



# Christian Report

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

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## The Invitation—by SGM Dan Cartwright, USA (Ret), Chairman, Board of Directors

It wasn't too long after this prodigal came home that I plugged in to a weekday lunch/Bible study at the Chapel, Ft. Devens, Massachusetts. The chapel was located a couple of buildings down from the 10th Special Forces Group Headquarters. This was, of course, before the Base Realignment and Closure process closed this historic Army post. The Group Chaplain had served at the operational level as a Special Forces "warrior" before being called to the ministry. He was the perfect chaplain for this group of men gathered over soup and sandwiches and the written Word. At one of those lunchtime meetings we had a guest, the Director of a ministry called Christian Military Fellowship, who was traveling to bases and sharing the CMF ministry with military chaplains and folks like us — small groups of soldiers gathered for fellowship and Bible study.

It was the perfect time for someone like me to hear about becoming part of a military-wide network of believers in uniform. As I said, I had fairly recently returned "home" and was experiencing my first love for the Lord Jesus Christ all over again. CMF

published a monthly newsletter (the Christian Report) to keep the members connected to each other and to the home office, while providing helpful information for Christian growth. When I found out that they also published a monthly prayer reminder (Christian Battle Plan) with specific prayer requests of members, while also praying through the list of members by name — for me it was a done deal! I acknowledged the CMF statement of faith and pledged my support to the Ministry and the fellowship of believers in arms.

Sometime later I found out that CMF was made up not just of members and a small home office, but also included what were called Local Representatives (LR's) who were involved in local military chapels, local churches, and small group Bible studies while connected to the home office as a representative of the CMF ministry. It sounded way out of my league, but I went through the small training package, then I "jumped into the pool," so to speak. Why would I do such a thing? The thought of being a CMF representative everywhere the Army would send me sounded

like being on the mission field with a world-wide opportunity!

Since then I've been a CMF Local Representative in Massachusetts, Texas, California, Colorado, Germany, and Italy as I received new military duty assignments, and even in Iraq as a civilian contractor serving our country alongside U.S. and international Coalition forces. What did being a CMF representative look like in all those different places? Nothing special, just an ordinary believer plugged into church or chapel, involved with small group Bible study, sharing His faith, and growing with other believers living in the same place — plugged into a ministry whose goal has been, for all these years, to provide me and other believers with the resources for continued growth and tools for personal ministry.

Over a period of 25 years or so, the home office has provided me with Bibles, Bible studies, Christian literature ranging from pamphlets to inspirational books, and even a plane ticket or two to gatherings of CMF'ers at Christian retreat centers. Considering all the different ways CMF has supported me through the years, it was a complete no-brainer to

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## 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

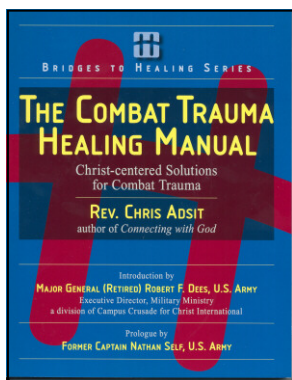
and my men die? Why did they send me there? Why does God allow such terrible wars to happen? Why can't I feel anything? Ashamed of the man I had become and unable to reconcile war, I reached the breaking point. I was highly praised and decorated for leadership under fire—yet I anguished in the aftermath 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 the 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 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.



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## The Invitation—by SGM Dan Cartwright, USA (Ret), Chairman, Board of Directors

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support the ministry financially as I have been able. CMF operates with a very small home office staff and depends solely on the voluntary gifts of its members and friends. CMF is recognized also by the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) to receive contributions from Federal employees, and participates in some State Employee Campaigns. (Our CFC Number is 10538.)

These days I have the privilege of sitting around a conference table with Board members and the CMF Director as we pray and plan for continued ministry to ambassadors in uniform in some pretty tough economic times — tough not only for CMF, but for all sorts of non-profit ministries. We talk about services and support we must cut in order to continue to provide the monthly newsletter and prayer reminder. We then look at the size of our membership and

realize that if each CMF member would commit to investing only \$10 to \$15 a month, our entire operating budget would be met! This would mean that the periodic support we receive from our friends in the Federal workforce could pretty much go to providing world-class “troop and family” support, including the aforementioned Bibles, Bible studies, and Christian literature. But the dream is to have a steady stream of retreats and conferences that would help to heal, train, and encourage our fellowship to live a life worthy of the great calling we have in Christ Jesus. The bigger dream is to be able to do this at little or no cost to those who serve our great nation at no small sacrifice to themselves and their families!

Having said all that, please know that I thank God for the 15% of our membership who represent 100% of the direct support

we receive. (As you have probably figured out, many of you contribute much more each month than the modest figures we mentioned above.)

The CMF ministry belongs to its Head, the Lord Jesus Christ, and so I thank Him for all those who have answered the call, set aside the things of this world, sacrificially invested their time, talents and financial resources and accepted the challenge to become CMF Local Representatives. Their inspiring stories from the “front lines” appear in the Christian Report now and again. Consider these few words of mine an encouragement to pray that the Lord Jesus Christ would grant you His vision for how He would have you serve as an “ambassador in uniform” or as a supporter of the troops on the front lines, or both, as many have done through the years.

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

Marco Island, Florida, is a great place to have your honeymoon! The waves keep coming in day after day. New seashells keep washing ashore each and every morning. I walk along the Florida seashore wondering playfully if a gold doubloon from an old pirate ship will wash ashore. Dreams of finding a giant, unbroken sand dollar or the perfect conch shell permeate my thoughts. What stories this beach could tell! Throughout the centuries of history, this beach has seen waves crash against it day after day after day.

I am curious about the elderly man with the sun-baked skin walking his granddaughter along the tide line. I wonder if he has ever told her about the life of Jesus Christ. Suddenly, from behind, walking as sweethearts come a middle-aged couple with their arms intertwined. I speculate about whether they have accepted the life-changing gospel of Christ.

I ask myself why I don't often have these thoughts when I am back in the everyday

world of Colorado Springs, rushing about the daily activities of life. When the rude driver pulls in front of me in traffic, I don't seem to worry about whether he is going to heaven or hell. I just clench my jaw and feel exasperated. When I see a person riding a mountain bike down a steep incline, I am inclined only to think about how unsafe it is to ride on county roads. In a discount superstore, my tendency is to get frustrated with the people ahead of me with the item that has no price tag.

The lesson I long to take from Florida isn't about the wonderful beaches. I don't want to remember those spectacular sunsets so much as I want to remember my awareness of matters that will last into eternity. On this trip, I have discovered that when I slow my life down, I begin to think about people and how they will spend eternity. I wonder about whether they know the joy of Christ's salvation. I want to remember to slow my life down, to think beyond the daily responsibilities, and to

think more about eternal issues rather than the temporal.

Every day through thousands of years the prayers of believers in Christ have been washing ashore on the shores of heaven. Some are prayers of selfishness asking for money, better jobs and bigger cars. But, many are prayers on behalf of others. Christians pray for people to be healed, relatives to become Christians; and prayers go up on behalf of our President and Congress. Although these are very noble prayers, Marco Island has taught me that I need to pray for the lost. I need to pray for those who refuse to give their Creator His due. God gives us every heartbeat and longs for us to be in relationship with Him. Can we pray for any less? That next person who steps on your last nerve...pray for his or her soul. Pray that they too will meet Jesus Christ in a very personal way.

### New Members

SGT Joe & Betzy Acevedo, NG  
 SGT Alfred Chow, USA  
 HM1 James & Perina Clark, USN  
 Dr. Ron & Ruby Davis  
 LTC Kurt & Christy Floyd, USAR  
 Mr. Jim Gibson, Jr.  
 Rev. Berton & Lamona Griffin  
 SGT James King, USA  
 SPC John & Angela Land, USA  
 MSG Gene & Rita Marchand, Jr., USA  
 CDT Tim Spielman, USAF  
 Mr. Jonathan Underwood  
 Mr. Clay Yost

### Promotions

CAPT Dwight Mathers, USCG  
 HMC Jeff Rogers, USN

### Financially Speaking—We Need Your HELP!

**H**ow much is a life worth that has been redeemed for all eternity? What value can be placed upon a marriage rescued from the dark valley of divorce? When this world bludgeons those who serve our country to the point of despair, it is the Good News of Christ that saves! These dear ones in uniform, who are held precious by our Savior, need your help! Write a check that will send a hug that the Lord Jesus will use to transform heartbreak into joy!

Prayerfully consider becoming a regular giver.

