

## Opinion

# Lowering the Temperature!

by Dan Gatlyn, USN Retired – Minister/Journalist

**T**he New Year has arrived right on time, with events from East to West characterizing the calendar. There is before us "news, blues, wars, crime, songs, and a blaring of notes to 'chill the will'!" Flashing lights; and, a host of glamour and clamor. The obituaries give notice of people who are no longer on the ledger... commentaries are spent on games... and... the transition of National Officers! A new Year, and new opportunities, are before us as we move with tides of hype and drama. We have the option of "lowering the temperature" surrounding emotions – once more returning to a sound base. There are both threats of war, and a promise of peace! It seems fitting that the tempo of tempers and tantrums be reduced for an unpredictable tenure of involvement..

All hands could easily be reminded that human minds, spirits, and behavior are affected by what goes on throughout the periphery. We are "up and down" with the texture of lights, the sound of music, and the quality of commentary coming forth. Our attitude and altitude are predicated upon just where we reside; and, our actions are commensurate with personal geographies and ideology.

The genre and complexities surrounding a daring act of terrorism in New Orleans is a prime example of where humanity dwells; and, the gravity of gruesome activity. We would do well to reduce the torrential thrusts of carnage inflicted in our direction; and, especially as to the publication toward a global audience. Much can be said about a closed forum, but there is a vast distance between a formidable transparency and an ultra restrictive narrative. The entire world does not need to know everything.

I have had more than a lion's share of Military, Ministry, Missions, Crisis, Journalism, and Leadership; and, have come to the knowledge that "toning down of conditions" can prevent a great measure of misery, crime, embarrassment, and redundant of affairs. Lowering the temperature can cool tempers; and, abridge an inordinate infamy.