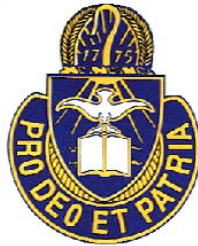

Warning Order: *Operation Barnabas*

DECEMBER 2018



Vocati Ad Servitium



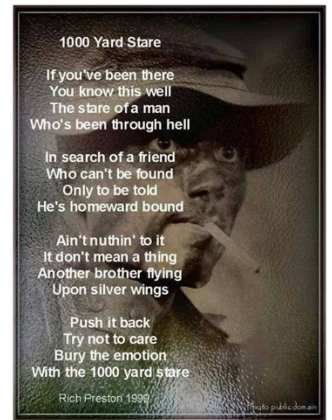
Pro Deo Et Patria



Freedom Faith Ministry

By: *Rev. Dr. Gary L. Daniels*
CH (COL) USA (Ret)

The “Thousand- Yard Stare”



Opening Devotion: *“Harassed and Helpless, Like Sheep without a Shepherd”*

And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. ³⁶ When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷ Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore, pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”

Matthew 9:35–38 (ESV)

{also see 2 Chronicles 18:16; Mark 6:34}

The pictures above are haunting. It's the look in their eyes. They seem to portray exhaustion, numbed and blunted emotion, a lostness and disturbing lack of focus. Seen in the context of combat and/or trauma their eyes show a profound sense of hopelessness. Over the last several decades this look has been called the "thousand-yard stare," indicative of "battle-fatigue," or "shell-shock," or more commonly referred to today as "post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). All people experience stress in their lives and many experiences are traumatic enough that it changes their lives in any number of ways for years afterwards. Soldiers too experience stress and occasionally that stress is traumatic. And then there are times when their experiences are so horrific, profound and repeated that they continue to react both emotionally and physically long after the trauma has ceased. At its worst, post-traumatic stress can become a disorder with life-long debilitating effects requiring prolonged therapeutic intervention. In fact, PTSD has an effect on the whole family system even including the surrounding community. Restlessness, sleep problems, alcohol and substance abuse, difficulty holding a job, aggressive and/or self-destructive behavior and other seemingly strange behaviors can be difficult for people who have not been traumatized to understand. The thousand-yard stare and PTSD can and does happen to people whether they have seen combat or not. Life's events, our own self-centeredness can put us into a numbing zone of destructive behaviors and poor relationships. Life can be very tough, unfair, even brutal and nasty. Emotional and physical injuries from trauma are life changing. Trauma can also include injuries that are moral and spiritual as well and can be more insidious and deadlier because they affect our spirit and soul, potentially driving us further from God and one another.

So where is the hope? Where do we find healing and restoration? While therapies, friends, family and medical science may all help us to recover from some of the symptoms, they cannot fix or heal the true source of our problems. We are sinful human beings living in a sin-broken, malfunctioning world. Only Jesus Christ can do that. He came to us as a "fully" human being. God's own love incarnate! Behind the eyes of the thousand-yard stare may be a broken spirit where the hollowness is indicative of a completely used-up person; physical, emotional, moral and spiritual exhaustion, a hopeless grief nesting in the soul. This is exactly where Jesus, who personally experienced all of that and more on the cross, meets us. He heals, comforts, encourages and helps us get through those times of unbearable injury and grief. He is not a "thousand yards" away. He is here now healing our wounds through His Word and reminds us, through the sacrament of His body and blood, that He is very real – here and now. He uses Operation Barnabas people to be His comforting and encouraging voice. His gut-felt, all-encompassing compassion prompts us to reach with compassionate care, and action. He uses our hands and hearts to be the expression of His love, bringing the true hope and the promise of forgiveness and eternal life that is ours in Him. He died and rose again so that we and others who have the "thousand-yard stare," the harassed and helpless the "sheep without a shepherd" types may have new and abundant life. The joy of Christmas lies in Jesus' incarnational life being lived out in our care of others in His name. To Him be the glory now and forever!

SDG

Prayer:

Oh Lord, we need Jesus in our lives! You are our only hope, our only help, our only comfort. So many people are harassed and helpless, in need of healing and wholeness. We act as "sheep without a shepherd" going this way and that, lost in our own sinful dysfunction and confusion. We are in need of redemption and reformation. By your Spirit bring us back to You. Teach us Your ways that we might walk in your paths. Empower

In Operation Barnabas You call us to a ministry of peace and healing through our relationships with our nation's service members and their families. By Your Spirit, use us to encourage and share the joy of the Good News of Jesus Christ in our words and actions. We give thanks for all who gave their lives in service to our nation that we might enjoy the freedoms granted in our constitution. Bless our nation and its leaders. Grant them wisdom, strength, courage and kindness to govern our nation in a manner that brings glory to you and serves the people of our country. Let our nation's leaders be guided by the power of hope in Jesus that they may govern in humility, with justice and mercy for all. Move all of us to work together in forging a compassionate and peaceful nation. Into your hand we commit our spirit! In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen

Reports:

Roll Call: Gather names and record attendance of members. A time to get to know each other.

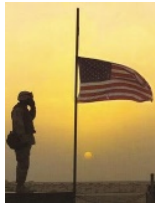
Gather and share information. Provide a report on local units and their deployment schedule; also provide contact information for local military contacts upon request. Identify and assess what is going on in the community concerning veterans and their families.

Develop a plan. Draft a listing of possible chapter activities, including veteran's celebrations, presentations (as desired and available); develop a strategy to expand outreach into the community. Identify and assign tasks to specific people that include standards and time frames.

Identify and provide materials for meetings, such as coffee, refreshments, etc. to support the plan.

Develop communication strategies to support the plan. Place internal announcements (newsletter/bulletins) as well as provide articles for the local paper.

Fallen Heroes:



Please pray for those who mourn the death of the fallen heroes cited below who have given their all for our nation.



Major Brent Taylor

Serving During Operation Freedom's Sentinel

39, of North Ogden, Utah, died Nov. 3 from wounds sustained following an insider attack in Kabul, Afghanistan. The incident is under investigation. Taylor was a military intelligence officer with the Utah National Guard's Joint Force Headquarters and was serving with the Special Operations Joint Task Force.

OUTREACH OPPORTUNITY FOR OB CONGREGATIONS



“Adopt-a Chap” is an opportunity for congregations to directly connect with / “adopt” our Synod’s Armed Forces chaplains, active and reserve, **and Veteran’s Hospital chaplains** too!

It is a program that links congregations with chaplains to promote mutual support and growth. It is a means through which we learn and support each

other in military ministry. After a congregation is “matched” with a chaplain by the Ministry of the Armed Forces staff, the congregation and chaplain establish a relationship through regular communication with one another. Congregations will regularly keep the chaplain and his family in prayer and learn about his specialized ministry in the military and VA context. Since he is effectively bringing the Gospel to young adult “millennials,” the congregation might also benefit from the wisdom of his experience. The process begins by a congregation contacting the MAF office (314-996-1337; Nancy.rowley@lcms.org) and indicating a desire to “adopt-a-chap.” One member of the staff will select/match a chaplain with the congregation providing contact information. There may be many other opportunities to support and learn from each other in creative ways. No financial commitment or aid is needed or expected. This is the Church working together, encouraging and supporting one another in mission to our men and women in our nation’s Armed Forces and Veteran’s Hospitals.

OB Special OPS: News from the Field:

- **Faith Lutheran Church, Tucson, AZ:**



• Faith Lutheran's Operation Barnabas Chapter celebrated Veterans' Day with a pot-luck. Chapter members, from left to right, front row Pastor Cockran and his son Peter, Ed Coderre, Melvin Love, Michelle Love, Lynn Halbert, Kelly Coderre and Diane Nelson. Back row is Ed Coderre, Jane Schlak, Michael Cox, and Dale Schlak.



- **Emanuel Lutheran, Lancaster, OH:**

Pr. Mark Raddatz reports – “Sunday we recognized our in-house vets at Emanuel at both services. Whenever Veteran's Day falls on Sunday I read a bio of St. Martin of Tours and have our vets stand up to be thanked. BTW, the stand up every year! This year we had a luncheon to honor them and I used your (WARNO) Devotion to begin that luncheon. What a Devotion and Prayer. Thank you. Many compliments . . . and I sent them all your way. The good of this event was to have Vets stand up and share where they served, branch, etc. These guys all opened up. Anyone who was present was overwhelmed! It was beautiful.

- **Calvary Lutheran Church, Mechanicsburg, PA:**

Calvary is doing some amazing ministry with veterans. Calvary partners with several area community organizations to aid homeless vets, particularly female vets. Support for the Harrisburg Area “Stand Down” for Homeless



Veterans. Some of these organizations include:

the Central PA Food Bank (CPAFB), with the Military Food Share program,

Calvary Youth Group, Chapter 1983 - Military Order of the Purple Heart, Thrivent (three Action Team grants),

Gideons International (provide pocket testaments for the comfort bags), YWCA of Greater Harrisburg, Days Inn of Harrisburg (over 2,500 individual toiletry items donated), Missing in America Project, Giant Martin, LWML (two grants), Poor Richard Productions (donation of kids backpacks), Unilever (donation of toiletry items for adult and kids comfort bags) numerous local VFW and American Legion Posts who have donated cash to the Military Share program. October 2018 was our one-year anniversary as a Military Share distribution site. Bob Ardner, OB Chapter leader reports, “During the year we have distributed 14,869 pounds of food, paid \$2,330 to the CPAFB as our share of food purchased for our site and donated over 1,400 pounds of excess food to the New



Hope food bank. Finally, our volunteers have given over 330 hours of their time to help with the distributions.” Picture at right: Bob Ardner, Bill Reed, Veterans Outreach Director YWCA of Harrisburg.



Rev. Luke Zimmerman is pastor of Calvary Lutheran Church

Sample Items for Homeless
Female Comfort Bags

- **Concordia College, Bronxville, NY:** The first annual Veteran's Day event, led by Dr.



Sherry Frasier, VP of academic affairs & Provost, was held at the flag in front on the Admin. Building on 12 November 2018.

CH (COL) John Hannah (USA, Ret.) Associate Pastor of Our Savior Lutheran, Bronx, NY, gave the invocation. Concordia is developing plans to better honor and serve veterans.



- **Up-Coming Events:**

Resources for OB Congregations & Chapters:

- The **Veteran's Administration** (Chaplain's Department) hosts Community Clergy Training Program events throughout the United States. To find out more information and get on the mailing list go to:
<https://www.patientcare.va.gov/chaplain/clergytraining/news.asp>
To learn more about the National VA Chaplain Center, please visit:
<https://www.patientcare.va.gov/chaplain>
- **Veteran-Friendly Community" program.** The VA is also seeking to enhance services to veterans through their "Veteran-Friendly Community" program. This effort has resulted in the formation of Community Veterans Engagement Boards (CVEB) in regions across the nation (144 CVEBs in the network to date). Please see this link for more information and see if there is one in your community: <https://www.va.gov/ve/engagement/index.asp>
- **A Guide for Military Families**
<http://www.usarec.army.mil/downloads/1stbde/1nbn/GuideforFamilies.pdf>
- The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, **Religious freedom under attack in the U.S. military:** [View this email in your browser](#)
- **Lutheran Church Charities K-9 Comfort Dog Ministries**
<https://www.lutheranchurchcharities.org/give-lcc-k-9.html>
- **National Chaplain Center**
<http://www.patientcare.va.gov/chaplain/index.asp>
- **Veterans Crisis Line:** <https://www.veteranscrisisline.net>
- **US Department of Veterans Affairs:** <http://www.va.gov>
- **National Guard Office of the Chaplain,** www.nationalguard.mil/jointstaff/ss/hc
- **National Military Family Association,** www.militaryfamily.org
- **U.S. Air Force Chaplain Corps,** www.chaplaincorps.af.mil
- **U.S. Army Chaplaincy,** www.army.mil/info/organization/chaplaincy

- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Center for Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships, www.hhs.gov/partnerships
- U.S. Navy Chaplain Care, www.chaplaincare.navy.mil
- DAV – Disabled American Veterans: is an organization of veterans helping veterans. <https://www.dav.org/veterans/resources>

Need resources for honoring veterans and service members? Check out the **Ministry to the Armed Forces** website (<https://www.lcms.org/ministry-to-the-armed-forces>) for down-loadable resources including Bulletin Inserts, Sermon Resources, Responsive Prayers and Ministry-by-Mail Registration. There are many other helpful aids too. Look around the site.

OB Website – www.lcms.org/operationbarnabas

Operation Barnabas congregations and chapters do some great and faithful work. We learn from each other. Please share pictures, stories and events with the Ministry to the Armed forces department. Please send them to: CH (COL) Gary Danielsen at: garyldan@bellsouth.net or gary.danielsen@lcms.org

“Poor is the nation that has no heroes, but poorer still is the nation that having heroes, fails to remember and honor them.” – Marcus Tullius Cicero

To the Glory of God.... Live in peace and serve the Lord!



Operation Barnabas

