

**God did not call for us to see through each other, but to see each other through!**

**Adversities** are as **guaranteed** as the rising sun. But to graduate with God's favor, strength, direction, assistance through the Academy of Adversity is as refreshing as rain on a desert land. All of us have attended this academy a number of times, but not always on the honor rolls.

Yet we all also hate to admit when we see an urgent need, our watch sometimes forces us to step over that need as if we never saw it. But Jesus said, *'If you have done it unto one of the least of these my brothers you have done it down to me.'* These words are at the foundation for us all especially for chaplains.

**God intimately involved 7.7 billion people one at a time in every adversity.** But multiple of times He also chooses chaplains, angels, or anonymous people to focus on His frontlines of adversity. So often it is not an easy assignment, but they instinctively know God is up to something huge to reverse pure evil or devastation into a new direction changing people's lives. In the horrendous suffering of Christ's crucifixion God miraculously used it to be the price to purchase redemption for our salvation. **AMAZING!** Psalms 107 gives a crystal clear description of 4 major chaplain roles existing around the world. Bridge The Gap Ministries encompasses all four roles. **For this reason we covet your PRAYERS!**

## HOMELESS\$

**Psalms 107:4-9**

Some wandered in desert wastelands finding no way to a city where they could settle. They were hungry and thirsty, and their lives ebbed away. Then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble, and **he delivered them from their distress.**

## "ON THE JOB" PLACE

**Psalms 107: 23-28**

Some went out on the sea in ships; they were merchants on the mighty waters. They saw the works of the Lord, his wonderful deeds in the deep. For he spoke and stirred up a tempest that lifted high the waves. They mounted up to the heavens and went down to the depths; in their peril their courage melted away. They reeled and staggered like drunkards; they were at their wits' end. Then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble, and **he brought them out of their distress.**

## PRISON

**Psalms 107:10-13**

Some sat in darkness, and in the shadow of death, prisoners suffering in iron chains, because they rebelled against God's commands and despised the plans of the Most High. So he subjected them to bitter labor; they stumbled, and there was no one to help. Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and **he saved them from their distress.**

## HOSPITAL

**Psalms 107: 17-19**

Some became fools through their rebellious ways and suffered affliction because of their iniquities. They loathed all food and drew near the gates of death. Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and **he saved them from their distress.**

# The Trail through Adversity Academy

I will never forget the day I was called by our Lord to serve Him in full time Christian ministry. It truly was the best day of my life. At that time, I did not truly understand the adversity and the struggles that come along with that calling. As we get closer to the Lord the more the enemy attacks. I found this out. I graduated from Seminary. I had a Senior Pastor position waiting on me. Just about as fast as I took the job, I began to get sick. I was diagnosed with PTSD or Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

I got sicker and sicker, and I had to resign as pastor as they could not help me. I could not be effective with helping others. **As time went on I knew I had to get away from the distractions of my comfort blankets and get alone with my Jesus.** I left all the comforts of home that people with PTSD need and went on the Appalachian Trail.

It turned out that it was not my idea to go on this trail, but the will of God. First, the solitude alone in the wilderness with my Creator did for me what no other therapist or counselor was able to do. I had truly wondered in the wilderness to see the true Physician. Second, I learned that there is a **whole new ministry field that had never dawned on me before.** What I ran into on the trail were very hurting people.

There are two questions commonly asked on the Appalachian trail. 1. How far are you going 2. **Why are you hiking this trail?** The reasons I got on the trail varied. Most people had a unique reason why. However, most had one thing in common: pain and or a feeling of being lost. They also had one other thing in common, most were lost. They did not know Christ as their Savior.

Where am I now? Drastically improved. Getting better and better every day. In fact, I am getting not only my mind back in the game, but my body back in shape.

I am planning another trip up the Appalachian Trail. However, this time it is not for me in a sense. I know that God has a calling for me to form an Appalachian Trail Ministry and go as far as I can doing the Lord's work: To be on the path in His creation bringing a message of hope to hikers searching for their purpose on earth. Then introduce them to their Creator to a saving knowledge in Christ alone.

If you would like to support, my ministry in any way I can be reached through David Burgher with Bridge The Gap Ministries.

In His grip,  
**Rev. Derek Sargent**

## Graduation from Adversity Academy

Thank you, God, for this world called life. First of all I give all praise and honor to our Lord the ultimate giver of life. I thank you for calling brother David through all my adversities. He has never given up on me. That's exactly what I needed in my life; for someone who was going to be there for me. God sent a pillar in my life. Just want to say thank you for helping me through all my adversities and fire that you have put in my life. **My trust is in you alone.** Thank you. I will give you all the praise and glory for turning my life around.

Thank you, Lord, for all the prayers you have answered. You are the one and only true living God that can use situations and circumstances and people's lives to see You as my true cornerstone.

As iron sharpens iron, I know this was meant for my life sharpening me for His Kingdom purpose. I love you, Lord, for taking all adversities to transform me into your image.

**Jermaine Bagby**