



What's Troubling the Troops?

Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil— and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. Hebrews 2:14-15 NIV

U.S. Army chaplain William McCoy writes in *Under Orders* (Edein Publishing, 2005) that his interaction with soldiers reveals four anxieties of life he calls the death matrix. These include fear, pain, loneliness, and rejection. While these anxieties are not unique to military members as they are universal to all humankind, military experience makes them more prominent.

Military ministry is by nature crisis ministry to a community of people who know firsthand the realities of death for foe and friend alike.

A fighter pilot once told me the Armed Forces exist to do two things and that is to break things and kill people. What he meant was that when all other tools of governance fail, political, economic, diplomatic, the use of military lethal force is the last resort to resolve international conflict. This is not killing for killing sake or homicide from the dark shadows McCoy states. The military as a Profession of Arms seeks peace through strength by limiting the extent of aggression and violence, especially against those who cannot protect themselves.

(cont.) →



Afghan Vets Sought: Internet Missions Opportunity

AMEN received a message from 85-year-old Katheryn Maddox Haddad a dear sister in Christ who has a deep love for our Christian brothers and sisters in Afghanistan. Katheryn is seeking someone to continue her work in reaching Afghans with the Gospel of Christ using the capabilities of the internet. She is especially interested in any military personnel who were deployed to Afghanistan. Her work is done through the World English Institute using the Bible as a textbook to teach English. Communication with the Afghan Christians is done through secret use of the internet to protect their identity. She has firsthand knowledge of life in Afghanistan and was in country when the Taliban took over Kabul. Here is her tragic story of why she had to leave. (cont.) →

Military Ministry RESOURCES

Center for Christian Studies (CCS)

www.Christian-Studies.org

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No cost **Veteran Counseling Services**

from pastoral counselors are available from God's Word for Warriors. Register: <http://www.godswordforwarriors.com/contact-10/> or call (615) 430.3544 to schedule Zoom or in-person meetings. Referrals to other resources may be made when appropriate.

CARE PACKAGES

Spring Brook Hills Church of Christ (Dewitt, MI) sends morale packages to members of the Church from Michigan area. Contact Jeff Murray with names & addresses at (517) 945.2155 or fop70@aol.com.





What's Troubling the Troops? (con't)

Our warfighters train, prepare and execute lethal force whenever they are called upon to do so by the civil authorities. Military ministry is by its nature crisis ministry to a community of people who know firsthand the realities of death for foe and friend alike.

To fully appreciate the task of military ministry we must understand that the death matrix of fear, pain, loneliness and rejection is not just about physical death and dying. It is about a living death which the Apostle Paul outlines in Ephesians 2:1-3 NIV, *As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath.*

The death matrix of fear, pain, loneliness and rejection are vibrant reminders of our insufficient mortality, the uncertainties of our purpose, and our doubts about an eternal future. Military ministry such as AMEN and others counters the death matrix as Chaplain McCoy advocates, "The hope of the Gospel is that Christ can bring me through the death-matrix of these four deathly elements into a present experience of hope no matter how big or how devastating the circumstances appear." What opportunity is laid upon us to be instruments of God's peace for our Servicemen and women.



Help the Ministry by donating monthly or one-time to provide workshops, books, and travel to promote the spiritual wellbeing of our Servicemen and women.

www.amenministry.org (Donation Tab)

AMEN Ministry, P.O. Box 353, Hebron, CT 06248



Contact Us

AMEN is a ministry of the Manchester CT Church of Christ.

Director: Dennis Saucier

📮 P.O. Box 353 Hebron CT 06248

☎ (860) 372-7051

✉ amenmilitaryministry@gmail.com

📘 AMENMINISTRY of the churches of Christ

🌐 www.amenministry.org

Editor: Laura Sachs, Sarasota, FL



Afghan Vets Sought: Internet Missions Opportunity (con't)

She writes, *"Living in Afghanistan is like living in Nazi Germany. They turn on acquaintances, neighbors, even relatives. The neighbors saw me and told the family I was living with that they were harboring an American spy and were going to turn in the entire family - mother, father, three nearly grown children and two young children. So I did what I thought I would never do - I left in order to save their lives. I brought their two college-age children with me, stayed with them in a refugee camp, and finally enrolled them in Harding. Then I went to India where I could at least be in the same time zone with them. They are in constant danger of being discovered to be Christians. When they get up in the morning, they do not know if they will be alive that night. It is their reality.*

During her time in Kabul, she met two of the 13 Servicemembers who were killed at the Abbey Gate bombing just before it happened. Read about her experience on her Facebook page dated August 26th: facebook.com/katheryn.maddox.haddad/.

She is looking for a replacement to co-work with her until God takes her home. It is important that her replacement was deployed to Afghanistan. The Afghan Christians trust level is very low because of their fear of being discovered, but they would welcome military Christians above anyone else. It helps the secret Christians there to know the veteran understands a little of what they are going through and have 'been there'.

What her replacement would be doing is communicating with them during the week on Signal (safer than WhatsApp) to encourage them, worshiping with via Zoom Sunday mornings (our time zones) - 7:00 PM their time zone.

All is done over the internet. She will introduce you to the secret Christians there as a friend who has been to their country and are still interested in them. After you try it for a week or month, you can decide if this is for you. If not, she will keep looking. Please contact her at her email address khaddad1940@gmail.com.