

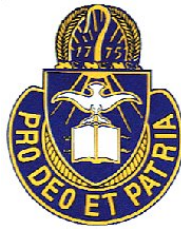
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# Warning Order: *Operation Barnabas*

April 2017



Vocati Ad Servitium



Pro Deo Et Patria



Freedom Faith Ministry

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***Thanks be to God who gives us victory through our Lord Jesus Christ***



**Opening Devotion & Discussion: 1 Cor. 15:54-58** (ESV)

By: Chaplain Gary Danielsen, CH (COL), USA (Ret)

*When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written:*

*“Death is swallowed up in victory.”*

*“O death, where is your victory?*

*O death, where is your sting?”*

*The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. **But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.** Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.*

**Thoughts:**

I was totally unprepared for how moved I would be when I visited the Vietnam memorial for the first time. I was overwhelmed by emotion; I wept. Although I did not serve during the Vietnam war, I knew several of the inscribed names. The wall contains the names of heroes who, whether they had volunteered or were drafted, faithfully answered the call to duty, and served our nation amidst controversy and derision. It is a wall of sacrifice. And too, many more came home wounded in some fashion forever changed by their experiences. They too sacrificed dearly, yet their names will not be memorialized in such a moving fashion. Nonetheless, this memorial wall is a powerful reminder of the consequences of sin – for it is a wall of death. God help us all!

And He did! Through the cross and an empty tomb...with the willful sacrifice of His son, our Lord, Jesus Christ! All our names are inscribed on a “Wall of Death.” But because of the ultimate sacrifice of God Himself in Jesus, who died to pay the price of our sins, death is not the end. Rather, we have new life – victory over the grave in His Name! The Easter message is true, powerful and moving. In my mind’s eye, I see the empty tomb, with the brilliant light of Christ facing “the Wall” illuminating all the names and obliterating the dark background. Memories of loss turned to joyous hope and life.

We can begin living that new life now. Operation Barnabas seeks to translate and bring the joy of the Easter celebration of new life in Jesus Christ to all service men and women past and present. Many “Nam” (and others) vets are embedded in our communities with painful memories from their service experience. May the task for each one of us this month be to seek out at least one vet and/or a family member of a vet and thank them for their service and go on to say, “...and thank God for Jesus’ victory over all sin and death!” There are vets in our neighborhoods, in nursing homes, waiting on line in a VA center and grieving spouses who need a word of hope and encouragement that can only come from Jesus’ victory of life over death. May the Holy Spirit use us in our relationships with others to proclaim the joy of the resurrection victory!

**We pray:**

*Praise be to you oh Lord, that through Your Son’s the victory over sin and death on the cross we have new and everlasting life in His name. May that victory be the guiding principle from which we live our lives in service to others to Your glory. By your Spirit empower us to care for others in a manner that brings the light of Jesus’ empty tomb into the darkest corners of society. Help us to be courageous in witnessing our hope in Jesus both in word and deed. As Your servants, let us “abound in the work of the Lord,” encouraging, caring for and aiding our nation’s service members and their families according to their needs. Use us to sooth and bind the wounds of our veterans with the good news that Jesus Christ has risen from the dead. Bless our nation and its leaders. Grant them wisdom, compassion and strength. Let their hope be in you and govern accordingly with both justice and mercy. With the joy of our risen Jesus in our hearts, we commend ourselves to You in service and celebration. In Jesus name, we pray. Amen*



**REPORTS:**

**S-1 Personnel**

Roll Call: Gather names and record attendance of members.

### **S-2 Intelligence**

Provide a report on local units and their deployment schedule; also provide contact information for local military contacts upon request.

### **S-3 Operations and Training**

Draft a listing of possible chapter activities, including veteran's celebrations, presentations (as desired and available); develop a plan to expand outreach into the community

### **S-4 Logistics**

Provide materials for meetings, such as coffee, refreshments, etc.

### **S-6 Communication**

Place internal announcements (newsletter/bulletins) as well as provide articles for the local paper.

## **Fallen Heroes:**

Please close with a prayer for the survivors of these fallen heroes and for all our nation's service members and their families.



### **Pfc. Brian P. Odiorne**

Died February 20, 2017 Serving During Operation Inherent Resolve  
Pfc. Brian P. Odiorne, 21, of Ware, Massachusetts died Feb. 20, in Al Anbar Province, Iraq, from a non-combat related incident. The incident is under investigation. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas.



### **Chief Petty Officer William "Ryan" Owens**

Died January 29, 2017 Serving During U.S. Central Command operations  
36, of Peoria, Illinois; assigned to a special warfare unit based on the U.S. East Coast; died of wounds sustained in a raid against al-Qaida.



### **Spc. Isiah L. Booker**

Died January 7, 2017 Serving During Operation Inherent Resolve  
Spc. Isiah L. Booker, of Cibolo, Texas, died Jan. 7, in Jordan, in a non-combat related incident. The incident is under investigation. Booker was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 5th Special Forces Group, Fort Campbell, Kentucky.

## **OB Special OPS: News from the Field**

Operation Barnabas congregations and chapters do some great and faithful work. Please share pictures, stories and events with the Ministry to the Armed forces department. Please send them to: Nancy Rowley and CH Gary

Danielsen at: [Nancy.Rowley@lcms.org](mailto:Nancy.Rowley@lcms.org) and [gary.danielsen@lcms.org](mailto:gary.danielsen@lcms.org)



## LCMS Chaplain

When Chaplain Matthew Christensen went to counsel a soldier who was having a hard time, he didn't realize it would escalate into a hostage situation.

Christensen — who was assigned to 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment at Fort Wainwright, Alaska, at the time of the incident — arrived at the soldier's home to find him intoxicated and armed with a machete.

"He at first was suicidal but then grew more and more hostile throughout the evening," Christensen said of the Feb. 28, 2015, night.

Eventually, Christensen said, another chaplain and the soldier's roommate arrived, and the soldier was talking to some of his family members on speakerphone.

"He basically told them that they had failed him in his growing-up years to protect him from his abusive father," the captain said. "Then he declared that he had three hostages, and that he was going to kill all of us that night to get back at his family."

After about two hours, the soldier pinned his roommate against the wall with the machete.

"When he went to swing the machete, there weren't too many other options but to physically jump in and grab and restrain the soldier," Christensen said.

While Christensen had the soldier under control, the other chaplain kicked away the machete.

"All I was thinking of was how do we get out of this situation without somebody being hurt," he said.

LCMS Chaplain Capt. Matthew Christensen, an Army chaplain, received the Soldier's Medal on Tuesday at Fort Benning, Georgia. Photo Credit: Patrick A. Albright/Army

Christensen said that although tackling a soldier isn't a preferred counseling technique for a chaplain, he knew he had to do something once the soldier was physically threatening his roommate.

Christensen received the Soldier's Medal on Tuesday for his actions that night in Alaska. He is now assigned to 1st Battalion, 50th Infantry Regiment, at Fort Benning, Georgia.

Recommended for the medal by his battalion commander at Fort Wainwright, the chaplain said he was "pretty surprised" when he found out it was approved.

"I thought it would be downgraded or lost in the system somewhere," said Christensen.

The medal is awarded to a service member who distinguishes themselves by heroism that doesn't involve actual conflict with the enemy, according to the Army.

### **'A soldier's chaplain'**

Lt. Col. Joel Newsom, Christensen's battalion commander who submitted the medal paperwork, said the chaplain's priority was always to take care of the soldiers.

"What impressed me was Matt's judgment and the fact that he waited until there were no other options until he physically restrained [the soldier] to prevent the loss of somebody else's life," said Newsom, who is now assigned to the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk, Louisiana.

Maj. Gen. Eric Wesley, Maneuver Center of Excellence commanding general, congratulates Capt. Matthew Christensen, along with his wife, Jessica, on receiving the Soldier's Medal.

Newsom said Christensen was on the ground at every training event at Fort Wainwright, whether it was foot marches or snowshoeing or cross-country skiing in 20-below weather.

"Which is why soldiers trusted him and respected him and allowed him to do his job," he said.

In Christensen's personal time, Newsom said he would take soldiers on hunting and fishing trips to build relationships.

"To see someone so deserving receiving that really high-level award just thrilled me," Newsom said.

According to the Soldier's Medal citation, "Chaplain Christensen had only a moment to react and risked his own life to save the life of another soldier. His efforts made a difference and ultimately saved two soldiers' lives."

Christensen said he testified at the intoxicated soldier's court-martial, and the soldier was able to receive extensive counseling through the military.

Besides the other chaplain who was there that night, Christensen credits his wife, Jessica, for being there emotionally.

"She's been in the military alongside me, not as a service member but as a spouse, since 1993 — always supportive and always willing to be there even in difficult times like that," he said.

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