



Christian Report

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

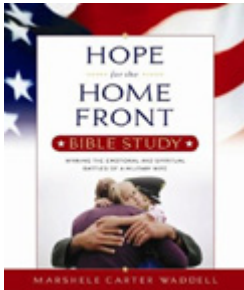
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Next Month



In This Issue:

- Enemy at the Gates 1
- Monthly Book Offer 1
- Promotions 1
- New Members 2
- CMF Week at WSS 3
- AMCF North American Conference 3
- What Is God Like? 4

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Enemy at the Gates — You Are Not Alone — by Pastor Larry Hoskins, Th.M., CMF Board of Directors

“Don't go there,” the missionary warned. I was a youth pastor with several colleagues on reconnaissance for a potential youth missions trip to a London suburb. Our missionary host was giving us a guided tour, and we were ambling by an ornate Hindu temple within a short distance of his home. Walking past the temple's gilded doors, he looked at me earnestly and asked, “Are you dabbling in the occult in any way?” “No,” I replied. “If you are,” he continued, “don't go in there.” The man was not given to sensationalism, but the seriousness in his eyes and in the tone of his voice gave me a sense of foreboding. The evil one lurked there, and while I never learned the details of the missionary's experience that led to such caution, it was clear that Satan was alive and well. Well over twenty years later, I see his face and his words still ring in my ear.

The Apostle Peter described the devil as our “adversary.” The Greek word means someone who has taken us to court and who is against us in a lawsuit. Sometimes it is a synonym for an enemy. In the West, we are less aware of the spiritual battle in which we are engaged. We deal in “immutable

facts” and “scientific proofs” and “rational arguments,” but our adversary does not so easily fit into such categories. We are so used to “natural laws” and “hard figures” and “individual accomplishment” that we rarely venture into the more elusive arena of the unseen spirit-being and his minions. Yet the fact that we rarely venture into that mental landscape does not mean that he is any less there.

Before 9/11, terrorists had long before tried to take down the World Trade Center. American technology prevailed against that sinister attack, and we could sit smugly with a certain air of superiority, enjoying their failure. Caution gave way to complacency which yielded to the casual comfort of everyday normalcy. Life went on. It seemed the enemy was gone.

But the enemy did not roll

over and die. No, he had the same goal of bringing down those gigantic towers. He

chose a different tactic. He blended in, patiently, for years. He held a job, paid his bills and looked like your average American. Eventually, he went to flight training classes, bought a ticket to a destination, and boarded a plane like any other passenger. Only he was not any

other passenger, and he had others, equally “normal,” with him to accomplish the same sinister plot. This time, his plan succeeded, most victims were caught unaware, and his menacing ideologues who survived him danced in the streets. In the careful study afterwards, clues of their larger deception evidenced years of planning. He was our adversary, and he had many names and faces.

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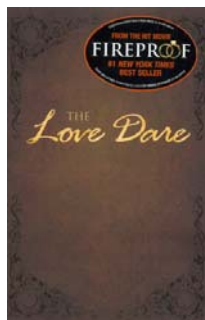
Monthly Book Offer — *The Love Dare* — Stephen & Alex Kendrick

Unconditional Love is eagerly promised at weddings, but rarely practiced in real life. As a result, romantic hopes are often replaced with disappointment in the home. But it doesn't have to stay that way.

The Love Dare is a 40-day challenge for husbands and wives to understand and practice unconditional

love. Whether your marriage is hanging by a thread or healthy and strong, The Love Dare is a journey you need to take. It's time to learn the keys to finding true intimacy and developing a dynamic marriage. Take the dare!

Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails.



(1 Corinthians 13:7-8)

This book is available free to our membership while they last. You may order this and other resources from the “Members Only” Resource page of our website or call the Home Office. ☩

Promotions

LT Jeff Barnum, USCG
LTJG J P Ingersoll, USNR(TAR)
LT Russ Kuntz, USN
CDR Scot Lynn, USNR

(Continued from page 1)

Our Adversary has many names and faces—the evil one, the accuser of the brethren, the god of this world, the one who disguises himself as an angel of light, and the serpent of old—to name a few. Years ago, he raised a question in the heavenlies as to who had the right to rule—God or him! Lucifer was so magnificent that one-third of the angels in heaven, having seen both, opted for Satan. And so the stage was set on earth to answer the question: Whom will the human race follow? When Christ was crucified, demonically inspired hoards danced in the streets at the success of their plot. Years earlier, a satanically-inspired king was moved to kill babies in Bethlehem, and like the terrorists, that first attempt failed. But this time, success! Or so they thought. But the veil of the temple was torn from top to bottom. The ground trembled, the stone rolled away, and the resurrected Messiah appeared. The dancers, drop-jawed, stood still. The enemy's days were numbered. The embers are glowing in the lake of fire, and a certain judgment awaited.

Still, today, the enemy lurks in the darkness, and much like Germany near the end of World War II, though his final defeat awaits him, he is still very much alive, and even more dangerous.

When I was little, I used to sing a song: "I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy, down in my heart!" "Where?" "Down in my heart." "I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy down in my heart. Down in my heart to stay." But a light-hearted, cavalier verse followed: "And if the devil doesn't like, it, he can sit on a tack!" "Where?" "Sit on a

tack!" "Where?" "Sit on a tack." "And if the devil doesn't like it he can sit on a tack! Sit on a tack to stay." As my mother learned more of God's Word, she cautioned me against singing that verse. "Why?" I asked. My godly mentor pointed me to few verses in the oft-overlooked book of Jude. It speaks of false teachers who "revile angelic majesties" (verse 8) and whose actions are sharply contrasted with those of another angel in the next verse. "But Michael the archangel, when he disputed with the devil and argued about the body of Moses, did not dare pronounce against him a railing judgment, but said, 'The Lord rebuke you!'" Michael had a tremendous respect for his enemy—but a recognition of his own limitations, coupled with a trust and admiration for the greater power of God. He did not treat his nemesis lightly, nor did he engage him on his own, but rather asked God to fight his battle for him. Dare we fight him on our own?

Sometimes we have conflicts with our family, our friends, our neighbors, our coworkers, and even with those in our church. It can be incredibly painful, and often it feels deeply personal. But remember the question of, "who has the right to rule?" We, or those closest to us, are just as susceptible to the terrorist's attacks as were the passengers of the airplanes and the mighty Twin Towers! He may not have succeeded the first time, but he keeps trying. If those conflicts wear *my* face or the face of a friend, we have to remember that ultimately, we are not each other's enemies. Our *real* enemy is not those closest to us. Our enemy is at the gates, covertly vying for our allegiance, but he is unseen and consequently, often ill-

considered. That is why we so desperately need God's power and protection:

Finally, **be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armor of God**, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore, **take up the full armor of God**, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. **Stand firm** therefore, **HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH**, and **HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS**, and having shod **YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE**; in addition to all, taking up the shield of **faith** with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. And **take THE HELMET OF SALVATION**, and the sword of the **Spirit**, which is the [spoken] word of God. With all **prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit**, and with this in view, **be on the alert** with all **perseverance and petition for all the saints**. (Ephesians 6:10-18 NASB)

May God grant us the grace to not succumb to the enemy in the gates, but to stand—by His strength, fully armed in His truth, in faithfulness, in right living by His power.

(Continued from page 4)

Throne of the universe, directing all things, working all things 'after the counsel of His own will' (Eph. 1:11)."

"God's supremacy over the works of His hands is vividly depicted in Scripture. Inanimate matter, irrational creatures, all perform their Maker's bidding. At His pleasure the Red Sea divided and its waters stood up as walls (Ex. 14); and the earth opened her mouth and guilty rebels went down alive into the pit (Num. 16). When He so ordered, the sun stood still (Josh. 10); and on another occasion went backward ten degrees on the dial of Ahaz (Isa. 38:8). To exemplify His supremacy, He made ravens carry food to Elijah (I Ki. 17), iron to swim on top of the waters (II Ki. 6:6), lions to be tame when Daniel was cast into their den, fire to burn not when the three Hebrews were flung into its flames.' (Ps. 135:6)." (A. W. Pink, *The Attributes of God*)

"The 'god' of this twentieth century no more resembles the Supreme Sovereign of Holy Writ than does the dim flickering of a candle the glory of the midday sun. The 'god' who is now talked about in the average pulpit, spoken of in the ordinary Sunday School, mentioned in much of the religious literature of the day, and

preached in most of the so-called Bible Conferences is the figment of human imagination, an invention of maudlin sentimentality.... A 'god' whose will is resisted, whose designs are frustrated, whose purpose is checkmated, possesses no title to Deity, and so far from being a fit object of worship, merits naught but contempt." (A. W. Pink, *The Attributes of God*)

The *Creator* of the universe is the *Ruler* of the universe! We all are born with that knowledge (see Rom. 1:18-28). The atheist doesn't rail against *false gods*, but he hates the God he knows exists. Furthermore, we will all one day acknowledge Him, if not as we live and breathe, at the judgment seat of Christ before we face the torments of Hell.

"Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." (Phil. 2:9-11. cf. Rom. 14:11. Isa. 45:23)

New Members

Mrs. Ivonne Carvajal
Dr. Eliezer Castanon
SSG Gil & Nicole Chacin, USA
Mrs. Torie Clayton
SMSgt Rick Dautzenberg, ANG
CW2 Pell & Angie Davis, USA
MSgt David & Carol Dillard, USAF (Ret)
MSgt Mike & Donna Donaldson, USMC (Ret)
SR Jeremy Feeney, USN
SSG Aaron & Jennifer Hutmacher, USA
Mrs. Gwen Ingram
Ms. Aracely Jimenes
MAJ Ray & Shirley Koop, USA
MAJ Cecil & Amy Marson, V, USA
Rev. David & Lin McGee
Miss Jenny Morris
2ndLt Jason & Elizabeth Quick, USAF
SPC George & Magdalena Roberts, USA
SSG Vincent & Shannon Senn, USA
PFC Matthew & Michelle Sheridan, USA
PFC Justin & Tonia Shunk, USA
SGT Jeremy & Tyakeia Spangelo, USA

CMF Week at White Sulphur Springs July 31 through August 7, 2009

Register now to attend CMF week at White Sulphur Springs Christian Camp and Conference Center. The topic for our studies will be "Intimacy or Isolation: Choosing God's Plan for Your Marriage." Our speaker will be the Reverend Mr. Larry Hoskins, Th.M, Senior Pastor, Grace Church Aurora, Colorado, Vice Chairman, CMF Board of Directors. Our Mentors-in-Residence will be Dick and Sue Price, CMF Camp Lejeune Ministry.

Summer Family Camp is the primary ministry of White Sulphur Springs. Families, singles, young and old come to-

gether for a week or weekend to worship God, listen to His voice, and fellowship with other believers from the military society. Adults enjoy speakers and relevant discussions during the mornings and evenings, while youth of all ages attend programs geared for their age group. Afternoons are unscheduled to allow families and friends to hike, bowl, canoe, play volleyball, read, or catch crawdads in the streams. Special activities include horseback riding, a hayride and campfire, an afternoon tea, a square dance, a picnic, and "dress-up" theme meals.

Discounts: WSS offers a 10% discount on lodging and meals for officers in grades O1-O3, and a 20% discount for enlisted members, midshipmen, cadets and other single undergraduate college students, and a 20% discount for combat returnees (within 6 months).

White Sulphur Springs
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office@whitesulphursprings.org
http://www.whitesulphursprings.org/

Click on "Prices & Registration"

Would Your Church Like to Strengthen Its Ministry to Military Families?

Attend the 2009 North American Regional AMCF "Helping Military Families" Conference.

Equipping Churches & Mobilizing Nations to Pray for & Minister to Military Families

You are invited to participate in this unique conference which features inspirational international speakers who will equip you to minister to and to pray effectively for military personnel and their families. Participants will also hear Steve Green in concert, attend military ministry workshops, and enjoy the beauty of God's creation in Estes Park, Colorado!

This one-of-a-kind event is sponsored by the Christian Military Fellowship (CMF), the Association for Christian Conferences, Teaching & Service (ACCTS), Officers' Christian Fellowship (OCF) and others.

Join the Wall of Prayer; go to the map at: <http://www.accts.org>

A Conference to Equip Leaders & Mobilize Churches to Pray for & Minister to Military Families

Where: YMCA of the Rockies in Estes Park, CO – 900 acres of Rocky Mountain grandeur with outstanding conference facilities (www.ymcarockies.org)

When: 17-21 August 2009. Check-in on Monday afternoon. Closing Ceremony Friday morning. Daily conference sessions - 9:00-11:30, 1:30-3:30, 7:30-9:00

What: Inspirational Speakers, a Steve Green Concert, and Workshops on Prayer & Military Ministry. This conference will equip you to help military families through the pre-deployment, deployment, and post-deployment phases of military life.

Who: Conference speakers include:

Dr. Myles Munroe, Bahamas – internationally renowned author, lecturer, teacher, life coach, government consult-

ant, and leadership mentor who has written over 80 books

Dr. Richard Blackaby, USA - Pastor and President of Blackaby Ministries International, and the author of numerous books on Christian living

Pastor Rob Parker, Canada – Founder/Director of Canada's National House of Prayer

Gen Lee, Pil Sup, Korea – President, Association of Military Christian Fellowships (AMCF)

LtCol (JDF, Ret.) Nestor Ogilvie, Grenada – Vice-President, Association of Military Christian Fellowships (AMCF)

LCDR (USN, Ret.) Cal Dunlap, Executive Director, Association for Christian Conferences, Teaching & Service

MG (USA, Ret.) Bob Dees - Executive Director of Campus Crusade for Christ Military Ministries

Ch (MG, USA) Doug Carver – Army Chief of Chaplains (Tentative)

BG (CF) Dave Kettle – Chaplain General, Canadian Forces

Rev. Prince Bodie, Bahamas - Chaplain RBDF, President of the Association of Caribbean Military Christian Fellowships

LTG (USAF, Ret.) Bruce Fister – Executive Director of Officers' Christian Fellowship

BG (CF, Ret.) Larry Lashkevich – President of Military Christian Fellowship of Canada

ADCS (USN, Ret.) Bob Flynn - President/CEO, Christian Military Fellowship

How: Register at (<http://accts.org/naramcfc/>) or call the ACCTS home office at 1-800-487-8108.

How Much: There is a \$50 per adult non-refundable registration fee. The cost (lodging and meals) is between \$310 and \$420 per adult depending upon which lodging you select. Children 6 - 12 will cost \$72

each. Children 5 and under are free.

Important Information to Know:

- Fly to Denver. Drive, or take the shuttle bus to Estes Park (Estes Park Shuttle, phone: 970-586-5151)
- Rooms have queen or double beds, private bath, & Wi-Fi. Many are handicapped accessible. Take the picture tour link from our web
- Daytime temperatures average about 80 F, nighttime lows about 50 F
- Daily rate includes 3 buffet style "all you can eat" meals. Breakfast 7:00-9:00; Lunch 11:30-1:30; Dinner 5:00-7:00
- Dress: appropriate summer casual
- ATM, Snack Bar, and General Store/Gift Shop on premises

Pray for Our Military

- That training will fully prepare our forces
- That our military families will find spiritual support to help them cope
- That our military forces will operate safely
- That our enemies will find Christ
- That Christians will be able to witness and find other believers with whom to fellowship
- That our forces will have courage when required, and place their trust in God
- That young soldiers will mature into Godly wisdom and spiritual strength
- That our Commander in Chief and other military leaders will have Godly wisdom
- That our militaries will grow in faith during times of trial, and not become bitter or angry
- That our forces will soar on wings like eagles, run and not grow weary, walk and not faint
- That our troops will act with righteousness and justice at each step of their service
- That military marriages will stay strong, despite frequent deployments
- That the children of our deployed personnel will feel the presence of God in their lives
- That our wounded soldiers will be healed, both physically and psychologically
- That our veterans will find peace as they adjust to their "new normal"
- That our chaplains and pastors will find the strength to continue providing Godly counsel
- That our troops with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) will find the help they need
- That post-deployment reunions will be a joyful time for military families
- That churches with military members will recognize and minister to these needs

What is God Like? — by SGM Dan Cartwright, USA (Ret), CMF Board of Directors

Behold His Majesty!

Merriam Webster defies majesty as 1) “sovereign power, authority, or dignity”; and 2) “royal bearing or aspect.” Living in Colorado I can look at the Rocky Mountains and call them majestic. Having also seen, up close and personal, the European Alps, by comparison the Rockies don’t seem quite as majestic.

Majesty is also a term applied to Kings and Queens—persons of royalty, whether or not they actually exercise complete sovereignty over their subjects.

In Scripture, majesty is used to express the thought of the greatness of God. We are told that the Lord reigns, clothed in majesty from His eternal throne (Psalm 93:1-2). We are told twice in the book of Hebrews that Christ now sits at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven (Hebrews 1:3, 8:1). The word *majesty*, when applied to God, is always a declaration of His greatness and an invitation to worship:

“Great is the LORD, and most worthy of praise, in the city of our God, his holy mountain.” (Psalm 48:1)

“For the LORD is the great God, the great King above all gods....Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the LORD our Maker;” (Psalm 95:3,6)

“Today, vast stress is laid on the thought that God is personal, but this truth is so stated as to leave the impression that God is a person of the same sort we are—weak, inadequate, ineffective, a little pathetic. But this is not the God of the Bible! Our personal life is a finite thing: it is limited in every direction, in space, in time, in knowledge, in power. But God is not so limited. He is eternal, infinite and almighty. He has us in His hands, we never have Him in ours. Like us, He is personal, but unlike us, He is great. In all its constant stress on the reality of God’s personal concern for His people, and on the gentleness, tenderness, sympathy, patience and yearning compassion that He shows toward them, the Bible never lets us lose sight of His majesty and unlimited dominion over all of His creatures.” (J. I. Packer)

So how do we maintain great thoughts of the majesty of God? First, we need to remove from our thoughts of God limits that would make Him small. How can we do that? Psalm 139 gives us a starting point. We can listen to and meditate on the words of the Psalmist as he describes God’s unlimited knowledge (vv. 1-4), and His presence (vv. 5-10), and His power (vv. 13-14).

We can read of God’s revelation of Himself to Job in Job 38-41.

We can also compare God to that we might consider great. Listen to the prophet Isaiah as he comforts the nation of Israel in exile.

The Nations

“Surely the nations are like a drop in a bucket; they are regarded as dust on the scales; he weighs the islands as though they were fine dust. Before him all the nations are as nothing; they are regarded by him as worthless and less than nothing.” (Isaiah 40:15, 17)

We mortals might tremble before the nations, but the nations are nothing to God!

The World

“He sits enthroned above the circle of the earth, and its people are like grasshoppers. He stretches out the heavens like a canopy, and spreads them out like a tent to live in.” (Isaiah 40:22)

The world dwarfs us, but God dwarfs the world!

The world’s great ones.

“He brings princes to naught and reduces the rulers of this world to nothing. No sooner are they planted, no sooner are they sown, no sooner do they take root in the ground, than he blows on them and they wither, and a whirlwind sweeps them away like chaff.” (Isaiah 40:23-24)

The world’s greatest men are but dust in the wind to the Almighty God.

Now look at the stars.

“Lift your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these? He who brings out the starry host one by one, and calls them each by name. Because of his great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing.” (Isaiah 40:26)

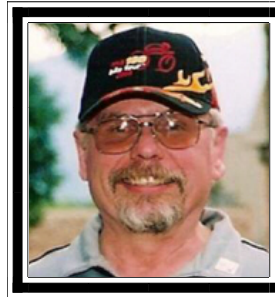
This is our God!

Reader, when God is mentioned, what are your thoughts of Him? Do you think of a “small” God, who exists mainly to serve us, or are they BIG thoughts of the majestic God of the Bible!

God is the sovereign ruler over all of His creation!

“When people are getting sleepy, if you want to arouse and wake them up thoroughly, preach the doctrine of Divine Sovereignty to them; for that will

do it right speedily.” (C. H. Spurgeon)



Webster’s 1828 Dictionary defines sovereign as: “Supreme in power; possessing supreme dominion; as a sovereign ruler of the universe.” Concerning the ruler of the universe, the Psalmist gives us these words:

“The Lord has established his throne in heaven, and his kingdom rules over all.” (Psalm 103:19).

“But our God is in heaven; He does whatever pleases him.” (Psalm 115:3).

“I know that the LORD is great, that our Lord is greater than all gods. The LORD does whatever pleases him, in the heavens and on the earth, in the seas and all their depths.” (Psalm 135:5-6)

The meaning of sovereignty could be summed up this way: To be sovereign is to possess supreme power and authority so that one is in complete control and can accomplish whatever he pleases.

A number of similar definitions of sovereignty can be found in books on the attributes of God:

“Furthermore, His sovereignty requires that He be absolutely free, which means simply that He must be free to do whatever He wills to do anywhere at any time to carry out His eternal purpose in every single detail without interference. Were He less than free He must be less than sovereign.

Grasping the idea of unqualified freedom requires a vigorous effort of the mind. We are not psychologically conditioned to understand freedom except in its imperfect forms. Our concepts of it have been shaped in a world where no absolute freedom exists. Here each natural object is dependent upon many other objects, and that dependence limits its freedom.”

“God is said to be absolutely free because no one and no thing can hinder Him or compel Him or stop Him. He is able to do as He pleases always, everywhere, forever. To be thus free means also that He must possess universal authority. That He has unlimited power we know from the Scriptures and may deduce from certain other of His attributes.” (A. W. Tozer, *Knowledge of the Holy*)

“Subject to none, influenced by none, absolutely independent; God does as He pleases, only as He pleases, always as He pleases. None can thwart Him, none can hinder Him. So His own Word expressly declares: ‘My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure’ (Isa. 46:10b); ‘He doeth according to His will in the army of heaven, and the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay His hand’ (Dan. 4:35). Divine sovereignty means that God is God in fact, as well as in name, that He is on the

(Continued on page 2)