

CALL TO DUTY

VOL. 1, ISSUE 2



THIS ISSUE'S THEME: **"IRON SHARPENS IRON"**

"As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another."

(Proverbs 27:17, NASB)



I don't know about you, but my feeble attempts at sharpening a lawnmower blade with my bench grinder didn't end in a razor sharp blade. Oh, it cut the grass better ... for a little while ... then it required repeated sharpening, so I found it easier to buy another blade (I should have also gotten a new grinding wheel too). In any case, I wasn't committed to spending the time or resources required to keep my original blade sharp. On a related note, have you ever tried cutting tall, well-watered grass with a dull or blunt blade? That doesn't work out very well either.

When was the last time you tried to "sharpen" another Christian's "iron"? What was the result? Were they sharpened to a razor's edge, slightly sharp or did they remain mostly dull and ineffective? Consider the following article entitled, **"Ironman."**



Tools made of steel maintain or regain a cutting edge through use of a steel file or similar tool. Think of a chain saw. The chain's sharp teeth become dull due to constant contact and friction. Unless regularly sharpened by steel, it will become unable to fulfill its purpose. And steel is necessary for the job. Ever try to sharpen something using a stick of margarine?

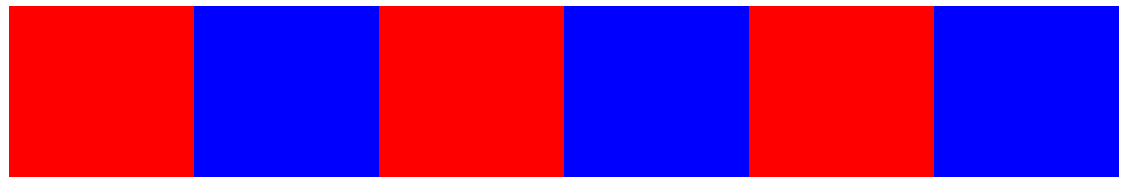


Likewise, one man (person) of God can sharpen another. Continuous opposition from the devil, the flesh, and the world can dull us. We can get worn down and less effective. But, through intentional and godly effort, we can stimulate one another toward deeper faith, stronger character, clearer judgment, greater hope, and higher goals in the Lord. Proverbs is about wise living for the Lord. 27:17 applies that to keeping each other sharp for His use and glory. When it comes to family, peers, or fellow-believers, will I help them become sharper or duller?

Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another. Guess, in a sense, any follower of Christ can be an IRONMAN! Will I sharpen others? Will I allow others to sharpen me? (Peek)

Ed Linebaugh

(Peek, R. "Ironman." <https://www.glenwoodcoc.org/ironman/>)



MILITARY OUTREACH & ENCOURAGEMENT

EDITORIAL

WHO IS YOUR SPIRITUAL RANGER BUDDY?

Over thirty years ago, I attended one of the most challenging military courses the Army has to offer, Ranger School. At that time Ranger School was 58 days long and included operations in Georgia, Florida and Utah over terrain that included swamps, mountains and deserts. We got little sleep and very few meals. I lost 35 pounds over the course of those 58 days. Many times I felt like quitting but did not because of one thing - my Ranger buddy.

The cadre at Ranger School assigns each student a Ranger buddy. You go everywhere with your Ranger buddy. You run, hike, dig foxholes, eat and march with your Ranger buddy. My Ranger buddy was a young sergeant from the 82nd Airborne Division and we became very close. He lifted me up when I was down and I did the same for him. We made it through together.

Did you know that there is a scriptural basis for having a Ranger buddy? Ecclesiastes 4:9- 12, **“Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their labor. For if they fall, one will lift up his companion. But woe to him who is alone when he falls,**

for he has no one to help him up. Again, if two lie down together, they will keep warm; but how can one be warm alone? Though one may be overpowered by another, two can withstand him. And a threefold cord is not quickly broken.”

Why do you think Jesus sent out the apostles two by two (Mark 6:7)? He knew that the road for them would be tough and that two were better than one. Do you have a spiritual Ranger buddy? Do you have someone to rely on when things get tough?

When Satan comes roaring about like a lion (1 Peter 5:8), do you have someone to watch your back and give you spiritual support? If not, it is something you should consider.

Tony Turner is a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and served on active duty for 21 years, retiring in 2004 as a Lieutenant Colonel with two tours in Germany. He had one combat tour (Operation Desert Storm) and peacekeeping tours in the Sinai and Bosnia. Tony recently retired from the Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Knoxville where he currently resides with his wife, Kathy; they worship with the Karns church of Christ where he serves as one of the elders. Tony is now working with Military OutReach and Encouragement, assisting with this publication and other aspects of military ministry. Welcome aboard sir!

LEADERSHIP LINK

In his second letter to Timothy, Paul tells him to endure hardship as a good soldier of Christ (1 Tim. 2:3 NKJV). Paul also refers to another Christian, Archippus, as a fellow soldier (Philemon 2). The need for soldiers of Jesus Christ is evident because of the war that Satan has brought against us. Paul wrote in Ephesians that we “wrestle (fight, war) against the spiritual forces of evil” (Eph. 6:12). The need for soldiers, good soldiers, for Christ is as necessary today as it was in Paul’s time. How then do we become good soldiers of Jesus Christ?

First, as Paul tells Timothy, do not be entangled with the affairs of this life (2 Tim. 2:4). The world can bog you down so much that you emphasize it rather than the Lord’s church. Do not conform to the world but be **“transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God”** (Romans 12:2).

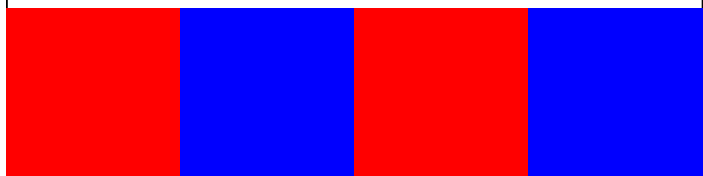
It is easy to let things slide when the world is weighing you down. Don’t let it. Ask for help from your Christian brethren. Pray. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much (James 4:16).

Second, be prepared for battle. Paul tells Timothy to be ready in season and out of season (2 Tim. 4:2). In 1 Peter 3:15, Peter tells Christians to “always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you.” How can we prepare ourselves? By studying the word of God and remaining faithful. Attend classes and services regularly. Ask questions. Your preparation should be a continuous, lifelong endeavor.

Third and finally, arm and protect yourself. Ephesians 6:13-18 provides the tools to arm and protect yourself from the wiles of the devil. These tools include truth, righteousness, the gospel, faith, salvation, the word of God, and prayer. God has provided us all the tools we need for the fight.

You see, you can be a good soldier of Christ. In fact, you must be a good soldier of Christ. Use the tools provided to you by God.

~ Tony Turner



AS YOU WERE...

"... three words spoken quickly by non-commissioned and commissioned officers who choose to drop rank and get to business, is meant to put troops 'at ease.'"



KNOWGODKNOWLOVE.COM

CALL OF DUTY SPIRITUAL WARFARE



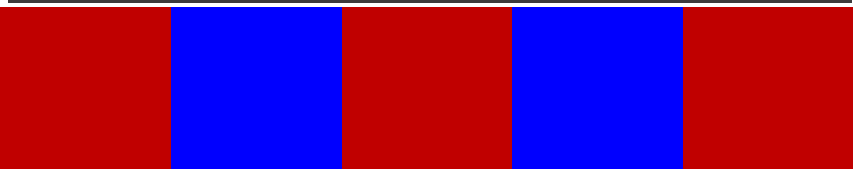
Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground...

Ephesians 6:13

Pray
Through
Stressful
Difficulties
(James 1:2-8)



**HAND-TO-HAND
COMBAT**



YOU'RE IN THE ARMY NOW, YOU'RE NOT BEHIND THE PLOW ...

That was literally true for me. I was raised on a 550-acre farm in the great Northern California Delta. But instead of beating my sword into a plowshare and my spear into a pruning-hook, I traded them in for a 105mm Howitzer. I learned of war but did not walk in the light of the Lord (Isaiah 2:4-5).

I was drafted into the U.S. Army on January 15, 1969; I turned 21 years old in June of that year, so I was older than many of the guys. I would have entered in '67 or '68 but deferred to help my dad on the farm until my brother returned home from his military service. However, I was not prepared for this new military experience. Our country was in great turmoil: the civil rights movement, free speech movement, and Vietnam War protests were all very upsetting to a young emotional mind.

I believe the reason I had such a hard time fitting into the military life was I just liked my freedom way too much. I enjoyed doing what I wanted to do, when I wanted to do it, where I wanted to do it, and how I wanted to do it. Boot camp was the absolute opposite of my independence. It just rubbed me the wrong way. I went from boot camp to AIT artillery training in Fort Sill, Oklahoma. I got two weeks leave then off to Southeast Asia. I had no "ordinary" military life. I eventually got orders for the 23rd Infantry (Americal Division), "B" Battery 6th/11th Artillery in support for the 11th Light Infantry Brigade. I was stationed 12 miles west of Duc Pho, Vietnam on firebase San Juan Hill where we manned a "split trail" 105mm Howitzer. (watch this video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OC17mvdsgY8>)

Someone expressed the purpose of our fighting this way: *"So that we could get each other home. That's all. We did it for each other. No great cause. We just needed to get each other on the freedom bird (plane) and home."* Shifting from the anxiety and stress of combat life to civilian life was just as troubling as the change from civilian to military life. It seemed like one day I was on the battlefield and within a couple of days I was back home. No transition or decompression, no counseling, no discussion; I was told to just shut up and fit in. I was a bitter and angry young man. We were treated poorly by the general population. Although I wasn't personally mistreated, my combat experience was suppressed by public dishonor and humiliation. We were shamed into silence. This experience ate inside of me for years to



FSB San Juan Hill

come.

I was not religious in any sense of the word. If you were looking for an example of an ungodly person you found one in me. I can relate to Paul's statement, **"Faithful is the saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief"** (1 Timothy 1:15). I think being nonreligious was a blessing in a strange sort of a way. I can only imagine the added emotional and spiritual conflict I would have faced if I were a Christian and placed in the circumstances leading up to, during, and after Vietnam.

I became a child of God in the spring of 1977; my sister in law who one day asked me if I'd like to study the Bible. I was pretty open to any thing new, so I agreed. Again, I think not having any religious training was a blessing in that I did not need to "unlearn" any spiritual concepts. I was introduced to a couple of preachers that were sound in the doctrine of Christ. They taught me the truth and in a couple of months I was baptized for the remission of my sins.

Proverbs 27:17 says, **"Iron sharpens iron; so a man sharpens the countenance of his friend."** If I understand that verse correctly, I think about the many godly men and women through the years who have sharpened my Christian walk; I am forever indebted to Jesus and them for their assistance.

I would like to add to this essay one thing that might help those that are struggling with PTSD: I carried my war experience for seven years before I submitted to the will of Christ. Post traumatic stress disorder didn't cease immediately but the "great physician" directed me toward the path of righteousness. That path was a path of service outside of me. After 40 years as a Christian I finally went to the VA for counseling. I find it interesting that the Veteran's Service Officer (VSO) told me there was nothing he could do that I was not already doing as a Christian. Prayer and service to others, looking to a higher power for strength, and moving out of the past looking to a greater day is the foundation of healing. He glorified God and probably didn't realize it.

The apostle Paul writes this beautiful truth: **"Not that I have already obtained, or am already made perfect: but I press on, if so be that I may lay hold on that for which also I was laid hold on by Christ Jesus. Brethren, I could not myself yet to have laid hold: but one thing I do, forgetting the things which are behind, and stretching forward to the things which are before, I press on toward the goal unto the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus"** (Philippians 3:12-14).

Allan Shafer is a combat veteran of the Vietnam War. He worked 34 years for the State of Cal Highway Maintenance Department. He and his wife Linda worship with the Karns church of Christ in Knoxville, TN and work with the Southeast Institute of Biblical Studies. They have two sons, Mark and Ben.

“SPIRITUAL IRON SHARPENING SPIRITUAL IRON”

From the Bible, when King Solomon of Old Testament Israel (1 Kings 1-11; 2 Chronicles 1-10) was helping prepare his son Rehoboam to ascend to the throne (1 Kings 12-14; 2 Chronicles 10-12), he wisely wrote to him in proverbial (metaphorical) form, **“Iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another”** (Proverbs 27:17) (NASB Update). Contextually, it seems Solomon taught Rehoboam that: (1) as like-metals are used to sharpen each other contingent on purpose, (2) so also are like-men used to sharpen each other contingent on purpose. In their case, Solomon (given divine wisdom by God when he became king resultant of their reciprocal love for each other, 2 Samuel 12:24-25; 1 Kings 3:3) tried to spiritually (as God is Spirit, John 4:24) sharpen Rehoboam for his military-like “call to duty” by God (just like Solomon before him) as Israel’s next king (1 Kings 11:9-13).

Therein, God (via the Bible) instructs all faithful New Testament Christians to learn from Old Testament Israel (and all of her leaders, including kings Solomon and Rehoboam) to copy their victories and avoid their failures recorded within (Romans 15:1-6; 1 Corinthians 10:6-12). However, faithful Christians to God are also those who have received their own military-like “call to duty” by Him (Romans 8:28-30; Ephesians 4:1-6; 2 Thessalonians 2:13-15).

Thus, as the soldiers of Christ (1 Corinthians 9.7; Philipians 2:25-30; 2 Timothy 2:3-4; Philemon 2) who wear the full armor of God (Ephesians 6:10-17), they also are to act like spiritual iron strong enough (1 Corinthians 2:14-15; Ephesians 4:7-16) to sharpen each other in all

things predominantly pertaining to Christianity (Matthew 9:36-38; 1 Corinthians 1:10; 3.9; Galatians 6:6-10). This includes commands to Christians to help bear each other’s burdens (Romans 15:1; Galatians 6:1-2).

Irrefutably, when Jesus as God and the Word of God in the flesh came to earth (John 1:1, 14), He lived a sinless life plus bore the burden of humanity’s sins (Matthew 11:28-30; 2 Corinthians 5:20-21; Hebrews 4:15; 1 Peter 2.21-25; 1 John 3.5). It was His military-like “call to duty” from God (Acts 4:23-31). Still, sinlessness is what qualified Christ to go the cross to be crucified, die, be buried, and resurrected from the dead for the forgiveness of sins (of His believing, faithful, and obedient disciples) according to the Scriptures (1 Corinthians 15:1-4). Christ’s Spirit-led disciple soldiers are the church or body of Christ because of the sinless bond of love they have with him (John 3:16; Romans 3:21-26; 6:1-11; 1 Corinthians 13:4-7; Ephesians 1:15-23; 1 Peter 2:4-8; 2 Peter 3:8-10).

Consequently, the love bond of Christ and His church epitomizes the thought that “spiritual iron sharpens spiritual iron.”

Tom Wright served in the United States Air Force during the Vietnam War era. Following his military discharge, Tom graduated college and worked in Design Engineering for over two decades. In his middle forties, he left secular work and entered ministry. He holds the degrees of Bachelor of Theology, Master of Biblical Studies, and Doctor of Ministry. Tom has spent about the past twenty-five years serving God as an evangelist, preacher, and teacher. He and his wife Carla live in the Colorado Springs area and worship with the Calhan church of Christ.



This program of work is designed to send a teacher or teaching team to a congregation anywhere they are invited, worldwide. The length of time our teacher spends with your congregation can be from a few days to a few months.

Our teaching staff is ready to help you grow in faith, service, and outreach. No matter where you are located, stateside or overseas, we are prepared to serve congregations anywhere in the world.

Military Outreach Is A Work Of The Bear Valley Church Of Christ In Denver Colorado

<https://1militaryoutreach1.com/>

thinksouls1@gmail.com

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

“Sharpening and Being Sharpened”

“As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another” (Proverbs 27:17).

Have you ever been guilty of reading or hearing scriptures and not allowing the Word of God to be planted into the good soil of your heart? How about not acknowledging how God has protected and guided you in the past? I'm guilty as charged! Writing this article has allowed me to look at Proverbs 27:17 on a different level from the heart. It has also given me an opportunity to reflect on how God used people in my past and present to help me mature in Christ.

Who are you accountable to? Who is accountable to you?

Proverbs 27:17 speaks loudly to me the word “accountability.” Have you ever taken the time to look at the verses in the New Testament that mention “one another”? The phrase “one another” is derived from the Greek word *allelon*, which means “one another, each other; mutually, reciprocally.” It occurs 100 times in the New Testament. Approximately 59 of those occurrences are specific commands teaching us how (and how not) to relate to one another. Therefore, accountability should be a staple in a Christian's daily life.

Jesus the True Vine

Are you a person that can miss Sunday school or worship service, and no one will encourage you to come or contact you to see how you are doing? People sometimes get the attitude that no one cares. However, the real problem may be that this person is not connected to the “true vine” Jesus (John 15:5). For one to be sharpened, they must first be connected to the true vine. Jesus makes it very clear that “apart from Him you can do nothing” (John 15:5b).

When you are baptized into Christ, you are connected to the true vine. Then God sets each member in the body as it pleases Him (1 Corinthians 12:18). Do you know your part as a member of the Lord's body? It is your responsibility to stay connected to the body by looking for ways to sharpen others in the family of God. When a person makes sharpening others a priority, the same will happen to them. Solomon said it differently in Proverbs 11:25 as, “He who waters shall himself be watered.”

The Sword of the Spirit is the Word of God

According to John chapter one, Jesus is the Word. “For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart” (Hebrews 4:12). It is further explained that “the sword of the Spirit, is the word of God” (Ephesians 6:17).

When man-made swords and knives are used, they eventually become dull. However, a wonderful thing happens when God's Word is used. The more that we use God's Word, the sharper we become. When the Word of God is sharpening you, you will realize the importance of sharpening others. However, if your focus is self-centered, your life will be dull and unfruitful, containing the works of the flesh mentioned in Galatians 5:19-21.

Time of Reflection

Have you ever taken time to reflect on people from your past who have helped sharpen your growth in Christ? Let me encourage you to make a list of people who have impacted your walk with Jesus. If these people are still alive, let them know. If they are no longer alive, share with someone how they have helped sharpen your life. Now, imagine how your life would be if they had not done their part.

Next, make a list of how you are currently sharpening others. This list is not meant to make you proud. On the contrary, it should help you reflect and be conscious of your actions and words toward others. It should also make you aware of any adjustments you need to make to be a better servant of Christ. Remember to strive daily to be a blessing to others for God's glory.

Helpful Verses to Keep in Mind

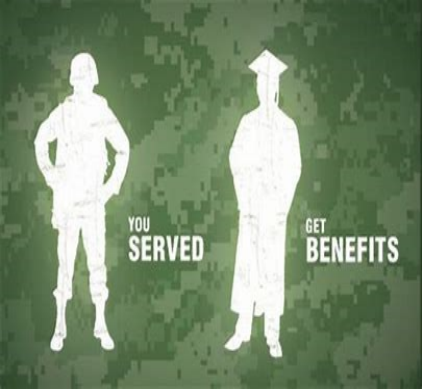
“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned” (John 15: 5-7).

“For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink” (1 Corinthians 12:13).

“Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.” (Galatians 6:7-8)

Harry C. Washington III is retired from the U.S. Air Force. Before retiring from full-time ministry, he ministered at the Outreach Church of Christ for 20 years. He was also the director of Christian Grace Counseling Center and Christian Grace Counseling Academy. Harry is a Licensed Clinical Christian Counselor with a Ph.D. in Clinical Christian counseling, and is now a Christian Motivational Speaker and a Christian YouTuber. His channels are God's Virtual School and God's Greater Love. Harry and his wife Audrey currently reside in Tennessee and attend the Karns Church of Christ. You can reach Harry at drharry4@gmail.com.

TRAIN FOR MINISTRY!



We Train Preachers

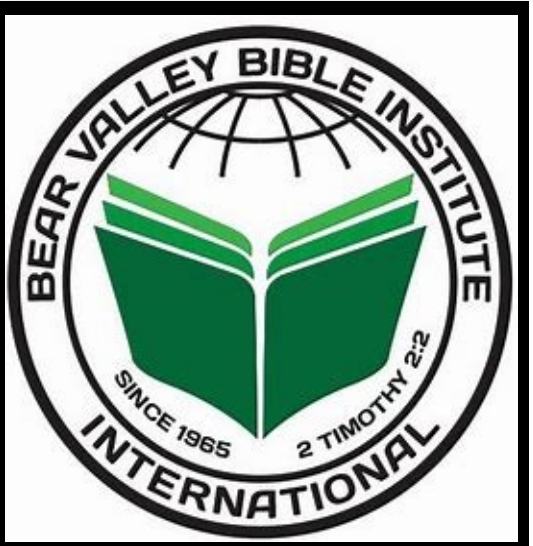
Since 1965, Bear Valley has worked to accomplish the commission of 2 Timothy 2:2 - entrusting the pattern of sound teaching in the gospel to faithful men who will then in turn be equipped to teach others. While the scope of our work has expanded, we have never lost sight of that fundamental mission.

WE TRAIN...

- ...PREACHERS
- ...EVANGELISTS
- ...MISSION WORKERS
- ...YOUTH MINISTERS

and more with a precious message to share with a lost and dying world.

<https://www.wetrainpreachers.com/>



SOUTHEAST
INSTITUTE OF BIBLICAL STUDIES

Where Preachers Are Made!

6612 Beaver Ridge Rd., Knoxville, TN
Call (865)-691-7444 or visit www.WeDoPreaching.com
Training Preachers Since 1971

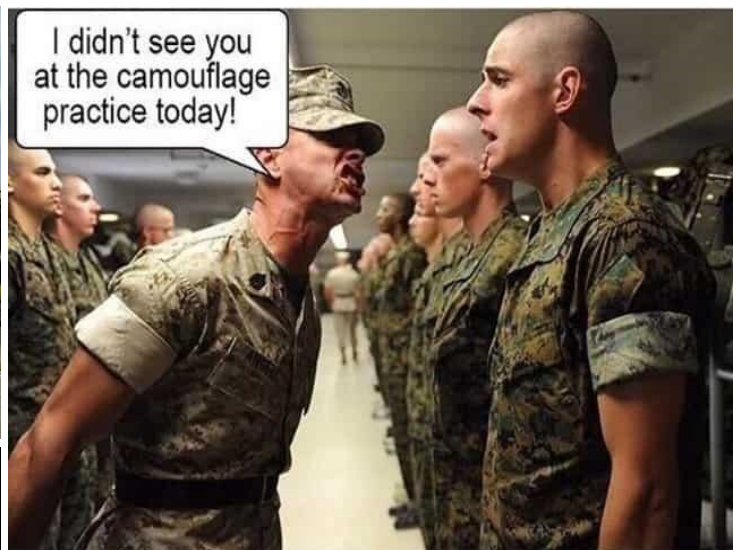
Bear Valley Bible Institute of Denver
2707 S. Lamar Street
Denver, Colorado 80227

(303) 986-5800 - Main
(800) 766-4641 - Toll Free
(303) 986-8003 - Fax

“How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?”

Romans 10:14

THE LIGHTER SIDE





American Military Evangelizing Nations

A worldwide ministry of the Manchester Church of Christ

OUR MISSION

- ◆ To support the spiritual growth of the members of the U.S. Armed Forces.
- ◆ Provide opportunities for Biblical knowledge, worship, fellowship, service and evangelism.
- ◆ Fulfill Jesus Christ's call to the Great Commandment (Matthew 22:37-39) and the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20).

amenministry.info

**Manchester Church of Christ
595 Tolland Turnpike
Manchester CT 06042
Tel: (860) 646-2903**



"The Christian Soldier's Creed"
(adapted from "The Soldier's Creed")

I am a **CHRISTIAN** Soldier.
I am a **SPIRITUAL** Warrior and a member of **GOD'S** team.
I serve the people of every nation and live the **LORD'S** values.
I will always place **GOD'S** mission first.
I will never accept defeat.
I will never quit.
I will never leave a fallen **BROTHER** or **SISTER**.
I am disciplined, **SPIRITUALLY** and mentally tough, trained and proficient in my **SPIRITUAL** tasks and drills.
I always maintain my **SPIRITUAL** weapons, my **SPIRITUAL** equipment and my **SOUL**.
I am knowledgeable and I am proficient in the **SCRIPTURES**.
I stand ready to deploy, engage, and **LOVE** the enemies of **GOD** in close combat.
I am a guardian of **SPIRITUAL** freedom and the **LORD'S** way of life.
I am a **CHRISTIAN** Soldier.



GOD'S ETERNAL PLAN FOR YOU

HEAR the word of God: Romans 10:9-14; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:16-21; Revelation 2:7; 22:18-19

BELIEVE in Jesus as Savior of world: John 3:16; 14:6; 14:23

REPENT of your sins: Luke 13:3,5; Acts 2:38; 3:19; 8:22; 17:30; Revelation 2:5, 16, 21,22; 3:3, 19

CONFESS Jesus before others: Matthew 10:32-33; Romans 10:8-11

BE IMMERSUED into Christ for forgiveness of your sins: Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:36-47; 22:16; Romans 6:3-11; 1 Peter 3:18-22

CALL TO DUTY
(BASE 2 BASE, HEART 2 HEART)

A Publication of
Military OutReach & Encouragement (M.O.R.E.)
S.E.A.L. (Spiritual Education and Leadership) Training
Farley Church of Christ, Huntsville, Alabama

In Partnership with
House To House, Heart To Heart
Jacksonville, Alabama

<p>Ed Linebaugh U.S. Army, Retired Founding Editor more@minister.com</p>	<p>Tony Turner U.S. Army, Retired Associate Editor turner-tony@comcast.net</p>
--	--



House To House, Heart To Heart is a monthly American magazine. **HTH** is a customizable, 8 page, color, Christian magazine that works exclusively with Churches of Christ. The publication is printed every month for a total of 12 issues a year and is directly mailed into homes. Each issue contains gospel lessons, and biblical stories. **HTH** is printed in English, French, and Spanish with other special translations such as Korean.

CONTACT US: contact@housetohouse.com