

WMAF  
Newsletter

# Defender

World Ministries to the Armed Forces

1999

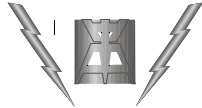
JUNE/JULY/AUGUST

1999

## TESTIMONY



WILLIAM ELLIS



**William Ellis**, a student in the FC "A" School at NTC, Great Lakes is among the sailors who regularly attends North Shore Baptist Church and our activities for military and career young adults. Will hails from Saginaw, Michigan, where he attended Trinity Baptist Church.

Will had the advantage of attending a Christian school from grades K through 12, graduating from Trinity Baptist Academy in Saginaw in 1998. The excellent spiritual training that he received through the Christian school undoubtedly did much to prepare him to think seriously about his future and what life is really all about. After hearing a salvation message at his church in June, 1993, Will was convicted of his need for the Savior. Later that night he went to the Lord in prayer and received Jesus Christ as His personal Savior.

Will acknowledges that his decision and commitment to Christ at that time has kept him from much trouble in subsequent days—both before and after joining the Navy. During these present days at Great Lakes he is growing in his knowledge of the Lord and is progressing well in his walk with Christ. He states that the Lord helps him daily to maintain a testimony for Christ—which he says is especially important around others who are not Christians.

Asked how the ministry of NSBC and WMAF have helped him, Will answered, "It has given me a good church to attend and good Christians to fellowship with. I appreciate the families of the church taking me to their homes on Sunday afternoons."

Will has a six-year Navy enlistment to complete, and hasn't yet formed plans beyond that. He is a young man who thinks seriously about the matters and values related to his life. He

will undoubtedly look to his Lord for guidance and wisdom at the proper time before making such important decisions.

A favorite Bible passage of Will's is **Ephesians 2:8, 9**— *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: {9} Not of works, lest any man should boast.*

This passage is one that he would certainly commend to anyone reading his testimony who hasn't yet come to know the Savior!

It is a privilege and blessing for our local church folk to know and fellowship with Will Ellis. We are gratified to be able to minister to such fine military people as he is—and to benefit to our own joy and fellowship.



COMING SOON!

PRAY FOR...

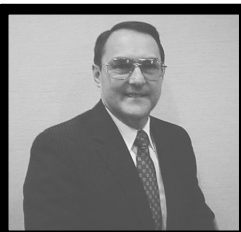
## OPERATION REACHOUT

*Operation Reachout* is a combined ministry of World Ministries to the Armed Forces (WMAF), Northland Baptist Bible College (NBBC), and Tabernacle Baptist Church of Lebanon, MO. This groundbreaking practical ministry is the first of its kind and will provide service men and women resources for spiritual growth that have, until now, been beyond their reach.

**Purpose:** The purpose of *Operation Reachout* is to equip military people with Bible knowledge and spiritual support, and to challenge them to give their lives in the service of God.

This ministry is accomplished through five levels of Bible studies ranging from basic salvation and Christian living through accredited undergraduate Bible college courses; and a spiritual support system that provides daily devotions, prayer, and pastoral care through the WMAF web site and publications. Northland Baptist Bible College, along with Tabernacle Baptist Church, will administer the Bible study courses while World Ministries to the Armed

(Continued on pg. 3)



## From the Pulpit: Message and Bible Study

by Rev. Joseph P. Howe



### Title: **LABORING OVER CONFESSED SIN?**

Scripture: **Romans 4:7-8**

A young lady came to my office for counsel. She sat down with a grief-disfigured face and wringing her hands. "What is wrong?" I asked. She related various things that she had done and events that impacted her life. "Did you ask for God's forgiveness?" I inquired. "Yes," she said, "I have asked Him many times!" "Do you think He has forgiven you?" To this she replied, "I don't know. It is very hard for me to believe in a God I cannot see." This comes from a person who has been a believer for some time.

We live in a complex world. Since the arrival of the computer and the information highway, we walk into the vast world of knowledge and realize our insignificance. It seems that nothing is easy, or clear, or simple. Books are written and seminars are held to help us organize our time and simplify our lives. We are even working to make our work easier!

Having been a pastor for over thirty years, I see a growing disbelief in the personal work of God because of all this complexity. A growing number of people that request my counsel, labor over their forgiven sin. That's right, *forgiven sin*. It seems, at least for some, that it is very difficult to believe that God has forgiven them and put their sin away. They wonder how He can do that. "It can't be over. It can't be that simple," they say. However, it *is* forgiven. It *is* finished.

There is a slight difference between unbelief and disbelief. Though a subtle difference, unbelief is the lack of belief. This may, or may not, be intentional. It is the more general term that suggests the lack of belief, for whatever reason. Disbelief is the act of disbelieving. It is the denial of belief, or better put, the refusal to believe. Because we cannot comprehend God's great ocean of forgiveness, we refuse to believe it. I am reminded of a quote once given to me, "*Our belief or disbelief of a thing does not alter the nature of the thing,*" Tillotson.

There is no demonstration of the power of God like the simple forgiveness of sin. God is able to forgive us when we cannot forgive ourselves. The problem with the young lady was not God's forgiveness, but hers! She would not

believe that God could really do this; and that at some point further on in her life would face her with the same sins again. If she can't forget them, how could God forget them? To this God replies in *Psa 103:12 As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us. He forgives the sincere heart and forgets their sin.*

Not only does He forgive us, but He also removes the sin and all accompanying punishment with it. Further still, He blesses the penitent who puts their trust in Him. *Rom 4:7 ...Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. (8) Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin.* Once God has put our sins away from us, He will never bring those sins up to us again. It is *forgiven*. That's what forgiveness means. It is as simple as that!

How sad that so many are defeated by their *forgiven* sins. How tragic that today's victory is robbed from us by our own unbelief. So much time is wasted in the futile worry over confessed sin. Tomorrow's guaranteed blessings will not materialize because of our lack of trust in Him for our past indiscretions. God's forgiveness comes from His fathomless love for us. If we sincerely confess our sins to Him, He forgives us and never holds them against us again! It is that simple!

*Hard to believe isn't it?*



### BIBLE STUDY

**Romans 4:7-8**

**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? WMAJ95**

Study This!

## Mail Call!

Dear WMAF,

I want to thank you for your immediate response. Your encouraging words brought back hope and joy in my heart. Just knowing that I'm not the only one out at sea wanting to promote and do God's good will is highly encouraging to my soul. Your ministry and support to the armed forces is, no doubt, ordained by Al mighty God to be an instrument of planting God's good news to the unsaved and a shining light of hope for God's children. Thank you for your prayer support. Please, continue to pray for me and my family in Virginia Beach. I will surely continue to help and support your growing ministry within the "bul kheads" or walls of the USS Kearsarge from the Adriatic Sea.

I send you with this letter a testimony of God's blessings for your ministry. One of my shipmates, who I have been praying for, saw your ministry envelope package. I did not have to ask twice if he would like to hear more from your ministry when he himself put his name to receive your "Defender" newsletter. What a blessing! Praise and glory to God. I'm also sending you a small love gift of my appreciation. May Jesus Christ our Lord and God our Heavenly Father with His Holy Spirit continue to bless you and keep you as every member of this ministry (the body of Christ) faithfully beholds the calling which each one of you has received.

Love in Christ,  
PE  
USS Kearsarge

Dear Rev. Howe,

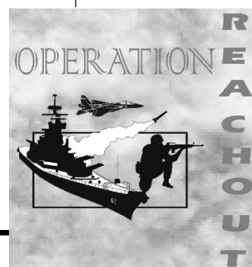
Thank you for your work and ministry in support of deployed forces worldwide. I have roots in the Chicago area, where my father grew up, and was pleased to see that your organization is based out of North Chicago.

Yours is a valuable and needed ministry. I'm sure it reaches even further than you are aware, as young sailors, soldiers, Marines and airmen receive, read and reflect on your materials.

Please accept my enclosed check in support of your work. It is not much, but if each of us help a great wave of God's love will grow and work over all of us, bathing us in His divine grace. Thank you again!

Sincerely

JJ  
USS T. Roosevelt



Drop us a line...

We would love to hear from you!

### **Operation Reachout (cont.)**

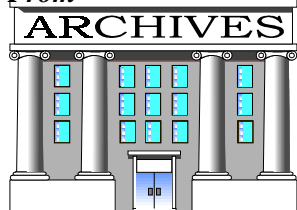
Forces will provide the worldwide support ministry.

*Operation Reachout* will be offered to the service men and women free of charge and is a step of faith for all of the ministries involved. It will take the gifts and dedicated support of God's people and churches to fulfill God's leading. You can help us with a gift to any, or each, of these ministries for *Operation Reachout*.

God has burdened us to take on a ministry to the military on a grand scale never before attempted. It is the first of its kind and will demand your daily prayers to bring it into being.

Present status: Tabernacle Baptist Church has completed the first level of Bible studies. Northland Baptist Bible College is finishing the second level while World Ministries to the Armed Forces is setting up the web site. We hope to have *Operation Reachout* available within the next month and to be fully developed with all courses by next year.

From



Anecdotes from history

by  
**Rev. Michael  
 G. Marshall**

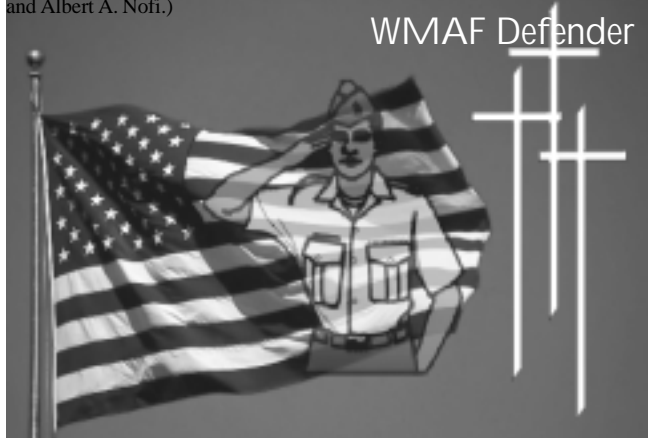
### STANDING IN THE GAP

Nothing strikes more terror in the heart of naval personnel than a fire on board ship while at sea. There is little place to run or hide, one must stand and fight for the life of the ship and its personnel. Smoke coursing through air ducts can readily kill even at the other end of the ship, if that smoke enters the wrong ductwork, which supplies ventilation to that area of the ship.

Great heroism on the part of the crew of the U.S.S. Forrestal was shown on the eventful day of July 29, 1967. While preparing for a mission over North Vietnam, a rocket from one plane somehow managed to fire. It streaked across the deck striking another plane igniting its avgas. An enormous fire occurred that set off a bomb aboard another plane. The blast killed most of the firefighters and sent burning fuel downward through the torn deck into the decks below. Fire fighting crewmen quickly stood in the gap to save the ship, while planes burned and their missiles exploded. When it was all over, 134 men were dead and 161 injured. Twenty-one planes were destroyed and the carrier extensively damaged. It was the worst single day's casualties in the Navy since WWII. While flight deck cameras taped the entire incident, the brave men of the Forrestal fought the fires and saved their ship.

*"Having done all to stand, stand therefore..."*

(Adapted from "Dirty Little Secrets of the Vietnam War" by James F. Dunnigan and Albert A. Nofi.)



## Give one to a friend!



## Help is on Line!

For pastoral help, e-mail  
**WMAF95@aol.com**

**COMING SOON!**

**Web Site: [www.WMAF95.org](http://www.WMAF95.org)**

### 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 \_\_\_\_\_

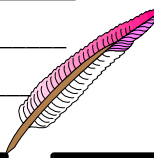
Write your friend's name here:

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.

*If you would like to help us in this vital outreach, send your tax exempt donation to:*

**World Ministries to the Armed Forces**

**P.O. Box 1075**

**North Chicago, IL 60064**

**Phone (847) 689-2505**

**Fax (847) 689-2549**