization to be just another worthless cause. Our country was founded on Godly principals and morals.

We are granted the right to worship how we choose. Our chaplains have the right to post and send out via email Christian literature and make statements regarding Christianity.

Stop wasting tax payer dollars with frivolous lawsuits against Christians.

Just curious if you ever served in the military? If not, maybe you should. You would then appreciate how much courage and compassion it takes to be a chaplain.

(name withheld)

To see responses from MRFF Advisory Board Members Mike Farrell and Marty France, and MRFF Board Member John Compere:

[Click to Read in Inbox](#)

MRFF Information/Contact:

(505) 250-7727

SUPPORT MRFF!

Your Generous Support Allows us to Continue our Fight in the Courts and in the Media

[Make a Donation](#)

[Join MRFF's Constitution Society \(Recurring Donation\)](#)

[Help Build the Wall: Donate a "Brick"!](#)

