

Spc. Roger L. Bemis

BPAS-W 040-07

REFUGE

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Forty-five soldiers and their family members showed up for a new worship service Sunday evening at Cavalry Chapel here.

Capt. Joseph C. "Bo" Welch, the Defense Information School Chaplain here, started a service called "The Refuge" for anyone, but it is geared toward students who attend DINFOS.

"It has taken about six months to get this point, and there were only a few glitches," said Welch. "We had some difficulty getting the sound to work, but all in all the service went very well."

It is a new Christian worship experience that serves the Fort Meade community including students and faculty at DINFOS, said Welch.

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“Everyone is welcome to attend The Refuge,” said Welch.

Distributed flyers billed the service as a contemporary and casual service.

The chaplain walked up and down the center isle with a microphone asking questions and encouraging those in attendance to respond with their thoughts and answers.

The worship band for The Refuge’s first service consisted of two guitars, a bass guitar, drummer, keyboard, and an African rhythm drum. Welch used a slide presentation with notes and a clip from the movie “The Passion of the Christ”.

Mixed in with soldiers in regular uniforms were those dressed in casual civilian clothes and military physical training uniforms. The chaplain was in slacks and a casual shirt with no tie.

“It felt more like a service that I’m used to,” said Pvt. Kent S. Redmond, who is attending the Basic Public Affairs Specialist-Broadcaster course at DINFOS.

Redmond said he is used to lots of singing and a casual atmosphere where everyone worships how they feel led.

“This type of service is much more contemporary than I’m used to, however, I’ll continue to attend regularly,” said Pfc. Stacey Bonnar, a public affairs student at the school.

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Bonnar said used to attend a Church of Christ service in which they sing without instruments.

Services are scheduled for every Sunday from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at Cavalry Chapel, Building 8465, at the corner of Simonds Street and 6th Armored Cavalry Road.