



Culture of Connection

It began at the barber shop! November 1973 I was in the "Rainbow" flight for my first day of Air Force basic training. There we were, children of the Woodstock generation, lined up with our multi-colored civies and long hair or ballooning Afro's. We came out of the barbershop with shaved heads and immediately marched to uniform issue for our green fatigues. No longer a Rainbow flight, we had taken our first step to becoming American Airmen. So began a cultural shift that would last for over three decades. That shift would go far deeper than physical appearance, it would become a [culture of connection](#)!

Churches desire to minister to Service-members must recognize the reality and importance of this [culture of connection](#).

Culture refers to a people's worldview, behaviors, traditions, foods, habits, and ceremonies which give meaning to their lives. God's people are no stranger to the importance of culture. The first five books of the Old Testament records God's instructions to Israel on becoming the people of His covenant. In Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy God laid out the holy days, worship requirements, dietary laws, and interpersonal regulations that would identify Israel as the people of God, Leviticus 22:31-33. *Keep my commands and follow them. I am the LORD. Do not profane my holy name for I must be acknowledged as holy by the Israelites. I am the LORD who made you holy and brought you out Egypt to be your God.* The Apostle Paul echoes the same concept in Romans 12:2 where he calls disciples not to conform to the world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus describes how believers in the Kingdom of God are to live together as a unique people. Culture connects people not only with how they live but to live for a common purpose in community.

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Military Ministry RESOURCES

Center for Christian Studies (CCS)

www.Christian-Studies.org

info@christian-studies.org

12407 N. Mopac Expy.

Ste 250-530 Austin TX 78758

Quality theological and biblical resources for churches and Christian leaders - biblical literacy, theological understanding, thoughtful worship, spiritual formation, and ethical living.

Essential for church renewal, they offer online video courses, the Journal of Christian Studies, "Theological Table Talk" podcast and live on-site instruction at your congregation.

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.



Culture of Connection (cont.)

Military culture goes to great lengths to create connection through mission focus, unit identification, distinctive uniforms, awards, etc. to build camaraderie. The result of this camaraderie is veterans active, retired, or separated experience a bond more intense than typically found in the civilian world. That bond enables the individual to survive the challenges of a transitory life, deployments and family separation, and especially combat operations. Churches desiring to effectively minister to Servicemembers must recognize the reality and importance of this [culture of connection](#).

For over 50 years the AMEN Military Ministry has dedicated its efforts to build a spiritual [culture of connection](#) for military members and their families. Our Locator Service has been essential in helping Servicemembers connect with a church home wherever worldwide assignments have taken them. Our Key Men and Women are vital in providing believers with fellowship, Biblical growth, and a strong spiritual foundation able to withstand the challenges of military life. Looking to the future we see opportunities to expand our ministry using the internet, social media tools like podcasts and on-line teaching, as well as workshops crafted specifically to the needs and mindset of the military community. Joining with organizations like *God's Word for Warriors*, and *Military Outreach and Encouragement the Church* has the means to bring the Gospel of Jesus more effectively to those in uniform.



Help the Ministry


donate 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





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 AMENMINISTRY of the churches of Christ

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Key News

Sagamihara, Japan

We are delighted that **Brother Julius Sagurit** of the Sagamidai Church of Christ has agreed to serve as our **new Key Man for AMEN Ministries**,

succeeding Brother Takio Asagiri (John Wesley Wilson).



Julius, his wife Jamila & their son Jazer have been a valued and active part of the congregation for many years, bringing a multilingual ability that strengthens the ministry and makes them well-equipped:

- **English:** All three speak it fluently.
- **Japanese:** Julius & Jazer speak and read it excellently.
- **Tagalog & Ilocano:** Spoken by Julius and Jamila.

The Sagurits have a long history of warmly welcoming U.S. military members and others who need language support to feel at home in our church family.

Camp Humphreys, South Korea

Brother Tim Lane, Key Man at Camp Humphreys, shares his recent experience in the *Faith and Transition* course offered by God's Word for Warriors:

"Completing Dr. Tom Seals' God's Word for Warriors course was a transformative experience for me. The curriculum provided an in-depth exploration of biblical principles tailored specifically for those who have served in the military, helping me connect my faith with my experiences as a veteran. I found the discussions and assignments challenging and rewarding, as they encouraged personal reflection and spiritual growth.

(cont.) →



Key News

Camp Humphreys, South Korea *(cont.)*

Overall, the course strengthened my understanding of scripture and gave me practical tools to navigate life's challenges with confidence and hope.

My experience with God's Word for Warriors course can be directly applied to support veterans transitioning from the military at Camp Humphreys, South Korea. By sharing the practical tools and spiritual insights I gained, I can facilitate group discussions, offer mentorship, and create a safe space for veterans to explore faith as they adjust to civilian life.

God's Word for Warriors course not only enriched my personal faith journey but also equipped me to serve others meaningfully. I am confident that by applying what I have learned, I can help fellow veterans at Camp Humphreys find strength, purpose, and community as they transition to civilian life. The impact of this course extends beyond the classroom, enabling me to make a positive difference in the lives of those who share similar experiences."




Offers a Course on Intersection of Military and Civilian Culture

According to an internet search only 6% of Americans have military service, or about 18-20 million out of a population of about 342 million citizens. While most Americans honor those who serve in uniform, many civilians are not familiar with the uniqueness of military culture. By culture we are referring to the value system, worldview, traditions, mannerism, clothing, and personal relationships of a specific group of people.

It is evident that military personnel and their families experience a culture all their own which is often not clear to the civilian populace. Churches having a military presence either with Active Duty, National Guard or Reserve, and Veterans can better minister to them by understanding military culture through the course offered by God's Word For Warriors of Nashville TN.

Contact them at:

 615.964.7450

 www.godswordforwarriors.com

Building a bridge between civilian and military culture can open doors for sharing the Gospel by answering the needs of Servicemembers where grace is most needed.

◆ RESOURCE FOR MILITARY MINISTRY

Mission Forgiveness: The Toughest Battle to Come

By Jim Humphrey

You survived the war and other military hardships. But the hardest battle didn't end when you came home. For many veterans, the most painful wounds don't show up on X-rays or medical charts. They surface years later—in strained marriages, restless nights, buried anger, quiet shame, spiritual confusion, and a constant feeling that something inside never fully came back.

Mission Forgiveness was written for those moments.

This is not a self-help book filled with clichés. It's not therapy. And it's not about pretending the past didn't matter.

Written by a career military leader and veteran advocate working the past 14 years directly with over 2,500 veterans and spouses, *Mission Forgiveness* confronts the invisible war many veterans continue to fight long after service ends—moral injury, unresolved anger, self-condemnation, broken trust, bitterness, grief, and the spiritual questions no one trained you to answer.

At the center of this mission is a word many veterans' resist: *Forgiveness*.

Not forgiveness as weakness. Not forgiveness as forgetting. Not forgiveness as excusing what happened. But forgiveness as freedom.

Through real veteran stories, clear language, faith-grounded truth, and practical reflection tools, this book helps you understand why forgiveness is not optional for healing—and how to pursue it honestly, without rushing, minimizing pain, or compromising boundaries.

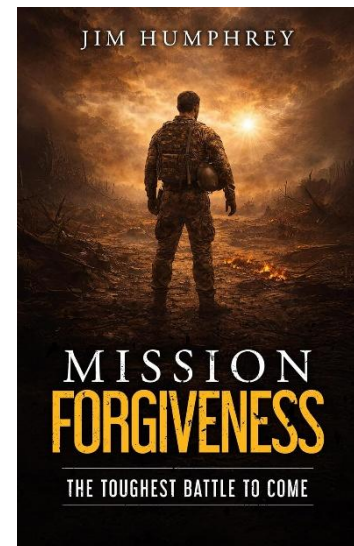
Inside, you'll explore:

- Why moral injury cuts deeper than trauma alone
- The hidden cost of unforgiveness on the body, mind, relationships, and faith
- The difference between forgiveness, trust, and reconciliation
- How anger and bitterness become "damaged armor"
- Why self-forgiveness is often the hardest front
- What to do when God feels silent
- How healing impacts family and identity
- How forgiveness becomes the first victory—not the final step

You won't be shamed. You won't be preached at. You won't be told to "just move on."

But you will be invited—to lay down burdens you were never meant to carry alone, to confront what's been avoided, and to reclaim peace, purpose, and spiritual alignment that may feel distant right now.

Forgiveness doesn't erase the past. It stops the past from controlling the future.



About the author

Jim Humphrey is a military veteran, educator, business leader, and author who has spent more than fourteen years walking alongside over 2,500 veterans and spouses as they navigate the moral, spiritual, and emotional aftermath of military service. He draws from lived experience and years of peer counseling using what he calls a light-pastoral model, to produce his latest book, Mission Forgiveness: The Toughest Battle To Come, where he writes with clarity, compassion, and credibility – not theory.



Written for veterans and the families who walk beside them, this book confronts the unseen cost of military service with honesty, respect, and hope. It does not offer clichés or quick fixes. Instead, it offers a hard-won truth: forgiveness is not weakness – it is freedom.
