



Christian Report

To Win...To Disciple...To Equip...To Win

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Give Me Liberty or Give Me Death—by Patrick Henry

No man thinks more highly than I do of the patriotism, as well as abilities, of the very worthy gentlemen who have just addressed the House. But different men often see the same subject in different lights; and, therefore, I hope it will not be thought disrespectful to those gentlemen if, entertaining as I do opinions of a character very opposite to theirs, I shall speak forth my sentiments freely and without reserve. This is no time for ceremony. The question before the House is one of awful moment to this country. For my own part, I consider it as nothing less than a question of freedom or slavery; and in proportion to the magnitude of the subject ought to be the freedom of the debate. It is only in this way that we can hope to arrive at truth, and fulfill the great responsibility which we hold to God and our country. Should I keep back my opinions at such a time, through fear of giving offense, I should consider myself as guilty of treason towards my country, and of an act of disloyalty toward the Majesty of Heaven, which I revere above all earthly kings.

Mr. President, it is natural to man to indulge in the illusions of hope. We are apt to shut our eyes against a painful truth, and listen to the song of that siren till she transforms us into beasts. Is this the part of wise men, engaged in a great and arduous struggle for liberty? Are we disposed to be of the number of those who, having eyes, see not, and, having ears, hear not, the things which so nearly concern their temporal salvation? For my

part, whatever anguish of spirit it may cost, I am willing to know the whole truth; to know the worst, and to provide for it.

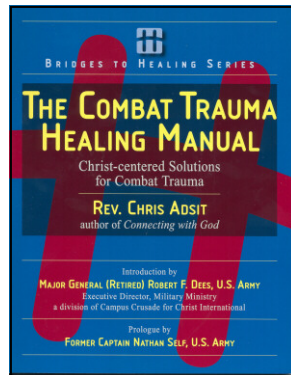
I have but one lamp by which my feet are guided, and that is the lamp of experience. I know of no way of judging of the future but by the past. And judging by the past, I wish to know what there has been in the conduct of the British ministry for the last ten years to justify those hopes with which gentlemen have been pleased to solace themselves and the House. Is it that insidious smile with which our petition has been lately received? Trust it not, sir; it will prove a snare to your feet. Suffer not yourselves to be betrayed with a kiss. Ask yourselves how this gracious reception of our petition compares with those warlike preparations which cover our waters and darken our land. Are fleets and armies necessary to a work of love and reconciliation? Have we shown ourselves so unwilling to be reconciled that force must be called in to win back our love? Let us not deceive ourselves, sir. These are the implements of war and subjugation; the last arguments to which kings resort. I ask gentlemen, sir, what means this martial array, if its purpose be not to force us to submission? Can gentlemen assign any other possible motive for it? Has Great Britain any enemy, in this quarter of the world, to call for all this accumulation of navies and armies? No, sir, she has none. They are meant for us: they can be meant for no other. They are sent over to bind and

rivet upon us those chains which the British ministry have been so long forging. And what have we to oppose to them? Shall we try argument? Sir, we have been trying that for the last ten years. Have we anything new to offer upon the subject? Nothing. We have held the subject up in every light of which it is capable; but it has been all in vain. Shall we resort to entreaty and humble supplication? What terms shall we find which have not been already exhausted? Let us not, I beseech you, sir, deceive ourselves. Sir, we have done everything that could be done to avert the storm which is now coming on. We have petitioned; we have remonstrated; we have supplicated; we have prostrated ourselves before the throne, and have implored its interposition to arrest the tyrannical hands of the ministry and Parliament. Our petitions have been slighted; our remonstrances have produced additional violence and insult; our supplications have been disregarded; and we have been spurned, with contempt, from the foot of the throne! In vain, after these things, may we indulge the fond hope of peace and reconciliation. There is no longer any room for hope. If we wish to be free—if we mean to preserve inviolate those inestimable privileges for which we have been so long contending—if we mean not basely to abandon the noble struggle in which we have been so long engaged, and which we have pledged ourselves never to abandon until the glorious object of our con-

Monthly Book Offer—The Combat Trauma Healing Manual

The reality of war is that everyone gets wounded. Some wounds heal rapidly, but some last for a lifetime. The reality is that the wounds of the heart, soul and spirit have a spiritual component that is not being adequately addressed. Despite the valiant efforts of many organizations and the commitment of billions of dollars to address these issues, there remains a serious gap—the faith gap. *Major General Robert F. Dees, USA (Ret), Executive Director, Military Ministry*

From the Prologue...My family and I thought leaving the Army would remove me from the dangers of war. But upon leaving the Army, I entered a different kind of fight: the war for my own heart and mind. I went face-to-face with my memories, with the horrors and stresses of combat—and lost. Questions and doubts ravaged my mind: Why did I survive and my men die? Why did they send me there? Why does God allow such terrible wars to happen? Why can't I feel anything? Ashamed of the man I had become and unable to reconcile war, I reached the breaking point. I



was highly praised and decorated for leadership under fire—yet I anguished in the aftermath of war. I realized I was about to lose everything: my marriage, my family, even my life. I had led a daring rescue mission and found myself in dire need of rescuing. I had fought to keep a promise—to never leave a fallen comrade—but who would keep that promise to me? *Former Captain Nathan Self, U.S. Army Rangers*

This manual offers spiritual solutions for your struggles with PTSD. It combines the latest insights of medical and counseling communities with the timeless principles of God's word. In these pages you:

- Understand your trauma—spiritually, psychologically and physiologically.
- Adopt therapeutic spiritual disciplines.
- Process your loss and grief.
- Experience the freeing influence of giving and receiving forgiveness.
- Rebuild your identity based on what God says about you.
- Strengthen yourself spiritually

The Nuggets of Faith— by SMSgt Tony (T-Bar) Barnes, USAF, CMF Board of Directors

I love trivia! Anyone who knows me can attest that I can spout facts regarding Presidential trivia, Texas trivia and just about any other kind of trivia you can imagine! When I worked in Air Force Recruiting Service, I relished my duties that involved roaming around north Texas to visit my recruiters. I loved going through the small towns on the 2-lane highways off the beaten trail. Especially I enjoyed noticing the population of each town as I would roll through headed to the next recruiting office.

Now that I live in Colorado, I feel deprived of knowing the population of towns. Instead of the number of people (which I think sometimes includes dogs), Colorado has placed the altitude elevation of each town on their welcome signage. While I do find it interesting that Buena Vista is 7,964 feet above sea level, I want to know how many people live in that splendid little town without having to log onto a website!

Having logged onto the website, I now discover that Buena Vista, Colo-

rado has 2,195 people. That's 2,195 people who have probably visited K's Dairy Delite. K's is known by anyone who has spent time in Buena Vista for its ice cream and shakes. K's is also known by how they identify your specific order. The first time I was there, the lady behind the counter asked Tom Cruise to please step forward for his order. I craned my neck trying to get a glimpse of Tom Cruise until I glanced down at my ticket and discovered that I was Raymond Burr. Instead of a ticket order number, you are assigned a celebrity name. K's is certainly a delightful place that all 2,195 Buena Vista residents have probably frequented.

I wonder how many of those 2,195 people in Buena Vista have a relationship with Jesus Christ. I wonder how many of the 22,307 who live in Benbrook, Texas have reached that point of decision of accepting Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. And, what about the 2,672 people in Aledo, Texas? You can attend a homecoming football game in many of these towns and most of the town folk will show up to see the game.

against future attacks.

- Connect with those who will support you in many ways.
- Rejoin society as a strengthened man or woman of God.

This book is offered free to our **ACTIVE DUTY** membership while they last. You may order this and other resources from the "Resource" page of our web site or call our toll-free number: 1-800-798-7875.

New Members

SSG Augusto Batista, USA (Ret)
Mr. Mike Boyce
Mr. Scott Bullock
Sgt. Ryan & Joelle Cole, USMC
PO2 Sam & Shelly McCollum, USN
Mrs. Crystal Rivera
SPC David & Kathy Selmon, USA
CPT Mathew Wilkinson, USAR

Promotions

LTC Anthony Anderson, NG
WO-1 Tom Broadbent, USA
CDR Steve Hoffman, USN
COL Ron Light, USA
Capt. Doug Long, ANG

But, how many have made plans to attend the greatest homecoming event of all?

Do you recall when your school-teacher would call roll? Some people would respond by saying "here" and some would respond by saying "present." When I get to heaven and my name is called I will be the guy jumping up and down shouting, wanting to make sure there is zero potential to mark me down as "absent." I remember fondly singing the old classic hymn "When the Roll is Called Up Yonder." What a day that will be!

I know I will be in heaven, for back in 1985, there came a time when I acknowledged my need for a Savior. During that summer day, I confessed that Jesus Christ died for my sins, and I asked him to forgive me of all my sins past, present and future. I eagerly acknowledged my belief that Jesus is Lord and that God raised Him from the dead. I know I will be in heaven...and I hope the 23,507,783 Texas residents will be there with me. Salvation...now that's no trivial matter.

Live Fire Exercise—by ADCS Bob Flynn, USN (Ret), President/CEO

We would never think of sending our troops into combat without first letting them experience a “live fire” exercise. There is absolutely no substitute for this kind of combat training. Whether soldier, sailor, marine, airman, or pilot, the culmination of the training includes some form of reality check. With spiritual combat this is even more crucial because we never leave the war zone. Yet, if the truth were known, most approach the daily travels through the mine fields of life with a less than attentive mind-set. I suspect that it is because we are self-centered by nature and think the world revolves around us. The Lord Jesus Christ, in order to continue the good work He has begun in us, allows these “live fire” exercises to come into our lives to help us become and remain “combat ready.” As we live and grow in Him, one could expect that the strength of faith would grow in proportion to the size of the bullets (trials) that come our way. However, we oftentimes do not stop to even realize that the situations that come our way might be for our edification. We usually find that we are dismayed, discouraged and even angry with the situation. Our prayers are not for His Grace to transcend, but for deliverance from the trials.

Hebrews 5:8 makes it very clear that even though Jesus was God’s Son, He learned obedience through His sufferings. Now I suppose that we could try to dodge around all of the other places in Scripture that tell us how we should approach trials, testing and suffering and even give our motorboat imitation (but, but, but, but). However, consider that if the Son of God had to learn obedience through suffering that perhaps we who are partakers of His magnificent Grace must likewise be trained to be combat ready.

God’s training then is to make us “perfect” or ready for the future operations that He has planned for us. The question then becomes are we willing to be trained?

“For you have been given the privilege of serving Christ, not only by believing in him, but also by suffering for him.” Phil 1:29 TEV



“Let us give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the merciful Father, the God from whom all help comes! He helps us in all our troubles, so that we are able to help others who have all kinds of troubles, using the same help that we ourselves have received from God. Just as we have a share in Christ’s many sufferings, so also through Christ we share in God’s great help. If we suffer, it is for your help and salvation; if we are helped, then you too are helped and given the strength to endure with patience the same sufferings that we also endure. So our hope in you is never shaken; we

know that just as you share in our sufferings, you also share in the help we receive. We want to remind you, brothers and sisters, of the trouble we had in the province of Asia. The burdens laid upon us were so great and so heavy that we gave up all hope of staying alive. We felt that the death sentence had been passed on us. But this happened so that we should rely, not on ourselves, but only on God, who raises the dead. From such terrible dangers of death he saved us, and will save us; and we have placed our hope in him that he will save us again, as you help us by means of your prayers for us.” 2 Cor 1:3-11 TEV

“Yet we who have this spiritual treasure are like common clay pots, in order to show that the supreme power belongs to God, not to us. We are often troubled, but not crushed; sometimes in doubt, but never in despair; there are many enemies, but we are never without a friend; and though badly hurt at times, we are not destroyed. At all times we carry in our mortal bodies the death of Jesus, so that

his life also may be seen in our bodies. Throughout our lives we are always in danger of death for Jesus’ sake, in order that his life may be seen in this mortal body of ours.” 2 Cor 4:7-11 TEV
“Instead, in everything we do we show that we are God’s servants by patiently enduring troubles, hardships, and difficulties. We have been beaten, imprisoned, and mobbed; we have been overworked and have gone without sleep or food. We are honored and disgraced; we are insulted and praised. We are treated as liars, yet we speak the truth; as unknown, yet we are known by all; as though we were dead, but, as you see, we live on. Although punished, we are not killed; although saddened, we are always glad; we seem poor, but we make many people rich; we seem to have nothing, yet we really possess everything.” 2 Cor 6:4-5;8-10 TEV

“I have worked much harder, I have been in prison more times, I have been whipped much more, and I have been near death more often. Five times I was given the thirty-nine lashes by the Jews; three times I was whipped by the Romans; and once I was stoned. I have been in three shipwrecks, and once I spent twenty-four hours in the water. In my many travels I have been in danger from floods and from robbers, in danger from fellow-Jews and from Gentiles; there have been dangers in the cities, dangers in the wilds, dangers on the high seas, and dangers from false friends. There has been work and toil; often I have gone without sleep; I have been hungry and thirsty; I have often been without enough food, shelter, or clothing. And not to mention other things, every day I am under the pressure of my concern for all the churches.” 2 Cor 11:23b-28 TEV

Death Comes Unexpectedly—by ADCS Bob Flynn, USN (Ret)

No matter how much we anticipate the pending loss of a loved one, knowing the result of age, ill health, or injury will have its way in the end, their death still comes unexpectedly. Our hearts are never ready to say goodbye. Isaiah says that “we all do fade as a leaf.” James says that our life is like a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes. Why is it then that as leaves or vapors we should cling so tightly to our sojourn here? It is because this is our home. It is true that, as believers, our citizenship is in heaven. However, Jesus is returning and even if we are with Him in Heaven, we will be returning also. It is then not surprising that we have a connectedness with this earthly estate.

Departure from this life into the next is unknown to those of us who remain. We are torn in our emotions between faith and uncertainty. In our earthly vessel we stand wavering between the life we know and the one hoped for in Christ. How can we reconcile our faith with our emotions while standing in the midst of the reality of death?

When faith call us onward and we trust to take another step, Grace supplies all that is required. At what point does Grace arrive to help us in our need? When we pray! Not necessarily a long commiseration upon our knees preceded by “Dear Heavenly Father” and followed by “in Jesus Name, Amen.” But rather, I think, something more akin to “Jesus help me!” In the midst of bereavement, Grace is the help we need to give the next beat to our heart. Will this world step aside

for this faith exercised? Not likely! Will faith exercised change my circumstances? Not necessarily! Then what does that faith provide? A change of my heart.

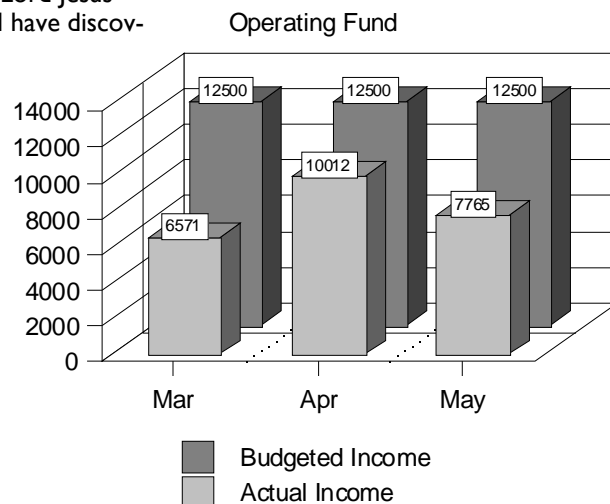
Then what purpose is my prayer? Prayer doesn't give me what I want from God, rather it helps me want what God gives. The armor of the faith is the “peace of God.” This is the very “peace” of which the heavenly host praised God at Jesus' birth—“on earth peace.” It was not a sensation of peace but the very person of peace who had been born into this hostile world. Did the world recognize this peace and step aside? Not hardly! Did not peace endure the most meager of beginnings? Absolutely! Was not peace nailed to a tree? Yes! Thus enters in “thanksgiving” (eucharistia – grateful language to God as an act of worship – the highest act of thanksgiving for the greatest gift ever given, Jesus, and His mercies poured out upon us, past and present). When death comes unexpectedly, pour out your heart to God and then give thanks. Trust in the armor of peace who is Christ Himself to guard your heart and mind.

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:6-7 NASB)

Financially Speaking—We Need Your HELP!

After walking with the Lord Jesus for over thirty years I have discovered that the greatest opportunities to invest in the Gospel of His Name come when the temporal circumstances are at their worst. The widow gave her mites when it was all she had.

I am sure that we all could look at our budget with a certain amount of fear and trepidation. However, bringing the Gospel to the military society is an investment worthy of sacrifice. Become a regular giver!



Patrick Henry

(Continued from page 1)

test shall be obtained—we must fight! I repeat it, sir, we must fight! An appeal to arms and to the God of hosts is all that is left us!

They tell us, sir, that we are weak; unable to cope with so formidable an adversary. But when shall we be stronger? Will it be the next week, or the next year? Will it be when we are totally disarmed, and when a British guard shall be stationed in every house? Shall we gather strength by irresolution and inaction? Shall we acquire the means of effectual resistance by lying supinely on our backs and hugging the delusive phantom of hope, until our enemies shall have bound us hand and foot? Sir, we are not weak if we make a proper use of those means which the God of nature hath placed in our power. The millions of people, armed in the holy cause of liberty, and in such a country as that which we possess, are invincible by any force which our enemy can send against us. Besides, sir, we shall not fight our battles alone. There is a just God who presides over the destinies of nations, and who will raise up friends to fight our battles for us. The battle, sir, is not to the strong alone; it is to the vigilant, the active, the brave. Besides, sir, we have no election. If we were base enough to desire it, it is now too late to retire from the contest. There is no retreat but in submission and slavery! Our chains are forged! Their clanking may be heard on the plains of Boston! The war is inevitable—and let it come! I repeat it, sir, let it come.

It is in vain, sir, to extenuate the matter. Gentlemen may cry, Peace, Peace—but there is no peace. The war is actually begun! The next gale that sweeps from the north will bring to our ears the clash of resounding arms! Our brethren are already in the field! Why stand we here idle? What is it that gentlemen wish? What would they have? Is life so dear, or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!