

Dear GS family,

In 2013, during my undergrad years at William Jessup University, I sensed a call to military chaplaincy. The initial discernment process involved research and multiple conversations with chaplains from different branches of the military. Though I have no military background, the stories of these veteran chaplains—ranging from a story of serving lemonade at a desert in Iraq to a story of grieving with soldiers who lost their comrades to a bombing—strangely did not feel foreign to me. The stories of young soldiers suffering traumatic events grabbed at my heart and instilled a desire to pursue the call for military chaplaincy.

After a two-year-long application process, I was appointed as a U.S. Army chaplain candidate in August of 2016. Since then, I have been attending monthly weekend training sessions as a reservist officer and had the opportunity to lead chapel services and minister to soldiers. As a part of my continuing candidacy, I have received an order to attend four phases of mandatory training this summer, June 6th through September 6th, at Fort Jackson, South Carolina.

These trainings will resemble an active duty environment, not only enhancing my knowledge and skillset as a chaplain, but also allowing me to help reach a decision pertaining to my sense of call for active duty chaplaincy. This is a good and exciting next step! However, this also means that our church will have to go through some sacrificial adjustments—as I will be gone for the whole summer.

I, along with the whole Granite Springs staff, want to make this transition for the summer as smooth as possible for our youth ministry. We are putting together a big team of people to rally around our students. Under the guidance of our pastoral staff and elders, Liz Cha, one of our longest youth ministry leaders, will be overseeing both middle school and high school groups. She will not only be surrounded by other gifted youth leaders like Grant, Tassie, and Danny, but will also receive teaching help from others at Granite Springs like Aaron (our worship director), Joan (one of our elders), Rick (stewardship team), and a few others! In addition to this help, our youth team has put together a complete schedule to follow for both Wednesday night meetings and Sunday services until the Christmas season. You can check out the schedule at the [Granite Springs Youth page](#)!

When I first approached our church leadership, they wisely said “Kyu, we bless you and support your sense of call. How can we also bless our other leaders and students to help them flourish through the summer?” Knowing there is a team of people that beautifully embody the love and grace of God, I believe that this summer will not only be a time of sustaining what we have, but also a time of exciting growth and flourishing. Please keep our youth team and students in your prayers. Grace and Peace!

Respectfully,
Kyu

Photo taken in September of 2017 when my Army Chaplain team visited Sacramento Juvenile Hall.

