

## CHAPLAIN CHANGE OF STOLE CEREMONY

### **Gospel Service Change of Stole Ceremony 25 1100 MAR 12**

The ecclesiastical stole was originally an outer garment formed from an oval or rectangular piece of cloth. This garment dates back to early empires, governments and nations. Emperors and other high officials received stoles as symbols of their office and authority. They draped them around their bodies as mantles, or folded and carried them on their shoulders. Early Christians incorporated stoles in their worshipping community as symbols of Christ's yoke. Stoles were reduced in size to narrow strips of cloth, and were worn by ministers over both shoulders. Deacons wore them over their left shoulders. Ministers wear stoles as symbols of their position; in their spiritual leadership responsibility and as a visible sign of their voluntary submission to the will of God. Stoles portray the minister's role as a servant-leader for God's people.

(Inquiry of personal commitment)

**At this time Chaplain (LTC) Walker, the USAGJ GARRISON Chaplain will inquire as to Chaplain Browne's personal commitment to the office of chaplain of the Gospel Service**

CH Walker: Chaplain Browne, in accepting your duties as the Chaplain for the Gospel Service, do you acknowledge the providential hand of God guiding your career and ministry, and that you were not merely assigned this position but called to this mission?

CH Browne: I do acknowledge God's guiding hand.

CH Walker: In acknowledging your assignment as a calling, will you seek the constant will of God as you fulfill the duties of Pastor for the Sagami-hara Housing Area Gospel Chapel and do so with the best of your ability?

CH Browne: I will, with the help of God.

CH Walker: Employing the best of your spiritual, mental, emotional, and physical ability, will you aggressively work for the spiritual enrichment of all the Chaplains and Chaplain Assistants in your charge? And will you strive for a unified religious mission in the highest standards of peace and purity?

CH Browne: I will, with the help of God.

CH Walker: Chaplain Browne, in hearing these answers, we hereby acknowledge the Lord's Guiding Hand together in this, we pray for you, that the Lord may grant you wisdom to see His marvelous workings through your ministry and your life as the Division Chaplain of the Gospel Service. God bless you in all you do. Go in His peace!

(Passing of the Stole)

**In today's change of stole ceremony CH (LTC) Walker will remove the stole from Chaplain Sharon Hancock as Chaplain Browne relinquishes the spiritual leadership of the Gospel service congregation to CH Sharon Browne...**

(CH Walker removes the stole from Chaplain Hancock)

**...By receiving the Division's Stole...**

(CH Walker places the stole upon Chaplain Browne)

**...Chaplain Sharon Browne accepts her role as a servant of God in the capacity of spiritual leader for SHA Gospel Service.**

(Passing of the stole complete, chaplains Browne and Hancock take their seats, narrator introduces the Garrison Chaplain)

**Ladies and gentlemen, USAGJ GARRISON Chaplain, Chaplain (LTC) Dallas Walker.**

(Garrison Chaplain Finishes remarks)

**Ladies and gentlemen, the outgoing SHA Pastor, Chaplain Kenneth Hancock.**

(Chaplain Hancock finishes remarks)

**Ladies and gentlemen, the SHA Pastor, Chaplain Sharon Browne.**

(Chaplain Browne finishes remarks)

**Please rise and turn in your programs to the hymn “Be Thou My Vision” following the hymn please remain standing for the benediction.**

Hymn Text: (in the program)

(Benediction: CH Browne)

**Please remain standing for the departure of the official party.**

(After the official party has departed)

**Thank you for attending today’s change of stole ceremony. You are cordially invited to attend a reception in the fellowship room and welcome CH Browne. CH Hancock will remain in the sanctuary for farewells. This concludes today’s ceremony. May God bless you!**