

CALL TO DUTY

VOL. 1, ISSUE 6



Put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

Ephesians 4:24

The theme for this issue of Call to Duty is from Ephesians 4:24. Paul calls on the Christians at Ephesus to put aside the old, corrupt man and put on the new man created according to God. To do this we must draw near to God and resist Satan.



As our world gets more and more connected, it becomes more difficult to resist the temptations that the world offers. The messages we receive are persuasive and unending. These messages are meant to convince us that our Christian beliefs are old fashioned, too conservative, and out of tune with the rest of the world. In other words, we should become more like the world and less like Jesus.

Brethren remember what Paul said in Romans 12:1-2 (NKJV). "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this 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."



We must not conform to the world. The world will try to convince us that social drinking is perfectly fine, that killing unborn children is just a choice and is good for society, and that all roads lead to salvation. Our answer to that should echo Isaiah, "Woe to those who call evil good, and good, evil," (Isaiah 5:20).

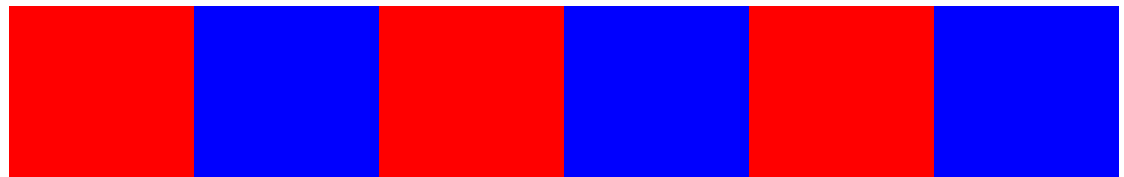


Remember that "he who sins is of the devil," (1 John 3:8). James tells us to "Resist the devil and he will flee from you (James 4:7-8) . Draw near to God and he will draw near to you." We must resist the message of the world and be transformed by the renewing of our minds to prove the good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Draw near to God through the study of scripture. Study the Bible diligently. It provides all the answers on how to resist the devil and the world. The Bible (scripture) is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work. (2 Tim. 3 :16-17).



So, put on the new man (and woman) this year and resolve to be more like Christ. ~Tony

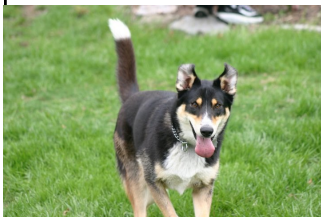


MILITARY OUTREACH & ENCOURAGEMENT

EDITORIAL

Be the Person Jesus Wants You to Be

There is a popular meme on the internet that says, "Be the person your dog thinks you are." The meme is popular because dogs are very loyal to their owners, in most cases. They get excited to see their person when they return from a short trip



to the store. Dogs think that their owners are the best thing ever. To be the person your dog thinks you are is an ambitious calling.

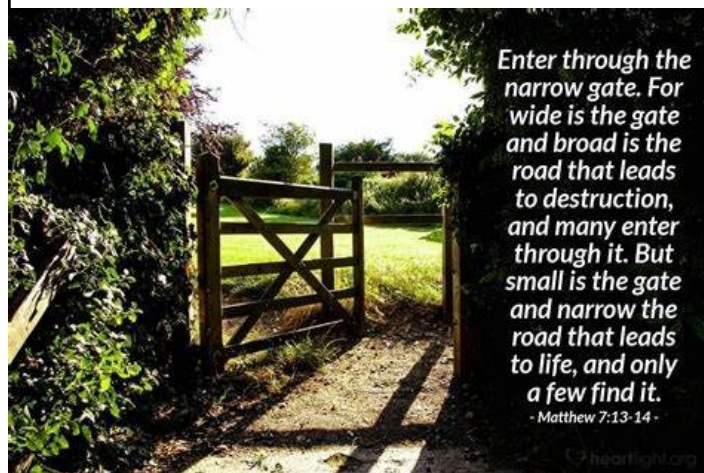
Christians have a higher calling, however. We should be the person Jesus wants us to be.

Jesus wants us to be:

- Merciful (Matt. 5: 7, NKJV)
- Pure in heart (Matt. 5: 8)
- Peacemakers (Matt. 5:9)
- The light of the world (Matt. 5:14-16)
- Loving (Matt. 5:43-48, John 13:34-35)
- Forgiving (Matt. 6:14, Matt 18:21-35)
- Generous (Mark 12:41-44)
- Thankful (Psalm 100:4-5)
- Evangelistic (Matt. 28:18-20, Mark 16: 15-16)
- Holy (Rom. 12:1, 1 Cor. 3: 16-17, Eph. 1:3-4)

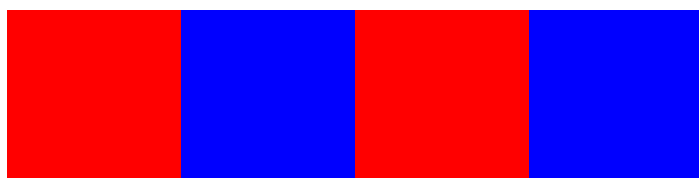


This list is not exhaustive, of course, but provides a starting point for Christians. To be the person that Jesus wants us to be is difficult, but not impossible. We must always strive to be that person so we can enter through the narrow gate that leads to life (Matt. 7:13-14, Luke 13:24).



Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.
- Matthew 7:13-14 -

**IF ANYONE DESIRES TO COME AFTER ME,
LET HIM DENY HIMSELF, AND
TAKE UP HIS CROSS DAILY, AND
FOLLOW ME.
LUKE 9:23**





House to House
Heart to Heart

THE DEBORAH RICE

**MILITARY
OUTREACH**

FUND

Deborah Rice, lovingly known as Ms. Deb, worked with House to House and Polishing the Pulpit for over 15 years. Her son is in the Army, and she was very patriotic. She loved America, and every year we celebrated Veterans Day and Memorial Day with her. In October 2021 she suffered a brain aneurysm. She fought for her life until February 4, 2022. To honor her, we have set up a donation fund to send out HTH to military bases in her honor. For every dollar given, at least three copies will be sent out around a military base, to seek and save the lost (Luke 19:10).

You can donate here: housetohouse.com/mrs-deb-memorial-fund/.

As donations come in, we will send more HTH copies to additional bases across the continental United States (CONUS for military folks). As we send to new bases, we will add stars representing those areas.

"My parents we converted while serving in the USAF. Because of someone's diligence to spreading the gospel, my family are thankfully Christians. My parents both work for the church and I now work at House to House spreading the gospel."
—Ahren Steis

We are honored to have known Ms. Deb, and we are better for it.



Putting On & Taking Off - Ephesians 4:24



Maybe you have heard the adage, "The clothes make the man." The things we wear affect us more than we might realize. In high school, I was in JR. ROTC. Most days I could wear what I wanted to. We might call these "street clothes" or "civilian clothes." However, there came a day each week when I was required to wear my Air Force dress blues. I was uncertain about my future in the military so I was not particularly fond of the idea of dressing in this manner. Nonetheless, as the semesters went by I began to notice something, a change. On the days I dressed in my "blues" I seemed more focused on

my school work. It seems, my clothes made a very real difference in my life.

In his letter to the Ephesian church, Paul is reminding Christians to perform continual self-examination. What they were wearing was important, spiritually speaking. Had these individuals remembered to clothe themselves correctly? They needed to put on "the new man." This need to be renewed is a reminder to Christians that this walk with God is not something we should take lightly (v.20). The new man is only available to us because of what Jesus has done (1:18). His life and sacrifice allow us to be a new creature and a new creation, we are created new "according to God" (4:24; 5:2). Our new direction, our new clothes, and our new life must have their foundation in God (2:20).

It is true that we often try to have several "new starts" before becoming a Christian. Maybe through this process, we will clean up our choices, or language, or any other area of our life. No doubt this may work for a while but eventually, things give way because we have not fundamentally changed our clothes (v.22). If we are going to change, and change for good, our changes must be in accordance with God's standards (v.21).

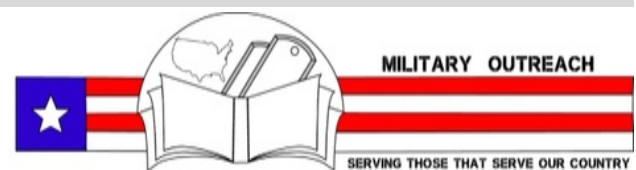
What elements are present in that changed way of life? In Ephesians 4:24, Paul identifies two areas we must constantly refine, righteousness and holiness. Righteousness and holiness are related. These are both areas we control with our actions. We might think of righteousness as doing right to others and doing right in this world. It is about our actions. Similarly, holiness is concerned with how we interact with God. Are we utilizing the tools God has blessed us with, such as prayer and worship?

Honing these attributes takes constant self-examination. That is why Paul speaks of these areas in a continuous tone. We are never done. There is always more to do. If we strive for each, we will make progress, making us more like God. So keep putting on the new man and living for God.

~ Freddie Klein



Fredrick is an Air Force veteran, formerly serving as an avionics technician on the B1 airframe at Ellsworth AFB before being honorably discharged in 2010. He has gone on to receive his Bachelor of Theology from the Bear Valley Bible Institute of Denver, a Bachelor of Psychology from the University of Colorado at Denver, and his Master of Divinity from Freed-Hardeman University. Fredrick is married to Inge and has two children, Waylon and Wesely. He currently serves as the pulpit minister for the Southside church of Christ in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He also serves as the Dean of Admissions for the Southeast Institute for Biblical Studies in Knoxville, Tennessee, and as Chaplain for the local Trail Life troop.



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.

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

<https://1militaryoutreach1.com/>

thinksouls1@gmail.com

PUTTING ON THE NEW MAN



When I graduated high school in 1969, I was a young man not sure of what I wanted to do in life as a civilian. Nevertheless, I was interested in mechanics of some kind, the Vietnam War was still going on, and a low draft number would soon be awaiting me for induction into the United States Army. After thinking things through, I decided to voluntarily enlist in the United States Air Force based upon a promise to train me in jet engine mechanics even though I wound up being drafted into munitions maintenance (explosives operator). Regardless, I found myself physically “putting off the old (civilian) man” and my “putting on the new (military) man” during my service.

So, Scripturally speaking, one serving as a soldier in a nation’s earthly and physical military is just like a Christian (on earth) serving as a soldier in God’s heavenly and spiritual military (Phil. 2:25; 2 Tim. 2:3-4; Philem. 2). Nonetheless, “putting off the old man” and “putting on the new man” is an inherent part of both situations. Essentially, the apostle Paul so wrote to the first century church of Christians in Ephesus instructing them writing, “... and put on the new self, which in *the likeness of God* has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth...” (Eph. 4:24; NASB).

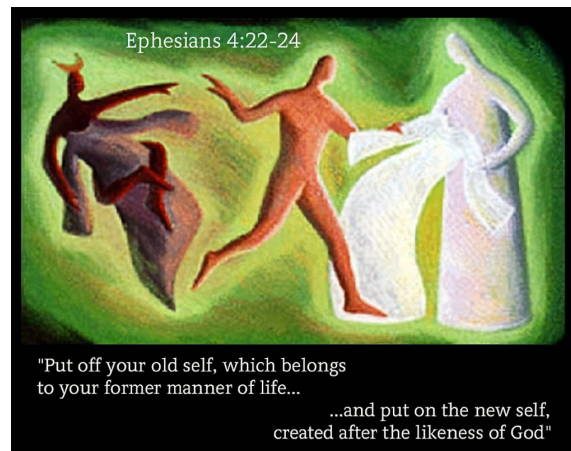
When reading the Bible’s NT book of Ephesians, the reader finds out the theme of the book is “Being Made Alive in Christ” (Eph. 1:1-6:24). In the first three chapters, the reader learns it requires action on God’s part for His Christian soldiers (warriors) to emerge victorious in the ongoing spiritual life and death war against Satan, sin, and death. In the last three chapters of the Ephesians letter, the reader also learns it requires action by all Christian soldiers to work in unison as the body of Christ to emerge victorious against their foes. Only victory is satisfactory for God.

For example, Paul implied that all faithful Christian members (soldiers) who make up the body of Christ must walk together as Christ walked to win the war (Eph. 4:1-16). While the seven unifying elements of the Holy Spirit prepares Jesus’ army of body members (soldiers) for walking in

such a manner, the five gifts of the Holy Spirit help equip His army for walking in such a manner.

Similarly, Paul inferred that Christ’s body must walk as a unified body of Christian warriors spiritually alive in Christ (as opposed to spiritually dead) to emerge victorious over the enemy (Eph. 4.17-24). It is both the futility of mind and hardness of heart which causes the military-like body of Christ to walk as a spiritually dead body. But it is a knowledge of the truth of Christ that causes His military-like body to walk as a spiritually and eternally alive body of warrior soldiers.

Finally, Paul indicated the body of Christ must never give their enemies of Satan, sin, and death opportunity to influence the body members in such a manner as to grieve the Holy Spirit in order to emerge victorious against their enemies (Eph. 4:25-32). When the body members of Christ practice the deeds of the flesh, they give Satan and company their opportunity, and grieve the Holy Spirit. When the body of Christ practices the deeds of the Spirit, Satan becomes the grieved entity. Only then, can the faithful Christian “put off the old man” and “put on the new man” (Eph. 4:24). ~Tom Wright



Tom Wright served in the U.S. 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 fulltime ministry. He holds 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.

MILITARY OUTREACH TRIP REPORT – EUROPE 2022

Editor's note-Ed Linebaugh traveled to Europe in November of 2022 to strengthen and encourage our military personnel in Belgium, Germany, Netherlands, and Poland (cf. Acts 15:32; 1 Thessalonians 4:18; 5:11). This is his trip report.



GERMANY: I arrived in Frankfurt on November 8, picked up my rental car, and traveled to Kaiserslautern (aka *Ktown* to American service members), southwest of Frankfurt. The Lord's church there again graciously allowed me to stay in the preacher's apartment of their building (they currently don't have a full-time preacher) and use it as a "home base" during my travels across Europe. Rather than spending the day resting from jetlag, the next morning, I drove N.E. to **Geilenkirchen Air Base** on the Dutch/German border, a NATO facility home to about 1,000 U.S. military, civilian personnel, and their families (and other countries as well). While there, I visited a U.S. Air Force chaplain and presented him with our *Spiritual Warrior* books ("Spiritual Battle Rattle: God's Armor" and "Spiritually Wounded Warriors: An Army of One Another." I did this at every stop, so I won't mention it again at every location I visited.)

NETHERLANDS, BELGIUM, LUXEMBOURG (BENELUX): My next stop was **NATO Joint Allied Base** in the Netherlands, and I met the U.S. Army staff chaplain and his Dutch civilian administrator. Following that morning's visit, I drove down to Belgium. I spent two nights at the Army Lodge at **Chievres Air Base**, near the city of Mons, home to the **424th Air Base Squadron**, which provides airfield operations for the Supreme Allied Commander Europe, SHAPE HQ, and NATO transient aircraft and distinguished visitors. It is also home to the **U.S. Army Garrison (USAG) Benelux** which provides Army base operations services for joint military and inter-agency communities to support U.S. interests in NATO, throughout the Netherlands, and Northern Germany. (This is where we shopped at the Base Exchange and Commissary during my tour of duty from 1980-1983). I met three U.S. Army chaplains at **SHAPE (Supreme**

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Headquarters Allied Powers Europe, NATO's military command center) who were courteous and appreciative of our military ministry. While there, I visited my old hospital duty station—how much it has changed over the decades! (only the exterior was familiar). On Veteran's Day, I paused at the **Luxembourg American Cemetery and Memorial** for the annual commemoration and had my photo taken with the U.S. Ambassador to Luxembourg. There are 5,073 American war dead, including General George S. Patton and 101 unknown soldiers. The cemetery was established on December 29, 1944, and is one of 25 cemeteries in 10 foreign countries, including France, Belgium, the United Kingdom, the Philippines, Panama, Italy, the Netherlands, and Tunisia.

GERMANY: I returned to Ktown for the weekend and preached on Sunday morning. Church attendance has dropped off significantly owing to COVID and other factors. Only five members are meeting/worshiping together; they are discouraged but remain faithful in this uncertain time. (Please keep them in your prayers that God would send more U.S. military and civilian members to work and help build up the church.) Military Outreach, a ministry of the Bear Valley Church of Christ in Denver, is sending a teacher to work with and encourage the Ktown church next summer for three months. Other bases where I visited included: **Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, Ramstein Air Base, USAG Sembach** (all part of the Kaiserslautern Military Community), **USAG Wiesbaden** (home to **USAREUR** and **AFRICOM** or **United States Army Europe and Africa Command**), **EUCOM** or **European Command** in Stuttgart, and **USAG Ansbach**.

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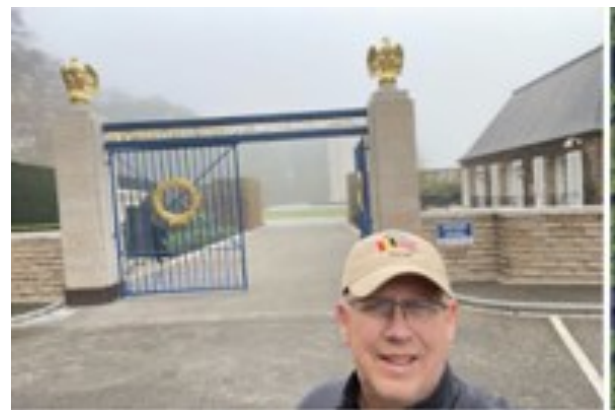
MILITARY OUTREACH TRIP REPORT – EUROPE 2022 (cont.)

POLAND: After leaving Stuttgart, I drove much of the rainy night through the Czech Republic before finding a hotel. The following day, since I was close to **Auschwitz** and **Birkenau**, I spent half a day at the infamous German/Nazi concentration/death camp, which is now a museum “LET WE FORGET” the horrors of the Holocaust. Despite the biting cold weather, there were crowds of people from all over, including school children. I didn’t have nearly enough layers of warm clothing. Still, I greatly appreciated what I had as I reflected on the poor souls who succumbed to terrible torture or barely survived until their liberation. I stood under the infamous gate sign in German, “Arbeit Macht Frei” or “Work Makes Free” – a LIE from Satan himself. I walked through a gas chamber with ovens to cremate the dead, then along railroad tracks into the vast barbed wire encampment where a lone railcar sits, its pitiable load of humanity long gone but not forgotten. As we can only now imagine, this was humanity’s darkest time (except when God’s Son was put to death for the sins of humanity, including mine and yours). The following day, I tried to visit forward-deployed Army warriors with the **82d Airborne Division** from Fort Bragg, NC, at the **Rzeszow** airport (three hours south of Warsaw but was denied entrance as my name wasn’t on their access roster; I expected this due to high security). However, I saw a dozen U.S. soldiers in full battle rattle or gear exiting one of the gates and was able to chat with one briefly and told him my mission there. I asked if he could deliver a set of books to a chaplain, and he said yes; I also gave him a set. As it turned out, this young man is from Gadsden, AL—less than an hour away from me! As I left him, I said to come to see me when he gets home, and we’ll have lunch—small world. I then drove to Warsaw and spent the night at the “Big House,” where 40 Ukrainian refugees live. While there, an Armenian brother and preacher in Ukraine (he’s married to a Ukrainian and has a teen daughter who are both in the U.K.; he’s waiting on his travel visa to the U.K.), Albert Bagdasaryan, who also teaches in the Bear Valley Bible Institute Ukraine, asked if he could go to the retreat with me. I readily agreed that we could share my hotel room.

GERMANY: The next day, we drove nearly 11 hours to the medieval city of Rothenberg, Germany, for the 59th Euro-American Family Retreat. We spent three beautiful

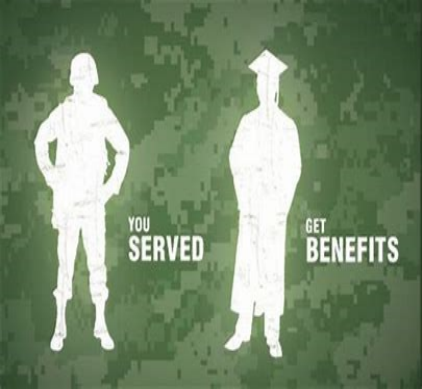
days there, meeting old friends, making new ones, and encouraging one another. It was an excellent opportunity for Albert to meet other Christians from the U.S. and Europe, including a Russian refugee couple. This event was initially planned as a retreat for U.S. military and civilian employees and their families stationed in Europe. With the U.S. military drawdown in the 1990s, it is now attended by Christians across Eastern Europe. I hoped to connect with some church members in my travels, but unfortunately, it isn’t easy due to privacy laws, etc. However, we are exploring other ways to do this and discussing the possibility of holding a new military retreat in Europe (and the Pacific Rim). There is much follow-up work to do, and I pray that God will bless our continued outreach efforts. I also pray that our Spiritual Warrior books will encourage and create further interest in studying the Bible. Please keep our military and other brethren in your prayers, especially those in war-torn Ukraine. **(Eastern European Missions asked me for permission to have our books translated into Ukrainian and Russian languages, for which I’ve given free use of copyright and distribution rights there).**

Ed Linebaugh
 U.S. Army, Retired
 Military OutReach & Encouragement (M.O.R.E.)
 “Strengthen & Encourage”
 GOD’S ARMY STRONG!
 Farley Church of Christ, Huntsville, AL



(more pictures on next page)

TRAIN FOR MINISTRY!



We Train Preachers

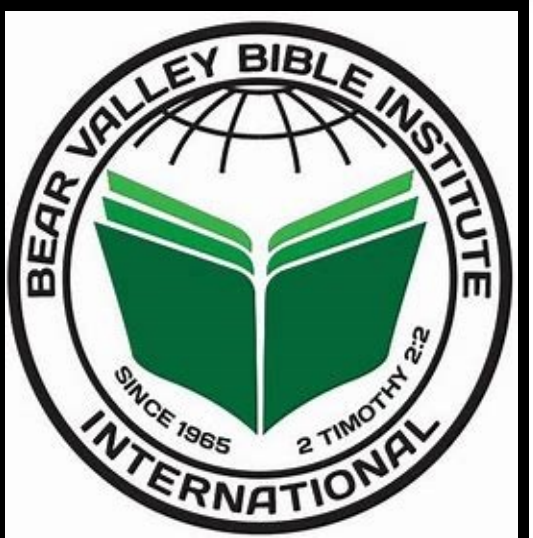
Since 1965, Bear Valley has worked to accomplish the commission of 2 Timothy 2:2 - entrusting the pattern of sound teaching in the gospel to faithful men who will then in turn be equipped to teach others. While the scope of our work has expanded, we have never lost sight of that fundamental mission.

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“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



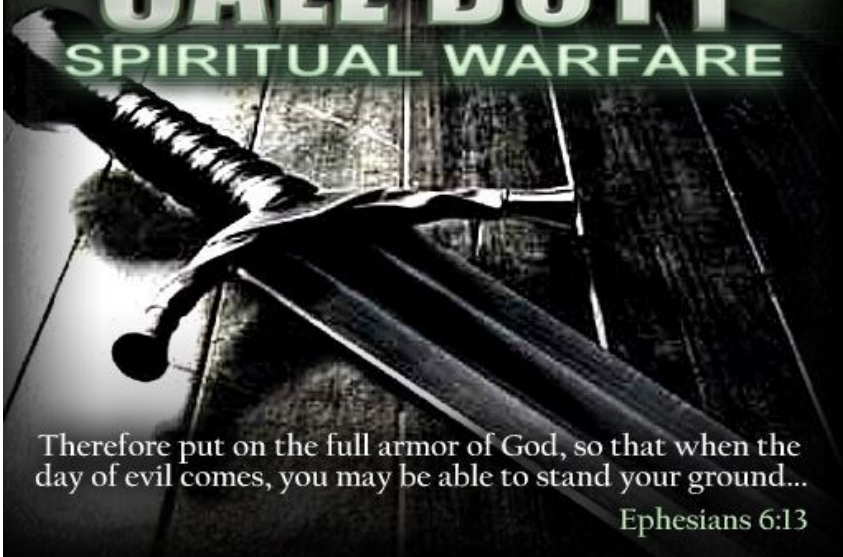
AS YOU WERE...

"... 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.'"



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CALL OF DUTY SPIRITUAL WARFARE



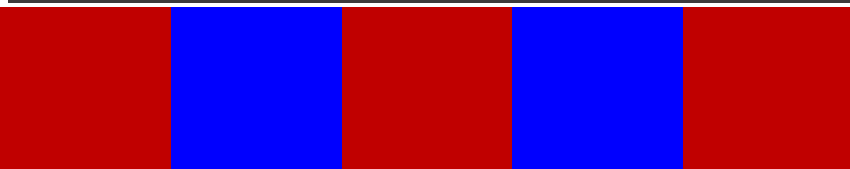
Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground...

Ephesians 6:13

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



**HAND-TO-HAND
COMBAT**





American Military Evangelizing Nations

A worldwide ministry of the Manchester Church of Christ

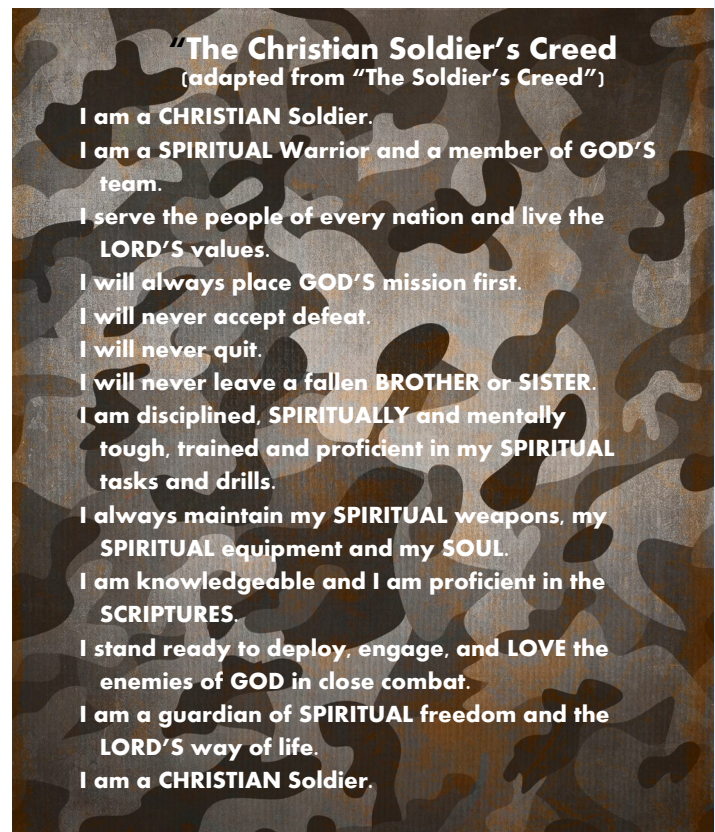
OUR MISSION

- ◆ 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).

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Tel: (860) 646-2903

**GOD'S
 ARMY
 STRONG!**



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 IMMERSED 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

Military OutReach & Encouragement
Farley Church of Christ
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AFFIX STAMP



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

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House to House
Heart to Heart

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.

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