



**WMAF**  
newsletter

# Defender

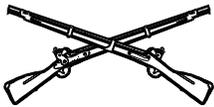
World Ministries to the Armed Forces

1997

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER

1997

## Infantry to Fire Control !



**ODDIST DON MURPHY**

Who is this young sailor that so amuses and delights the young kids at North Shore Baptist Church? It could be any one of several, but in this case he is Oddist Don Murphy, one of the “regulars” who make the NSBC family their own while stationed at Great Lakes Naval Training Center. The kids sense his genuine affection for them, and enjoy his unique ability to entertain them.

Oddist, who grew up in Dayton, Ohio, is in the Fire Control School, learning to maintain, repair and fire shipboard missiles. Previously on active duty in the Army, with training as an 11 Bravo Infantry soldier, he found that kind of combat duty neither to his liking nor consistent with his physical abilities. He took advantage of an opportunity to end his Army enlistment, and within two weeks of his discharge, on 9 Dec 96, signed up with the Navy.

Jesus Christ came into Oddist’s life as personal Savior early in 1992 at Fairview Baptist Church in Dayton. He was present in that church on that day because of a good habit of church attendance that was instilled in him by some folks who were

very important in his upbringing—two godly grandmothers and another woman who faithfully took him to church for several years. The message of salvation by God’s grace through personal faith in Christ finally became clear to him as the Word of God was expounded and the Lord gave him understanding. He committed his life to Christ, and on Mothers’ Day, 1992, Oddist submitted to believers’ baptism.

Oddist began a good habit of daily Bible study, and continues today to search God’s Word for guidance as he faithfully tries to share his faith with others. He recalls one particularly unique experience which began when he was the Recruit Religious Petty Officer of his division. One sailor in the unit was particularly hostile toward him, interrupting his evening prayers, and harassing him about his faith. Later, many months after graduation, Oddist again had occasion to meet this man, and discovered that he, too, had come to receive Jesus Christ as Savior. Since then, the two have enjoyed Christian fellowship together on several occasions and have attended church together.

Faithful attendance and participation at NSBC services and activities whenever possible characterizes Oddist. He also regularly meets with other Christian service people on base for Bible study, fellowship and witnessing to reach others with the Gospel. He also asks that we pray for his three brothers and three sisters, for whom he is concerned.

Oddist credits his move to the Navy and assignment at Great Lakes with helping bring him to a greater understanding of God’s will for his life. In his testimony he stated, “I want to thank NSBC and WMAF for all the help and support they have given me. They have helped me to better understand God’s will as He shows me a little more day by day.”

Favorite interests of this sailor include reading and listening to good music.

Oddist hopes to stay in the Navy for a 20-year career. His aspiration is to become a preacher, and eventually he may attempt to pursue education and training toward becoming a chaplain or a JAG officer. His present school will be completed in Feb 98, but there is the prospect of a possible “C” school for an additional 34 weeks. We at NSBC hope Oddist will remain at Great Lakes for a **LONG** tour so that we can continue to enjoy fellowship with him!

# From the Pulpit: Message and Bible Study

by Rev. Joseph P. Howe



## Title: JOY TO THE WORLD!

Scripture: Isaiah 9:6,7; Luke 2:10-14

The snow is falling here in the north and Christmas decorations emerge all over town. We go up into the attic and dust off the tree trimmings that have survived another hot summer. Our annual ritual of decorating and preparing for the friends and family begins. The house fills with the jubilant whose merry hearts are brimming with mirth and conversation.

It is as no other time of the year. The air teems with strains of the most beautiful music ever composed. Scripture is quoted and the great story declaring the glad tidings of the birth of our Savior is announced. No more radiant words were ever proclaimed... *“Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.”* Luke 2:11

Amidst this great backdrop of peace and hope emanates a spirit of darkness and doom. This is also the season of great depression and bitter loneliness for many. The world is in darkness and does not comprehend the light that they are seeing. Through their nostalgia, they look back on better days and times. A time when loved ones got along and optimism reigned over their hopes and dreams. Now time has passed and the certainty of life has taken its toll.

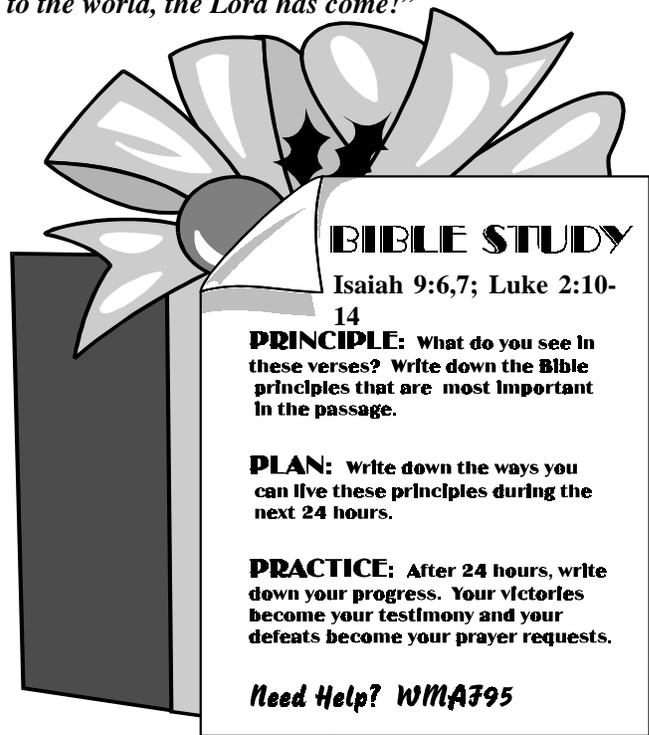
Miles from home, many a service member spends this holiday season looking for some comfort, some company, something to pass the time until normal routine will set in again. A bitter homesickness stalks the heart that's longing for the warmth of loved ones and friends to fire their soul—but it is not to be. To the lonely, the joyful celebrants become faceless shadows on the wall, hollow voices that blend into one indistinguishable echo. One, alone in the crowd, setting on the outside and looking in, as if not there.

Depression sets in when taking stock of a life that seems to be going nowhere. Yet, through the deafening silence words are heard that bring a strange comfort, though not completely understood why. *“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon*

*his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.”* (Isa. 9:6) Why should those words quiet the heart and bring comfort and hope to the whole world?

God brings all the fullness and the joys of Heaven to the world in His Son. Christians have hope in knowing that all the struggles of the world and heart will be resolved some day and there will be no need for military deployments and separations. The birth of our Redeemer makes certain these present trials will pass. The heavenly pronouncements of Christmas are heart-felt by those who believe in their Savior. Anxiety and emptiness are swallowed up in joy and comfort when they read the Scriptures and call out to God in prayer.

This is a season full of traditions, reflections, celebrations, and kinship. Yet, it is more than just a celebration of life, it is the triumph of righteousness over evil. No other life, nor event, has so jarred the world with such a lasting impact. The transformed heart overflows with gratitude and sings from its very depths... *“Joy to the world, the Lord has come!”*



**BIBLE STUDY**  
Isaiah 9:6,7; Luke 2:10-14

**PRINCIPLE:** What do you see in these verses? Write down the Bible principles that are most important in the passage.

**PLAN:** write down the ways you can live these principles during the next 24 hours.

**PRACTICE:** After 24 hours, write down your progress. Your victories become your testimony and your defeats become your prayer requests.

*Need Help? WMA795*

# Mail Call!

11-18-97

Thank you for your newsletter and the support word that came with it.

Maj JK  
Zagreb, Croatia  
Operation Joint Guard

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Thanks for the letter for Any Servicemen. I needed the encouragement. I have a friend listed also that needs someone to write. He has severe family problems. Thank you.

SFC MB JR  
Operation Joint Guard

## E-mail

10/14/97

I'm a Christian in the U.S. Navy. Last year while in Germany, the Christians aboard our ship were able to find outstanding fellowship with an officer in the German Air Force. I am very grateful to you and the Lord for your organization providing us a way to contact this officer.

Now, I'm on a different ship with a different group of Christians. Over the course of the next several months we will be visiting various countries around the Mediterranean. It's our hearts desire to meet up with local Christians in the ports we visit. However, at this time we have no contacts which we can call. If it's possible, would you please send names and phone numbers of people we might try to contact for some good Christian fellowship? I would also like more information about WMAF.

Thank you for being God's answer to our prayers!

In His Service,



Anecdotes from history

by  
**Rev. Michael  
G. Marshall**

### “Cool Under Fire”

On November 20, 1863, the steamer “Commander” was deployed to Ship Island Sound with a force of Negro infantry to destroy the salt works known to exist there. After steaming upstream in the river near the objective, the Commander anchored at a spot near the intended target somewhat hidden by high river banks. The building was to be burned, however, the troops coming ashore were met with sudden and intense volleys of gunfire from the seemingly unprotected building. Two Federals fell, one being dead and the other wounded. This heavy gunfire forced the withdrawal of the troops leaving the two fallen men behind.

Paymaster Steward Richard E. Seward, a seasoned sailor, became enraged when he realized the two fallen soldiers had been left behind. He quickly rushed past fellow crew members, dashed ashore, and amid hideous volleys of musket fire, rescued the wounded man, carrying him to safety. He then returned amid the heavy volleys to recover the body of his fallen comrade. Bullets are said to have whistled all about him, even putting holes in his clothing in places without ever wounding him. The men aboard the ship were astonished at his action and when he returned with the body of the dead soldier, a cheer went up from the ship's crew.

*Mat 10:28 And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.*



## Thank You!

from  
Christian Friends  
&  
A Grateful Nation



### My Most Unusual Christmas

*by Rev. Michael G. Marshall*

It was the latter years of the Vietnam War, I was a petty officer stationed stateside at Great Lakes Naval Hospital. As a corpsman, I had seen many ghastly and horrible wounds inflicted upon our fighting men. I had been saved only a short time and, as a young Christian, had a new perspective on life. Truly, I had been blessed with professional coworkers in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU), they were quality people. The ICU had been cleared of all patients and we were anticipating leave for the holidays. My home was four hours away in the Quad-cities of northwestern Illinois. My Chevy Nova was already fueled, packed, and ready to go. But alas, the next few hours would change my Christmas plans.

The hospital administrator thought it wise that all wards, even empty ones, be staffed by someone to guard the drug lockers. I got the job! This seemed totally ridiculous to me at the time and the whole fiasco made no sense. God, however, would use this to teach me things that I live and preach to this day.

Sitting alone, occasionally watching a fuzzy black and white TV provided for me,

### Sign Up A Friend

*You may have a friend in the military that would like to be a part of our worldwide ministry. Please, send us their name and address below and we will put them on our list referred by you.*

Write your name here:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

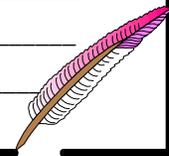
Write your friend's name here:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City State Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_



The **WMAF Defender** is a bi-monthly newsletter, published by World Ministries to the Armed Forces, ministering to military people around the world. Dedicated to the cause of Christ, the salvation of souls, and the discipling of Christian military members everywhere, the **WMAF Defender** is solely supported by the offerings and donations of those interested in this outreach.

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**Fax (847) 689-2549**



*Rev. Howe, Director of WMAF (front right), with some of our faithful sailors and workers at North Shore Baptist Church...*

*wishing you...*



# Merry Christmas!

# &

# Happy New Year!



## Help is on Line!

*For pastoral help, call*  
**WMAF95@aol.com**

I read my Bible and realized some truths. First, I needed to do more than obey them