



LET'S CHAT!

with Pastor D

SHARON SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

November 16, 2019



Today we celebrate Veterans Day and honor the veterans — men and women — that have served our country in war or peace. I have always loved watching war movies. As a young man I took special interest in watching shows and movies about Vietnam. I would wait for the climax when the platoon would be surrounded by the enemy under the threat of gun fire. With the machine guns blazing, the radio man would call in for an airstrike. Then through the smoke and fallen trees, the squad would emerge from the fight victorious.

This week, I reflected on how dangerous the job of a radioman must have been. In my curiosity, I began to research the average life expectancy for them in Vietnam combat. The answer was shocking! They were expected to survive for "FIVE SECONDS!" This is because they had to carry the heavy radio pack, along with their weapons into battle. Moreover, their location was always revealed to the enemy, because they had to speak loudly and clearly to the base.

Yet these brave soldiers would risk their lives for the sake of their Country. When many of them returned home, they were greeted with hostility and rebuke by citizens. Today we take the lead in showing our veterans how much we appreciate their service. We don't take the freedoms we have or the ability to live in peace, for granted; and honor them for their sacrifice.

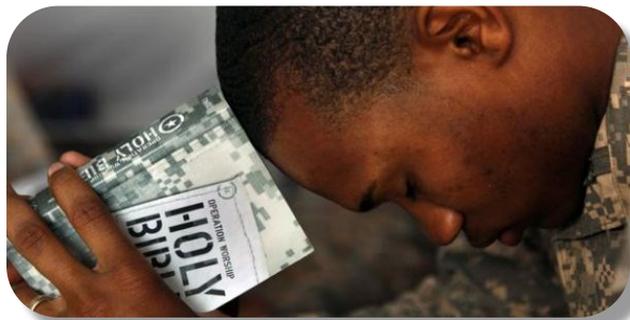


KIDS CORNER

ARMOR OF GOD Find the hidden words

- ARMOR
- ARROWS
- BELT
- BREASTPLATE
- EVIL
- FAITH
- PEACE
- RESIST
- RIGHTEOUSNESS
- SALVATION
- SHIELD
- SPIRIT
- FEET
- FLAMING
- FULL
- GOD
- GOSPEL
- HELMET
- STAND FIRM
- STRENGTH
- SWORD
- TRUTH
- WAIST
- WORD OF GOD

L S V S T S T F B L E S Y
 E S T L W E H S E T Y S W
 P H E A M O T I A E P E O
 S B T L N R R L E I T N R
 O W E I E D P R R L J S D
 G H O N A T F I A R D U O
 G J G R S F T I H Q K O F
 G T Z A D H T U R T W E G
 H R E S I S T S Z M W T O
 C R S A L V A T I O N H D
 B G N I M A L F U A V G T
 U D R O M R A Y L V W I W
 P E A C E V I L L U F R H



America's military is an exquisite reflection of the nation it defends, and this is a nation of many creeds. So it's no surprise that the military includes Christians of every denomination, Jews, Muslims, atheists, pagans and, like the general population, a growing percentage of so-called "nones" (not to be confused with "nuns"). Surveys of the US military reveal that 66% of active-duty personnel self-identify as Christian (including 2.77% as Seventh-day Adventists).

Given that America's military is waging a far-flung war on terrorist groups — all while serving as civilization's first responder and last line of defense — our troops have unique and pressing spiritual-emotional needs. They wrestle with an unimaginable mix of fear and worry, adrenaline spikes and emotional lows, guilt and regret, physical hardship and family problems, mental anguish and nightmares. All of them serve an essential but terrible function in a world where might makes right. And some of them stare death in the face on a daily basis.

In short, serving in wartime has a way of shaking the soul and focusing the heart. This can encourage some individuals to become more vocal about their faith, quite literally more evangelical (sharing and inviting). While this can cause friction in the ranks, the military tries to address this by striking a balance between the believer's right to share his or her faith and the nonbeliever's right to not feel harassed. Lt. Col. Joe Hilbert, a longtime active-duty soldier says, "I try to live my faith and hope they see Christ in my life."

Our Sharon church family honors those who serve. We lift up in prayer, our Christian brothers and sisters serving as active-duty military personnel and veterans and recognize their service and sacrifices. With empathy and love we can come alongside them with help and support for both the physical injuries and the injuries done to their conscience. In doing so, we have an opportunity to learn more deeply from those who have served in the military about sacrifice and risking life—what it means to give up ourselves for others.

*Sources: Dowd, Alan. Christians in Camouflage. November 11, 2015. www.byfaithonline.com.
Rowlands, Daniel. Christians and the Military. November 11, 2019. www.beautifulchristianlife.com*



EVERY WAVING FLAG, HAND COVERED HEART, AND DEEPLY FELT PRAYER ASKING GOD TO BLESS AMERICA, IS A DECLARATION OF THANKS TO ALL WHO HAVE SERVED.

URGENT prayer

- **George Lake**, bereavement (sister passed away) and health for George and his mother.
- **Reginald Reynolds and Lynn Grey**, both friends of Japhena Hall's who have been hospitalized.
- **Ruth Collier**, health
- **Paulette Weber**, recovery
- **Mazell Rudder**, surgery recovery
- **Marjorie Stowe**, injury recovery

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