

**For Military
Personnel and
Their Families**

This Section is for men and women all over the World who answer a *different* Call on their lives and dedicate themselves, and inevitably their families too, to the Service of their Countries. It is a service that costs all of them far more than we will ever realize.



The Call

For those who hurt, for those who bleed,
A salve for their wounds,
And *the reason* they bleed.
For those who seek *a reason* for it all,
The Answer – The Truth,
Come HEED His Call.
For those who hunger,
For those who thirst,
For those who feel *forever cursed*,
The Answer – The Truth,
Come, HEED His Call,
The Messiah is waiting...
The ANSWER to it all!

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Just as there is a Call into Gods' Service, so too is there a Call to Arms, a Call to Military Service. God calls people in many different ways. A Nations' people have to be protected as much from the repercussions that are actually the result of bad actions and choices their *own* leaders have made over the years as they do from unwarranted attacks from external aggressors. The Bible tells us that God puts all leaders and rulers in the positions they occupy, and at times we all wonder *why*, particularly when we see the evil actions of some of those leaders. It is however a fact that *any* Nations appointed leader reflects the heart attitude of *some* within that Nation, for better or for worse. **God permits bad rulers to emerge in Nations because it is only *then* when many are experiencing wrong-doing and oppression that even the *good* people in the land *seriously* turn to Him, and in some cases, *return* to Him because they want to be set free from their oppression.**

As the well-known saying goes “All that is necessary for evil to flourish, is that good men stand by and do nothing” the truth of *that* statement has been proved time and time again! Man can rest quite happily in what he doesn’t even *realize* has become his ‘fallen state’ until a great evil befalls him and shakes him out of his complacent reverie, *but he will find himself forced to confront the evil in his own soul before God will help him overcome the external evil oppressing him.* Constantly compromising religious beliefs and values has led to mankind accepting blatant sin as ‘a grey area’ and tolerating all kinds of aberrant behaviour under the cloak of a ‘live and let live’ mentality. An *overly tolerant* Nation becomes Satans’ playground, and a hive of activity of entirely the *wrong* kind. Evil flourishes where no-one has the courage, faith or conviction to stamp it out, *to draw that line in the sand and say “This far and no further.”* Gods’ children need to heed His Voice, see what’s going on in the World around them *and DO something about it.*

There is an interesting story in Second Kings Chapter Five of The Bible, [KJV] about an Army Officer called Naaman.

“Naamen, Captain of the host of the King of Syria who was a great man with his master and honourable, *because by him the Lord had given deliverance unto Syria:* he was also a mighty man in valour, but he was a leper”.

The King of Syria, who was incidentally *an enemy* of Israel, valued Naaman so highly that he sent him, loaded down with gold, silver and clothing, to the King of Israel *knowing a prophet of God was there who could heal him. It did not however, even occur to the backslidden King of Israel to call upon either God or his prophet!* He merely tore his clothes and flew into a panic having decided the King of Syria was actually looking for a reason to wage war against him! Hearing of the Kings’ distress, Elisha the prophet sent word to him telling him to send Naamen *to him* “that he might *know* there is a prophet in Israel”. When Naamen arrived at his door however, *Elisha refused to see him*, but sent word by his servant that Naamen must wash himself seven times in the River Jordan, *a response and instruction which greatly incensed Naamen, he roared* "Are not Abana and Pharpar, rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? May I not wash in them and be clean?" but after his *own* men had *reasoned* with him and *calmed him down* he obeyed the word of the prophet. “Then he went down, and dipped himself seven times in Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God: *and his flesh came again like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.* And he returned to the man of God, *he and all his company*, and came, *and stood before him:* and he said *BEHOLD, now I know that there is no God in all the earth, but in Israel*”.



The River Jordan

Naaman was so *awestruck* by the experience he had had, so *overwhelmed* by all that had *happened* to him that he immediately rushed back to the man of God who had so hugely offended him and said *Look at me! Now I KNOW there IS no God in all the World, but in Israel!* This was no *ordinary* cleansing of a leper, others had been healed of leprosy before, the Laws of Moses contained instructions about offerings to be made in that eventuality, but the Lord God of Israel had done something *truly remarkable* for Naaman, he had not only been *healed* but he had been *renewed...not just in his flesh* but also *in his spirit!* The Scripture tells us *"his flesh became again as the flesh of a little child..."* Naaman had clearly been *totally changed* as he immersed himself in the River Jordan that day. Until that moment Naaman had never even thought of himself *as a sinner*, but as a man serving his King and his Nation, but *each time* he had immersed himself in the cleansing, baptismal waters of the River Jordan *a little more of himself* had been revealed to him, *his life, who he was, who God was, his sin, his unrighteousness ...HE ERUPTED from that water the seventh time full of JOY, healed, cleansed and RENEWED...forever changed by his Revelation of God!*

Naaman took his whole Company back with him and stood before them and before Elisha and declared himself a true believer in the Living God of Israel! This was a HUGE thing for Naaman and something that would have enormous repercussions for him, for his King and for Syria! He sought to bless Elisha with many gifts but Elisha refused them all, then Naaman asked for two mule-loads of the sacred soil of Israel to take back to Syria with him. He had been so moved by the RIGHTEOUSNESS and PURITY of the God he now knew that he would not even offer a burnt offering or a sacrifice to Him on the pagan soil of his own country, and he vowed that he would never again offer any kind of burnt offering or sacrifice to any other gods but unto the Lord! His words and actions here are sure signs of humility and a repentant heart!

Another matter of conscience troubled Naaman as a direct result of his revelation of The Living God of Israel for his next words to Elisha were “In this thing the Lord pardon thy servant, that when my master goeth into the house of Rimmon to worship there, and he leaneth on my hand, and I bow myself in the house of Rimmon: when I bow myself down in the house of Rimmon, the Lord pardon thy servant in this thing”. And he [Elisha] said unto him “Go in peace.” Elisha knew God had done a miraculous work in the heart of Naaman that day, he knew that the man who wouldn’t even offer a sacrifice to God on the soil of his PAGAN land would ALSO find himself UNABLE to bow to Rimmon in his pagan temple...NOT for his King OR his Country!

This is a remarkable story in many different ways. There were MANY lepers in Israel in those days yet God chose to heal a notorious enemy of theirs, RIGHT THERE ON THEIR VERY OWN SOIL...the same enemy who had defeated them time and time again in all their recent skirmishes! It was a clear demonstration of His Supreme Sovereignty and Power, and also a TANGIBLE SIGN of His Displeasure to His backslidden people, but even in this He STILL also showed them His Grace and Mercy. By healing Naaman and revealing Himself to him He had severely handicapped the Syrian Army, for we never again read of Naaman leading the Syrian Host or attacking those he now knew to be the children of the Living God of Israel! Rather ironically the King of Israel had feared the Syrian King would attack him if he didn’t heal Naaman, but it appears that the irate King attacked Israel anyway because Naaman HAD been healed...but he had also been totally TRANSFORMED!

As we have already noted Naaman had seen and acknowledged that he was a sinful and unrighteous man, and that he was aware that through his miraculous conversion in the cleansing waters of River Jordon he had received Gods' Forgiveness for his sins, *but he then sought through Elisha absolution for FUTURE sins he might be forced to commit in the service of his King and Country.* Those in the Armed Forces today who feel forced to betray their *own* consciences and beliefs **are not necessarily condemned, not necessarily 'forever cursed'** as the words of 'The Call' acknowledges that some might feel...GOD KNOWS AND SEES ALL THINGS. The REASON they hurt, the REASON they bleed is because of their Service to their Nation. There is a reason for everything they are called upon to do, but there is no 'Carte Blanche' for sin. If God calls you *out* of a situation you *must* obey. Only God can address and minister to the problems of conscience and all the pains arising in the hearts of so many through the performance of their duties. Soldiers should no more be held accountable for their leaders' wrong decisions than the people of the Nation itself are, providing of course it is not an evil in their own hearts too. This is where the humility, compassion and indeed the humanity of the individual comes into play, in the way he carries out or enforces those commands, with kindness or brutality? **Where he draws the line reflects his humanity, his calling, his accountability to God, for that is what reflects his own heart but all matters of conscience are in Gods Realm, and not ours to judge. The most important thing for ALL believers who serve in the Armed Forces IS TO HOLD ONTO AND HEED the following words of Scripture: "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not to thine own understanding . In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths."** Proverbs 3:5/6 The Holy Bible [King James Version]

We must be guided by Him in *all* things, but *particularly* things pertaining to the *lives and deaths of others*. You will either have peace in your heart about a certain situation or you *won't*. God *whispers* to our spirits. ***He does not bellow, but we have to learn to listen, and to heed that still small voice crying out to us from within our own spirits, for that is the Voice of God.***



Open Doors

I used to be afraid of God,
Afraid that He might see
The many pains within my heart
As sins between Him and me;
But then He made me realize
It was not His will to judge,
But that He'd rather heal with love,
Any hidden hurt or grudge,
And as I slowly yielded
Those secret parts of me,
I found that He could heal them all,
And inside – *I was free!*

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Many men and women join the Services for far from Godly reasons. Sometimes it is because of a desperate need to '*belong*' to something, *be a part of something*, where someone will *know* them, where someone might actually even *care* about them. It is a terrible indictment of our modern society when so many people in even our most crowded cities *feel so dreadfully ALONE...that nobody CARES*. Well, God ALWAYS cares! He ALWAYS sees, and He ALWAYS knows *everything* that's going on in our hearts and minds! **There are no 'misfits' in Gods' Eyes, simply those who have yet to reach out to Him and understand He's there, waiting.**

It is because people in the Armed Forces are in such a crucial position to influence the World *for evil or good* that they are subjected to *enormous temptations* of various kinds, particularly those commonly referred to as the 'sins of the flesh'. With our modern World being the way it is, all too many people now regard viewing pornographic material as a relatively trivial or harmless pursuit, *but it is neither, it corrupts the body and soul in ways we cannot even begin to understand.* It is absolutely *crucial* that Christians have nothing to do with pornography, it erodes *everything* that is moral and decent in the heart of man. Christ said "...out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications... *these are the things which defile a man.*" [Matt 15:19/20] In the Sermon on the Mount He said "Blessed are the *PURE* in heart for they shall see God". There is *nothing PURE* about Pornography! Many become *addicted* to it, some find it *considerably LESSENS* their desire for their wives or husbands which in and of itself *quite understandably* creates *HUGE* problems within their marriages, *most of which are already under more than enough pressure!*

As those who have seen Battle know all too well *you cannot UN-SEE something you have SEEN no matter how much you may want to...it's impossible!* In a War-zone you cannot possibly *PROTECT YOURSELF* from appalling, obscene or even gruesome sights, but in your office or home, on your TV, your cell-phone or your Computer you generally CAN. *The choice is YOURS...as are the consequences.* The Apostle Paul says "Ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God *in your body, and in your spirit...*" [I Cor 6:20 KJV]

Consecration

Oh Lord, it hurts to deny the flesh,
Those things that are part of me,
But beckon me down a different path
From the one You would have me see.
But as Your Flesh was crucified,
So crucify I mine,
That I may in some way give my thanks
For Your Sacrifice sublime.

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In closing, I would like to take this opportunity to thank not only the men and women who sacrifice so much in the service of their Nations but their families too. Wars don't only affect the men and women who fight in them, they also have a huge daily impact on the hearts and lives of the families they leave behind, those who have to pick up the shattered remnants of the survivors who *do* make it back, **because although some may emerge from Battle with their *bodies* intact, their *minds* are often permanently affected by the horrors they have both witnessed *and* endured – horrors they seldom share with their loved ones but keep locked up inside themselves where they *never* heal, *never* go away. Time heals *nothing*, love, understanding, compassion *and* *treatment* - not only of their *physical* injuries, but their mental and spiritual ones too, *does* help, *but ONLY God can TRULY heal the heart and spirit of man.***

It is an inevitable fact that men and women in the Armed Forces compartmentalize different, important aspects of their lives, and at times even aspects of their humanity, *they have to, it's the only way they can do what they have to do*. This unfortunately means that their loved ones sometimes feel secondary or *unimportant* to that person but that is simply not true. Their loyalties *are* inevitably *divided* at times – *it's a pain that both they and their families have to learn to live with, but it's not easy on either side*. It is hard to accept that the Call to Military Life comes *FIRST*, and the family second, and children of members of the Armed Forces sometimes find themselves *TORN* between love and what, *because of their pain at feeling side-lined*, can almost feel like *hatred* of the Enlisted parent. This is why *the whole family* needs the love and support of their *entire* community: knowing *we* understand and appreciate their sacrifices, their difficulties and are prepared *to help, to be there for them when their loved ones can't be*, makes all the difference in the World to them! This *cannot* be left *only* to the various organisations within the Services themselves, *we all* need to step up to the plate to help those who are serving our **Nation**. Sometimes Servicemen and women are so *damaged* by what they have seen and experienced during their tours of duty *THEY HAVE NOTHING LEFT TO GIVE physically or emotionally when they DO get back*, and this is perhaps the hardest part of all for their loved ones to bear, the feeling they can't *reach* them, *touch* them, *help* them. *It is particularly during those times that we need to pray for them and extend a helping hand because only God can truly help, only God can reach, touch AND HEAL the enormous emotional damage done during those times*. We all need God in our lives, particularly those who serve their Nations in these difficult, and dangerous ways, they need Him to maintain any kind of *balance, humanity and normality* in their *extraordinarily difficult lives*.

The following poem is dedicated to all who serve, and also their families who serve with them. May it encourage, strengthen and guide all of you when you need it most. Remember, He is there for you just as He was for me during all *my* most difficult times...if I'd only *known* just to *reach out* to Him!

Sylvia Darling



The Wonder Of His Love

God, I sometimes feel hesitant,
Afraid to speak to You,
Yet I know there is no need.
No matter what I've done,
No matter how I've sinned,
You're always there,
Reaching out Your Eternal Hand to me.
How can I begin to understand
The depth Of One always ready to Forgive?
Ungrudgingly and with Love,
You always draw me close to You.

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Thy Word Is Truth!

**Thy Word is Truth Oh Lord! The
Light for those that read it,
The Revelation for those that understand it,
Your Love envelops all that embrace it,
Thy Word is Truth Oh Lord!**

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*For those who have read, been touched by **and understood** the message of this Website the way is clear and easily understood. God is REAL, His Word The Holy Bible is TRUTH, literal truth that mankind has yet to fully understand.*

*Years of theological study do not open up or reveal Gods' Word to us, His Holy Spirit does, but that takes prayer, commitment **and a pure heart** before God. If you TRULY want to find a better way, **His Way**, make a commitment to God TODAY... just between yourself and God, no-one else.*

*There is an area on this page, a click space, a button, call it what you will – it registers NOWHERE except as a tangible sign to you that today you have made a decision, today will be a time of change in your life. GOD will know that in *your heart* you have *seen and heard*, and become a True Believer In The Living God Of Israel. Begin YOUR journey, Hand in Hand with Him today.*

God Bless You!

I Believe...Thy Word IS Truth!

Sylvia Darling

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