

### Volume III, Section 3.4

The work on the basic website upgrade is mostly complete at this point. It is our desire that the "New Face" of 2nd Thief is even more user friendly and that the message of God's "Grace in Action" resonates with those who visit with us. Tim's handiwork is inspired and he has been ever diligent during this process. He is a man who truly "redeems the time." He and his lovely wife LeaAnn are in the process of enhancing their riding skills by taking a motorcycle safety course offered in the area. They also are the proud owners of a brand new Harley Davidson Sportster 1200 Low. It is very exciting to know that we will be taking lots of rides together "Declaring the Good News...On Two Wheels."

In April we will be preaching a Palm Sunday Message at Evergreen Community Church. Two of the 2nd Thief Riders will also be guest speakers at St. Michael's Episcopal Church in Colonial Heights, VA on 4/21/07 at 3:00 pm. Come join with them as they share an encouraging word on God's love and grace that He has for us all in abundance. The Riders will be participating in a fundraising effort on 4/28/07 at the Franconia Fire Department in Fairfax County, VA. Registration starts at 10:00 am and the bike show starts at 12:00 pm. This event is to raise money for families staying at the Fisher House who are visiting their wounded soldiers at Walter Reed Army Medical Facility. For further information click on the following link:

<http://www.motorcycleevents.com/calendar.php?cmd=detail&id=14090>

We also have been invited back to speak for a third time this year with the AWANA's meeting at the Warrenton Bible Fellowship. The date and time for this presentation is May 7th, 2007 at 7:00 pm. There is talk of trying to get one of the motorcycles inside the church. It will be interesting...stay tuned.

The Riders continue to explore the possibility of sponsoring a Sunday "Field" Service with Worship Music and a Message during the "Snowshoe 2007 Freedom Fest, West Virginia's Motorcycle Touring Rally." The Rally will be held from 7/11/07 through 7/15/07 and you can check it out at the following:

[http://www.snowshoefreedomfest.com/.](http://www.snowshoefreedomfest.com/)

There are lots of great roads to be ridden in that area of WV and the Riders should know because we've ridden them. So come join with us and be encouraged with some great Worship Music and a Message declaring God's Love for all of us on 7/15/07. What better way to thank Him for a great Rally.

I want to switch gears now to honor my oldest son Jake who recently shipped off to the Marine Corps. To say that our family (and all who know him) is proud of his decision to serve his country is an understatement in the extreme. He arrived at this "Godly Decision" through a very tried and true process. He prayed over it, confirmed it with God's Word, sought Godly counsel and finally discerned that the circumstances of his life were favorable for it.

To do this he had to "walk away" from a high paying job. He did it because he knew it wasn't God's best for him. Jake's gifting and passion was with the Marines and he knew that was where he could best serve God. I admire him for not selling out for money, a title, weekends off or any other thing that would keep him out of the "sweet spot" of his God-given



giftings.

Anyone who is even remotely familiar with the Marines understands that "Boot Camp" is very challenging and not all who start finish. The first phase of training is designed to weed out the "wannabe's" from those who truly desire to earn the "Eagle, Globe and Anchor." We received a 10 second phone call at Midnight the night he first arrived there. It went something like, "This is Marine Recruit Jake. I have arrived safely. You will receive correspondence from me in 5-7 days"...click.

This is the beginning of a great adventure for him. We have been corresponding back and forth by handwritten letters (no emails, IM's, Text Messaging or cell phone calls). Originally this process was designed to be an encouragement for him, but it ended up encouraging me as well. I was led to include one of those letters in this installment of the Byline (a Father's prerogative):

March 7, 2007

Jake,

How proud I am that you heard clearly the call of our Heavenly Father on you life and you obeyed. When I answered your phone call the other night I heard the "disquietedness" in your voice. Rest assured that is to be expected with any change of direction in life and particularly when you are involved in such a great undertaking. The way back to peace is to give the circumstances of your life to Him right away. He is training you up for His purposes and is allowing the Marines to "assist" Him (an honor for the Marines to be sure).

["Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you. Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour."](#) 1 Peter 5:6-8 NKJV

You can be assured that much prayer for you (Alex and Josh too) is being brought before Him to strengthen, protect and fill you with the joy of His presence during this time of great adventure. He has awakened me (thanks bro) at various times in the night to pray for you. This then continues during the day as He lays you upon my heart. Monica, the kids and all who know you and love you are praying. These prayers are so urgent and intense (and sometimes extremely joyous) that at various points you must have experienced the reality of them.

I love you Jake in Christ and as your father. Many thanks have been given to our Heavenly Father for allowing us to be together as a family. The Marines are blessed that He has chosen to place you within their ranks and work through you to His Glory while "assigned" to them.

["You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier \[Paul would have chosen "Marine" if they had been in existence as there is no finer example to bring home the point of this verse\]."](#) 2 Timothy 2:3-4 NKJV

Don't forget the truth of the Scripture. Don't forget how much He, we and others love you. Don't forget people are praying for you. Don't forget that this is but for a season, to prepare you for greater things.

**Do Remember:**

["If God is for us, who can be against us?"](#) Romans 8:31 NKJV

["Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us."](#) Romans 8:37 NKJV

["I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."](#) Philippians 4:13 NKJV

It is a heady and glorious thing to be a Marine..."But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen." 2 Peter 3:18 NKJV

Love and Godspeed Warrior Son

Dad

PS – God is amazing! After writing this letter I read the TGIF published today on 2nd Thief and am including it for reasons that will be obvious. Remember the words prayed over you when we had your "Shipping Out Party" at our home. Love you!

### **Living for a Cause Greater Than Yourself**

By Os Hillman

[I can do everything through Him who gives me strength.](#) Philippians 4:13

In the thirteenth century a man named William Wallace became the instrument of freedom from England's tyranny over Scotland. A very wicked king ruled England. A tragedy in the life of William Wallace launched him into living for this cause. Initially his cause was revenge, but soon his cause turned to something bigger than himself - freedom for a nation. When he challenged the commoners to fight for this freedom, they responded that the enemy was too great and that they might die on the battlefield. They also refused to fight for the nobles, the knights and leaders who had a vested interest in gaining more land for themselves versus a pure cause of freedom. Wallace's response: "Yes, we might die. We will all die sooner or later. But we will die for a cause worth dying for. So that our children and their children might live in freedom." This story was popularized in the movie Brave Heart (Sherman Oaks, California: Paramount Pictures, 1995).

Today we find many Christian workplace believers living a status quo relationship with God that is more characterized as "business as usual" than a life demonstrating God's power. Our focus is often more concerned with improving our standard of living than improving the Kingdom of God through our circle of influence. While this takes place, millions upon millions die without the saving grace of Christ. Many other Christians die never experiencing the freedom in Christ that His blood paid for. God has called each of us to live for a cause greater than ourselves - a life that is dependent on His grace and power to achieve things we never thought possible through our lives. This is His plan for your life. The apostle Paul prayed that He might experience the power of the resurrection in his life. This power is available to you and me to live for a cause greater than ourselves. Ask God what He wants to achieve through your life today. And consider yourself dead already to the consequences of what that might mean for you.

Semper Fidelis and Godspeed.

Preacher