

Bless your bones and Aloha!!! Welcome to the MARFORPAC Senior Leadership Ministry Conference 2002 edition. Hawaii is a special place where newly weds honeymoon, war veterans reflect, sun worshippers tan, and surfers "hang loose." Your presence here is greatly appreciated and I pray that at the conclusion you will say, "it was good to be here."

In 1 Kings, chapter 22, the story of two kings or commanders unfolds which informs this conference: Ahab, King of Israel and Jehoshaphat, King of Judah. This chapter offers stark contrast in how spiritual advisors are viewed and valued. Ahab tolerated prophets while Jehoshaphat valued prophets. Ahab expected to hear what he wanted to hear from the prophets while Jehoshaphat expected to hear the truth, regardless how painful. Ahab hated the prophet, isolated and imprisoned him. Jehoshaphat respected the prophet and sought spiritual guidance.

I believe Navy/Marine Corps leadership hunger for **informed** Chaplains who are **approachable**, who **role model peacemaking** as well as core values. It is important that chaplains be **viewed as people of faith** whose value to the commander and the command is without question. Let me go one step further; a handmaiden in Naaman's entourage provided information that resulted in the healing of Naaman's leprosy. So Senior Religious Program Specialists are of enormous value in that they too provide insight and critical life changing information.

Finally, the conference end state I pray for the most is **cohesion**. It is my prayer that each of you will leave here with a sense that we are collectively the MARFORPAC Religious Ministry team, lovers of our God, our nation, families and each other.

May God's purpose and grace cover us all like the morning dew.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "James J. J.", located at the bottom right of the page.