

A Veteran's Moundsville Miracle

By:

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Since tomorrow is Veterans Day, I couldn't think of a better time to share this special healing miracle.

A replica of the Vietnam War Memorial in Washington, D.C. was scheduled to be brought to Moundsville, WV, on August 22 through the August 26, 2012. The Pastoral Care Team for the event contacted the local Gideon Camp to distribute Bibles and give testimonies. Gideons from all over West Virginia responded by taking their turn covering the event. WV Gideons distributed 4,135 New Testaments plus numerous Bible Tracts.

The week before the Memorial Wall's visit I ministered at a local homeless shelter. I asked the residents there to agree with me in prayer that the Veterans who attended would find closure to their haunting memories of that war as well as help in forgiving those who had treated the returning veterans disrespectfully.

Suddenly one of the men at the Bible Study began to sob openly. Bill collected himself just enough to cry out, "I was there! You don't know what I've done! God can never forgive me!"

The Bible Study group thanked Bill for his service to our country and apologized for the disrespectful behavior on the part of some. The whole experience was emotional for all of us to say the least. Unfortunately, as hard as we tried Bill could not be convinced of God's forgiveness.

Bill accepted an invitation to come along with me to view the wall the following Thursday. Bill and I arrived early to set up the Gideon signs and materials. I pointed out one very special sign that I had printed scripture on. The scripture was from Micah 7:19, "He will again have compassion on us, and will subdue our iniquities. You will cast all our sins into the depth of the sea."

I then looked squarely at Bill and spoke very sharply to him, "Who do you think you are? God has forgiven you and you won't forgive Bill? Just who do you think you are?"

I was shocked at my own forcefulness in posing the question. Bill remained speechless for several minutes. The next thing Bill said was, "I'm going to walk The Wall." I knew in the Spirit what Bill was up to. He was going to walk The Wall to find other veterans and share the Good News of God's Forgiveness.

Now walking for Bill takes great effort. He had been hospitalized five weeks earlier for the treatment of blood clots and swelling in one of his legs. That didn't stop Bill though. He was on an assignment from the Lord. Bill returned an hour and one half later flashing a huge grin. I only had one question. "Bill how many veterans did you minister to? Bill held up five fingers and said, "Five."

Many of our veterans are carrying tremendous burdens. They have seen terrible things and been involved in the unimaginable. We as the church have an obligation to reduce that burden. No longer can we let the lies of Satan deceive them into thinking that they cannot be forgiven. What they have gone through in war itself is bad enough without the paralyzing belief that they are forever doomed to eternity in hell.

I encourage your church to develop a special ministry for veterans. We have so many returning home and they will need ministry. I do not want to find them needlessly serving jail sentences, living in homeless shelters, or committing suicide. We are the arms and feet of Jesus and we need to embrace ALL of our brave soldiers. The American Association of Christian Counselors provides excellent information about ministry to soldiers at www.militaryministry.org.

I would also like to take this opportunity to invite you to consider joining the Gideons. You've probably found our Bibles in hospitals or hotels. You may have even received your own small Bible as a child from us. Please contact me at jwloew@gmail.com