

RESTORING THE MINISTRIES

I Peter 1:22 "Love one another deeply from the heart" OUR SOLDIERS ARE NOT FORGOTTEN

OUR FIRST WOUNDED WARRIOR CLASS

You will see them if you are willing to carefully take notice. They are our Veterans. They often wear black baseball type hats displaying their units' insignia or their ship: 1st Marine Division, 101st Airborne, 56th Fighter Group, USS Midway. One such old warrior came into the pizza place with his hat displaying just the word: Korea. I pointed to his Korean War Veterans pin and said "I have one of those", introducing myself as a fellow vet with the same all expense paid trip to Korea in common. This triggered the invariable exchange of war stories.

Then he said: "I have some bad memories but it's very bad for these guys now. How come they aren't helping these guys?" He continued: I got a lot of help when I got out, but no one is doing anything for these guys today".

We talked about how one third of the veterans returning from service now are suffering from some form of addiction or mental disorder. After the First World War they called it "Shell Shock." After the Second World War they labeled it "Combat Fatigue". After my war we just called it "I need a drink" and then we went to the Post or Veterans Hall to get our "Medication" (i.e. "Dr. Jack Daniels").

So, in the words of this old veteran: "Why aren't we doing anything for these guys (and gals)?" Soon there will be over one million Americans who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan during the seven years of our "War on Terror." We are rapidly approaching the point where there will be more Americans who have served in our current war that any other war in our history. It is estimated that one third of these suffer from some form of mental disorder related to their military experience: Post Traumatic Stress, Alcoholism & Drug Addiction, Depression and Suicide.

So rather than just blame the government, why should ask, "What are the Christians doing? Where do the ones who follow the teachings of Jesus stand in light of this national crisis?" Followers of Jesus should be the first to respond to the idea of blood sacrificed for freedom. These wounded warriors have fought so we can enjoy our freedom.

Unfortunately, with all of our great medical advances, many veterans are now left to languish in hospital beds. Of equal concern is that this kind of war has left more veterans with the kind of wounds that cannot be seen. What we cannot see we easily ignore or forget. A soldier being discharged from the military today is beginning a battle that may last his lifetime. This war may be one that not only produces its Warrior Class but in the aftermath also produces a "Wounded Warrior Class".

For this new Wounded Warrior Class there is a Christian ministry that is responding to the needs of individual veterans and their families. In the future, Restoring the Heart Ministries goal is to provide a full range of a full range of counseling services.

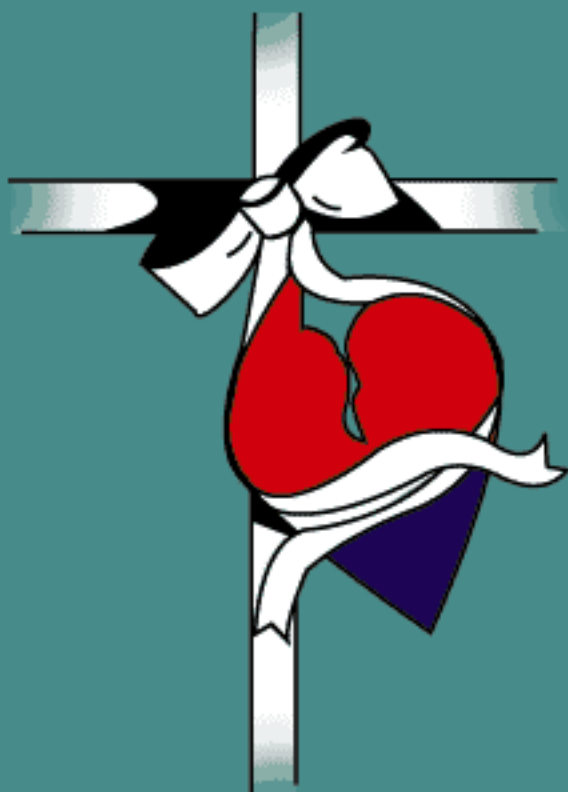
Julie Woodley received this from a woman from Chicago today:

I am one of the broken-hearted. My 22 year old Iraq veteran son, Jason, took his life this past September while a student at Illinois State University. He had been home for over a year but as we piece together the puzzle, we see that he began to spiral this last summer. Different people saw different things but Jason was his usual happy, hard-working, enjoy life self for 90 % of the time. So everyone was shocked when they heard about his death. No one would have ever suspected that he would ever take his life. To somehow try to help others, we are looking for ways to either help people who are walking in our shoes (there is an epidemic of military suicides associated with our two present wars with the greatest number being our young 20 - 24 year old vets) or to help prevent this from happening to others...to help those with PTSD or as the military is now referring to it as CSI (Combat Stress Injury?) awareness using my son's story. They work with veterans and their families too and might want information as it becomes available.

Just know that I so resonate with wanting to reach out to heal the broken hearted. I have heard that your desire came out of your broken heart...how God heals and loves and then helps us reach out to those behind us in those painful valleys, walks, and experiences. It is always good to know that someone understands and has survived and doing life with joy.

Thanks much for letting me talk to you. May God bless you and your ministry. Lynn

Please help us reach out to women like Lynn and her hurting family! Julie Woodley



Please come and be near those who have lost their family members/loved ones to war: This year we will honor the men below and their families

Restoring The Heart Ministries invites you to a **Special Night of Love** to celebrate the love of God for the broken-hearted.

DATE: Saturday February 7, 2009

TIME: 6:00pm

PLACE: Three Village In, Stonybrook, NY

We are privileged to have music by Frank Rendo, Bagpipers and the Color Guard displaying the American Flag make this a very very powerful night as we give love and gifts to families that are grieving.

Please RSVP by February 1st, 2009 by sending a check for \$75.00 per person (\$60.00 if you are a part of a military family, ACT member or Wildflower girl, free if you're a part of a Gold Star family).

Payable to:

If you cannot attend, please consider giving to our ministry in reaching those who have experienced many types of trauma.



JACOB SAMUEL FLETCHER

Jacob Samuel Fletcher was born Nov 25, 1974 in Mineola, NY. He grew up in Babylon NY with his mother Dorine, stepfather Ray and step brother and sister Scott and Tara.

He was always making combat sounds of machine guns to bombs as he played with his GI Joe's. You always knew when Jacob was playing outdoors because you would find string in the bushes where he'd swing his GI Joe's from. He reached out to the military at the age of 8 by sending in an application from a magazine ad. His mother received a few calls for Pvt. Jacob Fletcher but sent the enlistment officers away. You would always find Jacob drawing and sketching, his natural talents. He played Lacross in school and in his senior year at Babylon High School where he graduated from, was on the varsity wrestling team. He loved to play the drums and write poetry. Jacob always has a soft spot for animals and children. Both gravitated to him. He was loyal to his friends, of which he had many. He had a good ear and a kind heart.

Jacob joined the army at 23 and the day before getting sworn in hurt his knee which needed physical therapy and kept him out of the army. A year later he tried again but his knee still wasn't strong enough. Being profoundly effected by September 11th, at the age of 27 joined the army, and fulfilled his lifelong calling to serve his country. He went to basic training at Fort Benning, Georgia where he graduated basic and continued training to earn his wings as a paratrooper, which he wore with pride.

Jacob received his orders and was stationed in Vicenza Italy. He was with the 173rd Airborne Brigade and was one of the 1,000 paratroopers to make the historic jump into Iraq on March 26th 2003. He jumped into Northern Iraq and was met by the Kurds who joined with the 173rd as they went to Kirkuk. They patrolled, trained Iraqi police officers and went on many dangerous missions.

Jacob's was killed when a roadside bomb exploded the bus he was on November 13th, 2003 on Highway 1 in Samarra.



SPECIALIST CHRISTOPHER LEVI

Christopher Levi was born March 12, 1983 in Charleston, South Carolina weighing in at 9 pounds ten and a half ounces. He was born the happiest smiley kid who was constantly cracking jokes and making everyone around him laugh. He would do almost anything to get a laugh out of you. Two years younger



than his oldest sister he was extremely protective of her. A few years later his second sister Emily came along and Christopher decided he was going to take part in protecting not only his family but his entire country. He left home at the young age of 14 and attended New York Military Academy. He graduated from the academy and went on to attend college in Albany. Christopher had always intended on joining the military after he finished college. However after the tragedy of 9/11 Christopher could no longer bear that he was not serving his country in it's time of need. He dropped out of college and joined the army. He didn't tell his friends or family that he was doing so until he was enlisted to ensure that they could not talk him out of it. Christopher took his service to his country one step further and became Ranger certified, guaranteeing that he could do anything that the Army needed him to do. Christopher served a tour of duty in Afghanistan and then was redeployed to Iraq in November of 2007. Christopher has always been an amazing, strong, and dedicated person and has never thought twice about doing whatever the Army needed from him. Recently, four days after his 25th birthday Christopher was injured when an exploding device hit the humvee he was riding in. His injuries are extensive including the loss of both of his legs and serious damage to his right arm. He is fighting to get through recovery however he knows it is going to be a long and hard road.

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 7, 2009

Annual Special Night of Love Dinner

Honoring: Specialist Christopher Levi - After 9/11 Christopher could no longer bear that he was not serving his country. He dropped out of school and joined the army.

Honoring: Jacob Smauel Fletcher - Born Nov 25, 1974 in Mineola, NY. Jacob joined the army at 23 and the day before getting sworn in hurt his knee which needed physical therapy and kept him out of the army. A year later he tried again but his knee still wasn't strong enough.

WILDFLOWER EVENTS

February 16 - April 20, 2009

Monday's at 7pm

10 week Wildflower Group

St. Joseph's Prayer Center

312 Maple Avenue, Patchogue, NY 11772

March 5-8, 2009

Restoring the Heart Training/Participant Retreat

St. Edmund's, Enders Island at Mystic

Mystic, CT

[Click Here to Register >](#)

June 4-7, 2009

Restoring the Heart Training/Participant Retreat

Bon Secours Spiritual Center

1525 Marriottsville Road

Marriottsville, MD 21104

Registration opens in the future

[Read more on Wildflower events >>](#)