

YELLOW RIBBON MINISTRY NEWSLETTER



Volume 4, Issue 1

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TOGETHER IN SCRIPTURE READING:

This month the book of Second Peter

Forgiveness: An Exercise in Christ-Likeness

Note from Colonel Steve Martin: *Last month, Deborah and I attended a service at the Durham Rescue Mission. Todd and Tammy Huskey, members of our Yellow Ribbon Ministry, were participating in this particular Sunday service. Tammy sang beautifully and then Todd gave the gospel message on forgiveness. Todd's illustration of forgiveness ministered to me and I asked him to provide the opening for our newsletter this month.*

A popular story has originated out of the Revolutionary War. As with most any stories passed down, it's entirely possible that events surrounding this story could have been embellished and/or diluted over time. A good amount of research reveals this story is worth sharing as understood to be true.

During the Revolutionary War, there lived in Pennsylvania a Pastor by the name of Peter Miller. Peter Miller had been the minister at the German Reformed church at Goshenhoppen in Germantown. Under various influences, Miller eventually rejected the more conventional principles of the Reformed Church and decided to leave the church. Michael Widman became the new minister. He took Miller's defection personally. Widman spat in Miller's face whenever

they met, tripped him on the local footpaths, and at least once punched Peter Miller. Michael Widman earned a reputation for his hatred and abuse to the minister. Michael Widman also owned the local tavern and through a series of events became a traitor to his country, was convicted of treason, and was sentenced to death.

The trial was conducted in Philadelphia and no sooner did Miller hear of the conviction that he set out on foot to visit General Washington. Peter Miller and the General were no strangers as George Washington knew of Peter Miller and, as with many other leaders and scholars in the Colonies, revered his teachings. Peter Miller interceded for Michael Widman and requested a pardon for the man's life.

Washington told him, "I'm sorry that I cannot grant your request for your friend." "FRIEND?" replied Miller "...Why, that man is the worst enemy I have in the world, but my religion teaches me to pray for those that spitefully use me." Moved by the teacher's argument that Jesus had done as much for him, Washington granted Widman's pardon. The pardon was made out and signed by General Washington, and Mil-



Guest Columnist:
Todd Huskey, Sgt,
US Army (Retired)

ler proceeded at once on foot to a place approximately 15 miles away where the execution was to take place later that day. Miller arrived just as the man was being carried to the scaffold, and when Widman saw Miller hurrying toward the place, he remarked, "There's old Pete Miller. He has walked all this way from Ephrata to have his revenge gratified today by seeing me hung!"

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

MILITARY TERMS, ABBREVIATIONS, AND ACRONYMS



- **MOS:** Military Occupational Specialty
- **NCO:** Non-Commissioned Officer (a soldier with two or more stripes on his/her sleeve)
- **Ordinance Corps:** branch of the Army concerned with vehicles and ammunition
- **Short-timer:** military slang defining a soldier who only has a short time to go before reassignment or discharge

Inside this issue:

Military Terms, Abbreviations, and Acronyms	1
Meet the Military: Phil Wagher (conclusion)	2
A New Year's Prayer	2
Q & A: Servicemembers' Civil Relief Act	3
Here's Why: "Gung-Ho"	3
Information Websites/Resources and Contacts	4

PRAY FOR OUR DEPLOYED MEMBERS

- Justin Zinke (nephew of Mr. & Mrs. Brian Boehme)
- Justin C. Eldreth (grandson-in-law of Mr. Phil Wagher)

NEW YEAR — NEW LOOK

EDITOR'S NOTE: We decided to spruce things up with the new year and update the look of the YRM Newsletter. We hope you continue to enjoy it. Let us know if you know someone who is not on our mailing list, but whom you'd like to receive this newsletter via email.



Phil Wagher: Salt of the Earth

(conclusion)

Article by Don King

Editor's Note: The terms used in the Military Terms and Abbreviations section in this issue all come from this story.

There are a couple of corrections to the part I installment from last month. First of all, Phil Wagher was born in 1936, not 1934. Secondly, as Don King mentioned to me, "I got [Phil's] promotions turned around (between the time he served and 1959 when I joined, the Army, in their wisdom, switched the Specialist ranks around)... He was promoted to SP3 (E4), then to SP2(E5)." And now, the conclusion.

Phil and Betty, his wife of fifty-three years who was much loved by all of us, had met while Phil was still in high school. She had been dating one of his friends and they had double-dated on several occasions, when, he says, "It just seemed to both of us that we were dating the wrong person." They corresponded all the time he was in the Army, and on September 21, 1958, they were married.

Betty was a Christian when they met, having been saved as a young girl, and in 1961 Phil was saved, when he fell under the influence of a Sunday School teacher, Paul Hummel, "who not only taught the Bible, but believed it." This, of course, also followed his falling under the influence of Betty.

Phil went to work for Outboard Marine Corporation in Galesburg right after his discharge in

1957, putting his mechanical skills to good use, and was eventually given the opportunity to get into accounting, which became his life's career. He explained that he learned a lot through on-the-job training and took some college courses, but learned the most through correspondence courses from the International Accounting Society, based in Chicago. He worked there for about 27 years, advancing to Senior Accountant.

During that period, he also ran a small farm of about 40 acres, with fifteen under cultivation (corn and soybeans) and a small herd of beef cattle. His routine was to switch from shirt and tie in the daytime to overalls in the evening, doing everything from crop and animal tending to machinery maintenance and repairs.

Then in 1984, at about age 49, with three kids, Outboard Marine went out of business. The local unemployment rate was around 14%. Their oldest daughter was living in Raleigh, and he learned that the unemployment rate was much lower here, so they sold the farm, loaded everything they owned into a Ryder truck and moved, with no job prospects and total faith in the Lord to provide. Galesburg's loss was our gain.

Phil found a job as a security guard at Glaxo, Inc, and Betty went to work in the office of the

Marriott Hotel. Since their daughter was attending Friendship at that time, they had no problem in finding a church home and have been happy here ever since. Within a couple of years, Phil had become the church's accountant and Betty had landed a job with Merrill Lynch, where she spent over twenty years.

When Jesus spoke of the salt of the earth (Matt 5:13), He was talking about Phil Wagher. Phil consistently and faithfully did his duty as both Soldier and Citizen, supported and encouraged through good times and not-so-good times by Betty, the love of his life. He has been a quiet but positive influence, asset and role model to everyone with whom he's come in contact; unassuming, humble, depending upon the Lord and always doing the very best he can with what he has. It is a great deal, and we're blessed to have him in our midst.



Sgt. Phil Wagher,
US Army (Ret.)

"Phil Wagher ... consistently and faithfully did his duty as both Soldier and Citizen..."

A New Year's Prayer

(anonymous)

May God make your year a happy one!

Not by shielding you from all sorrows and pain,

But by strengthening you to bear it, as it comes;

Not by making your path easy,

But by making you sturdy to travel any path;

Not by taking hardships from you,

But by taking fear from your heart;

Not by granting you unbroken sunshine,

But by keeping your face bright, even in the shadows;

Not by making your life always pleasant,

But by showing you when people

and causes need you most,

and by making you anxious to be there to help.

God's love, peace, hope and joy to you for the year ahead.



HAPPY ★ NEW ★ YEAR

Question & Answer

(by Matthew B. Tulley, *Military Times*)

Question: I am a reservist, and my call for deployment just came. How do I use my Servicemembers' Civil Relief Act benefits on the front end?

Answer: From the time reservists or recruits receive their active-duty orders to when they report for military service, several SCRA provisions are immediately made available to them. The primary benefit is that SCRA can stop court proceedings and void judgments, attachments and garnishments. Reservists also have the right to cancel certain residential and motor vehicle leases and cellular phone contracts without costly penalties. Knowing that these rights are available to you is not enough. In most cases, you have to assert them. For example, to stop a legal proceeding for 90 days or more the reservist or his commanding officer needs to send a

formal letter to the court or administrative entity holding the proceeding to assert SCRA protections. The letter must detail how the reservist's military obligations affect his ability to appear at the proceeding and state when he will be available to appear.

When service members are ordered to active duty for at least 90 days, they can cancel leases for residential, professional, business and agricultural property occupied by either them or their dependents. For the termination of personal or commercial motor vehicle leases, the minimum deployment is extended to 180 days. To break either type of lease, a service member must notify the lessor or the lessor's agent in writing, delivered by hand, private business carrier or via regular mail. The service member has 15 days to return the car to the proper party after

sending the termination notice.

The 1999 case involving Col. Debra Bean, vice commander for the 78th Air Base Wing at Robins Air Force Base, GA., highlights the legwork that goes into securing SCRA benefits on the front end of a deployment. After the military ordered Bean to relocate from Virginia to Georgia, she sent a SCRA termination notice to her landlord, who later refused to return her security deposit.

Recognizing the denial of the colonel's SCRA rights, the Justice Department intervened on her behalf and reached a \$5,600 settlement with the landlord. It was the Justice Department's first landlord-tenant case under SCRA, and it emphasized that service members must be aggressive and diligent to ensure they receive the protections to which they are entitled.



For more info visit:
www.fedattorney.com

Here's Why: "Gung-Ho"

(from linguist Albert Moe)

Editor's Note: Have you ever wondered where the term "Gung-Ho" came from? It's a slang term used in the United States and other English-speaking countries to mean dedicated or enthusiastic. Its roots are found in USMC slang.

The term "Gung-Ho" is actually an Anglicized pronunciation of the Chinese term "gong he", which is the shortened version of the slogan used by the Chinese Industrial Cooperatives (more commonly known and abbreviated in English as INDUSCO). The two Chinese characters forming the term "Gung-Ho" are translated individually as "work" and "together" but they do not form an official phrase.

The linguist Albert Moe studied both the origin and the usage in English. In a 1967 article in *American Speech* (for the American Dialect Society), he concludes that the term is an "Americanism that is derived from the Chinese, but its several accepted American meanings have no resemblance whatever

to the recognized meaning in the original language" and that its "various linguistic uses, as they have developed in the United States, have been peculiar to American speech." In Chinese, concludes Moe, "...this is neither a slogan nor a battle cry; it is only a name for an organization."

The term was picked up by United States Marine Corps Major Evans Carlson from his New Zealand friend, Rewi Alley, one of the founders of the Chinese Industrial Cooperatives. Carlson explained in a 1943 interview: "I was trying to build up the same sort of working spirit I had seen in China where all the soldiers dedicated themselves to one idea and worked together to put that idea over. I told the boys about it again and again. I told them of the motto of the Chinese Cooperatives, Gung Ho. It means Work Together-Work in Harmony...."

Later Carlson used gung ho during his (unconventional)

command of the 2nd Marine Raider Battalion. From there it spread throughout the U.S. Marine Corps (hence the association between the two), where it was used as an expression of spirit and into American society as a whole when the phrase became the title of a 1943 war film, *Gung Ho!*, about the 2nd Raider Battalion's raid on Makin Island in 1942.

Outside of America the term is also used to describe a careless but quick approach.

Source: Adapted from an article by an anonymous author found in the e-Notes.com study website.



"The two Chinese characters forming the term 'Gung-Ho' are translated individually as 'work' and 'together' ..."

AT LEFT: Movie poster for the referenced war film

THIS MONTH IN MILITARY HISTORY:

CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

Friendship Baptist Church
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Phone: (919) 876-0585
E-mail: fbcmail@fbcweb.net
Web Site: www.fbcweb.net

COLONEL STEVE AND DEBORAH MARTIN

Phone: (919) 571-4378
E-mail: sdmartin@nc.rr.com

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS:

- Therry Johnson - 10
- Ethan Stewart - 11
- Dan Reece - 13
- Chase Vradenburgh - 17
- Lorre Hayden - 19
- Joel Harris - 28
- Joe Perez - 29

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES:

- Chase/Miranda Vradenburgh - 1
- Dan/Becky Reece - 31
- Steve/Deborah Martin - 17

1 Jan 1937 - US Army Air Corps physiological research laboratory completed in Ohio

2 Jan 1776 - First American flag displayed

5 Jan 1875 - Cdr Edward Lull, US Navy, begins survey of canal route across Panama

9 Jan 1942 - President Roosevelt (FDR) establishes the Joint Chiefs of Staff

11 Jan 1991 - Congress authorizes President G.H.W. Bush to undertake offensive operations against Iraq

15 Jan 1997 - Dr Jerry Lineger, Capt, USN, joins MIR via Space Shuttle Atlantis

17 Jan 1955 - USS Nautilus underway on nuclear power

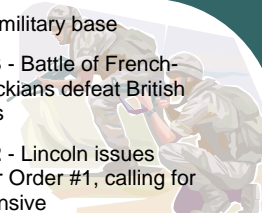
20 Jan 1887 - US Senate approves lease of Pearl Harbor in

Hawaii as a military base

22 Jan 1813 - Battle of Frenchtown: Kentuckians defeat British & Canadians

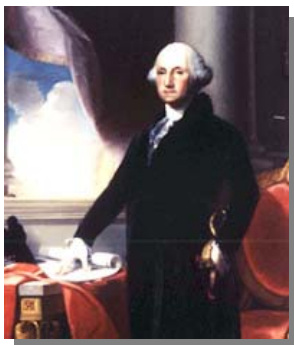
26 Jan 1862 - Lincoln issues General War Order #1, calling for a Union offensive

29 Jan 1944 - US Navy begins a series of air strikes on Japanese bases in the Marshal Islands



Forgiveness

Scarcely had he spoken the words when Miller pushed his way through the crowd to the condemned man and handed him the pardon that saved his life.



George Washington with Widmon's pardon

This is true forgiveness. It's been documented that General Washington went on later to pardon others in the same fashion, probably because of the distinct influence Peter Miller had on him. Colonial records show that Michael Widman was punished; however, he was not hung.

This story somewhat parallels the ultimate example of forgiveness that we as Christians have experienced when Jesus Christ pardoned us. Peter Miller is a picture of our Savior Jesus Christ in that He is our advocate with the Father (1 John 2:1) Peter Miller went on the behalf of the one that couldn't help himself. Mr. Widman is a picture

(continued from page 1)

of us as sinners in that we have sinned against and have offended a Holy God and by no means do we deserve a pardon. Peter Miller went out of his way for someone that didn't deserve it. Jesus Christ went out of his way to do for us what we couldn't do for ourselves.

The similarities sort of stop there in that Christ went even farther than Peter Miller. Jesus Christ not only pardoned us from our offense, but he paid the punishment that we owed. That's the ultimate in forgiveness. It's been said that we are never more like Christ than when we forgive. May we all become ones that forgive as our Savior has forgiven us!!

"And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."
Ephesians 4:32

Prayer Notes, Event Announcements

from Colonel Martin

NEW YEAR GOALS:

I am anxiously looking forward to what the Lord has in store for us during 2012. As a ministry, I would like for us to reach out to more of our veterans and military family members of Friendship Christian School. My goal for this year is to develop a Yellow Ribbon Ministry website to be a ready reserve of information that we put out to all of our members each month. More than ever, the contributions of our veterans are being recognized not only by the civilian population, but within the government as well. The Veterans Administration continually comes up with new programs to assist our veterans and I want to have that information readily available to our members.



Sgt. Chase Vradenburgh, United States Army

SPECIAL EVENT:

On Sunday, January 15, 2012, we will recognize the recent promotion of Chase Vradenburgh in an event following the evening service. Chase's family and friends were unable to be present during his promotion and this will be an excellent opportunity for all to wish him well.

PRAYER NOTES:

Let's keep all of our active military members in our prayers as we start this year. Declining budgets will bring about a lot of hard changes in our military construct. Let's all pray that our President, Congress, and Department of Defense leadership exercise wisdom in their choices.

