



Dear Southern Baptist Chaplains:

The North American Mission Board, the SBC Chaplaincy Team, and our Southern Baptist family continue to pray for you and your families during the prolonged shutdown of the Federal Government. We realize that the shutdown has created undue stress on your ministry as you continue to provide religious services and pastoral care to those within your respective Federal Government settings, whether in the United States or deployed abroad.

We pray for your personal well-being as you face the dual stress of supporting the financial concerns of those you serve while potentially dealing with your own families' financial uncertainties. We pray the Lord gives you great knowledge, wisdom, and discernment as you counsel those under your pastoral care facing financial strain, anxiety, and morale issues. We pray that despite the cancellation of contracts for some religious services at military chapels that you will still be able to effectively perform or provide ministry to all military members or Federal employees, regardless of their faith tradition. Where possible, we encourage you to reach out to your local Southern Baptist churches and other faith group leaders for assistance as necessary until the shutdown has been resolved. Please let us know if there is a specific way we can pray for you.

A Prayer: Gracious and Loving God, Giver of every good and perfect gift, we give you thanks for those called into the chaplaincy ministry "...for such a time as this." As the shutdown of The Federal Government continues, we pray for your gracious provision to those families facing financial uncertainty. Grant our chaplains supernatural wisdom, encouragement, perseverance, and love as they minister to those under their pastoral care. Protect them from weariness of soul and fill them with your perfect peace. For our military members, Federal workers, and their families, we pray that you will provide them with a deep sense of calm, trusting that you are the ultimate provider for all their earthly needs. Shield these families from anxiety, frustration, and fear. Remind them that you are their ever-present help in this time of trouble. We pray for unity of purpose and peaceful agreement among our lawmakers, and that they come together to bring this shutdown to a quick resolution. May this present crisis be an opportunity for the light and love of Jesus Christ to shine through the shepherd leaders in the Federal Government, our beloved chaplains. In Jesus Name. Amen.

In Christ's Service,

Douglas L. Carver, Chaplain (Major General)
United States Army, Retired
Executive Director of Chaplaincy
North American Mission Board