

ROEVER

foundation

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Gimme the ball, Coach

By Dave Roever

After USC lost 51-0 to Notre Dame, John McKay's post-game message to his team was, "All those who need showers, take them."

It is not possible to win the fight in life's arena without getting dirty. We are in a spiritual war across the nation today. Suicide is no longer a whisper on the lips of someone we don't know. It is close to home and affecting us daily.

We lost one of our warriors recently to the demons of darkness. The major was devastated in Iraq in an injury that caused immeasurable TBI (Traumatic Brain Injury), and PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder). It devastated his family as one can well imagine. Years of suffering and the loss of mental and physical ability to function normally took its toll. He took his life. Compared to the hurt inflicted on his family, any effect on me is inconsequential.

Yet, I hurt as well.

This organization poured into him as well as to thousands of other vets who were horribly injured in war. We daily fight the good fight to support them in emotional, martial, social, physical and, above all, spiritual means to find their way home.

I failed him.

It hurts to admit that. I have lost a total of five over the eleven years of ministry to over 5,000 warriors in our Operation Warrior Reconnect programs.

I take it personally.

Did I miss the warning signs?

I know, all too well, the words of comfort and consolation, "You can't win them all," or, "You win some and you lose some." But for me, it is still devastating.

If you visit my office and take one step across the threshold and turn right, you will see sitting on the top of the bookshelf, unavoidable to the eye, the picture of one of my guys, a warrior from Iraq. He was standing in conversation with his commander, and after a somewhat long visit, he turned and walked away. After about fifty feet or so, he glanced back to see the captain to whom he had been conversing take one step away from where the dialogue took place.

One step! One moment!

Suddenly, there was an explosion as the officer stepped on an enemy land mine and turned into a pink mist in utter destruction.

Vaporized.

The young warrior's picture sits in full view in my office. No matter where I sit I can see his image. He is covered with tattoos from wrist to neck to ankles. Pictures of all the battle buddies he lost to death during his deployment. He commented one day on my war injury and the scars covering my body, saying, "You have your scars covering your body, and I have my ghosts covering mine. We are the same."

"Not in a million years are we the same," I said. "You chose to remember your ghosts in tattoos. Someone else chose mine."

Continued...

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Twenty-two
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Gimme the ball, Coach

Con/t

His search for deliverance and reconnection is ugly. When he is with me, he does well. When he returns to his grandmother's basement, the drugs and alcohol regain their dominance, and he falls into the same old mud pit from whence he came. Until I win him over and see him in full recovery from the hellish effects of war and its memories, I am a failure. I will not give up the effort to win him. His haunting eyes keep me awake at night.

I knew when I started this intervention in human suffering over a decade ago, that Operation Warrior Reconnect would be a dirty, messy job. Getting involved in the lives of so many damaged souls is heartrending. It's not only the physical or emotional injuries that steal the soul from these young, broken heroes. It is the moral injury that sends them to an early grave. When they lose hope, the last line of defense against suicide is lost.

One active-duty, military warrior commits suicide every day. Twenty-two a day of our veterans perish...our national treasures.

It's a dirty job, but somebody has to do it. I'm "all in" and with your support we can stem the tide, slow the hemorrhaging, and bring them home...all the way home.

Sorry, I gotta go shower. It's a nasty world out there.

Dave

A GOOD INVESTMENT

Questions might enter your mind about my future in OPERATION WARRIOR RECONNECT. The work I do exceeds the on-campus Eagles Summit Ranches' intervention in the lives and marriages of our injured war heroes. That alone is worthy of a total commitment to catch them in the fall. But, far above and beyond that commitment is the work I do with the active-duty military across the globe. As I serve those who serve, where they serve, I cannot imagine a more comprehensive partnership than your support by allowing me to go to where you cannot. But, I cannot go without your funding.

Trust is the fulcrum that this relationship rests upon. My history in ministry has a track record of integrity... In Iraq, I have held the wounded in my arms as they took their last breath and "bagged and tagged" the dead in Vietnam. I have endured 57 operations recovering from personal injury at the hands of my enemy who put me in the cross hairs of his scope and pulled the trigger. I spoke for the first commemoration of the Global War on Terror at West Point Military Academy in 2002 and the last commemoration in Kabul, Afghanistan in 2014. I have addressed over 7 million students in public schools. And, now, our online GLOBAL/REAP University (Bible college) has over 70,000 students in 30 nations.

My point? When you sow into this ministry you are planting hope for the future in what may well be "the last generation." Your ROI (Return on Investment) is not only in the satisfaction that you have carried the broken across the finish line, but you have made an investment with eternal benefits for yourself and in those in whom you have invested.

Your giving is beyond a blessing. Nothing is more stabilizing to our continuing success than a predictable financial base. Many of you give and do so monthly either by sending a check or by making an online contribution with your credit card. Others support as you have the ability. God bless you all!

However, I would like to encourage you to take advantage of the convenience of giving by setting up an automatic, recurring donation either through your bank or credit card. It's easy and it's convenient.

The lives of so many young people are influenced by this ministry and funded by your hard-earned dollars!
THANK YOU!!!

*WHEN you give to this
ministry, you
WILL NOT get a blanket...
the WARRIOR WILL!*



Love was in the air...



marriage seminar for military couples

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