

Shotgun Blasts



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The Chaplain's Corner

I have some good news and some bad news...

By Ned Moore, Shotgun Chaplain

Ephesians 2:8-10 (NIV)

⁸For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - ⁹not by works, so that no one can boast.

¹⁰For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

And God says, "I keep trying to have a Spiritual relationship with my children - and they keep turning it into religion "

Yeah, yeah, I know. I am an "Official" part of what is commonly known as "Organized Religion". I am Ordained Clergy. Yeah, so - What has that to do with anything real? There are those who will look to me to find out what they should do to make God happy with them. I told one of my Catholic Chaplain friends, "I would rather go direct." He said, "Yeah, me too. I am just here for those who do not yet believe they can do so as well."

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Shotgun Blasts

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Ramblings

The biggest piece they would find is the Snoopy Dog

By Scott Boyd, Shotgun 11, '67 - '68

January 6, 1968 - After a typical boring, then exciting, then boring again day I settled down for a long night on call. Unfortunately that call came at about 2000 hours (8:00 PM). It seems a Special Forces team located in Thanh Tri was receiving heavy ground fire and we were called on station to help suppress fire.

Arriving on station I noticed a little ground fire at which I fired some rockets and things calmed down. I guess what I actually did, not knowing at the moment, was simply stir up an ant mound. Now, being totally disgusted that I was called all the way out there for nothing, I wanted restitution.

So, like a crazy bullet proof twenty year old, I decided to dive down toward where the fire initially came from and turn on my landing light to see if I could draw some minor ground fire and I informed "Puff" who had just arrived on site that he could immediately return fire.

Knowing who is reading this at the present time, I am sure you will agree.....50 caliber tracer rounds look the size of basketballs coming at you at about a hundred miles an hour. We had heard about a 50 caliber moving into the Delta, but at that time none of us had engaged it. Unfortunately, I had to be the first.

"John Wayne" quickly became "Winnie the Pooh". Thank God, "Puff" immediately opened up and we got secondary explosions and everything wound down. I headed back to Soc Trang, shaking like a puppy left out in the cold.

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Well, I have some good news and some bad news.

First, the Bad News:

If you have ever waded thru the Old Testament, you see two recurring problems:

1. God saying, "You are My chosen people. If you want to live well and healthily, here is what you need to be doing . . . "
2. People performing activities to try to appease God while doing just the opposite.

In the New Testament we find the Son of God trying to teach people how to live well with each other and His Father, while the Official (Priests) and unofficial (Pharisees) clergy were getting all bent out of shape over His efforts.

All this is to say, there is nothing you can "Do" to make God happy enough with you to pave your way into heaven. God already loves you more than you are able to really understand. If Jesus were walking around here these days, as He did then, and you asked Him about it, He would most likely say: "Two words: religion sucks."

One friend of mine observed, "Religion is all the things people do instead of what God really wants of us." Yeah, you could argue with that, but why bother.

If you take Martin Luther's "Damascus Road" scripture: Rom 1:17: For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith. (NIV) and "stir" it together with Eph 2:8-10, above, you will find the Good News. That is what John 3:16 is all about.

That said, we must conclude, having discovered along the way that the basic essence of Faith means Trust, that we do not perform religious activities to get our heavenly ticket punched. That puppy was burned up a long time ago.

Rather, we are to live a life, guided by the Holy Spirit of God, because we are trusting that what Jesus did, submitting Himself to the wrath of God on our behalf, and having endured – aka – Accomplished His Mission of taking the consequences of our sins upon Himself, He having none, and emerging victoriously on Easter

Morning – God sees, not us, but His Son, and thus, by faith, we are covered by His righteousness.

That is what makes God really happy.

And that, Beloved of The Lord, is really Good News!

We do not "Do" in order to "Get". We DO because we have RECEIVED. the power both to be and to do! (See Phil 2:13 and 4:7 - 13)

Christ is **Risen!**

Christ is Risen, **Indeed!**

Ned

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Reunion 2011

Perhaps you noted that as one of the coming events in April there will be the first planning meeting for our next reunion. This is an important meeting as it will establish the basics for our third reunion.

We will be discussing the Who, What, Where, How and When questions that are always associated with this kind of event. It is vital that we know what all of you would like to have as a reunion.

The questions have been asked several times in the past but this may be your final opportunity to provide input. All you need to do to have your ideas heard is contact any one of the Reunion Committee members by telephone or e-mail and fill him in on your ideas or send me an e-mail at Shotgun-8A@hotmail.com and it will be forwarded to the planning group.

Our past reunions have been really great events and we want to keep that trend going and to do so we need your help and support.

Don Smith

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Army Aviation Association Annual Convention

FORT WORTH, TEXAS

APRIL 14 - 17

SHOTGUN 2011 REUNION PLANNING MEETING

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

APRIL 16 - 17

A planning committee meeting but all are welcome.

DELTA AVIATION REUNION

FORT RUCKER, ALABAMA

MAY 13 - 16

For details check www.shieldoftheMekong.com

ALL BIRD DOG UNIT REUNION

COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO

SEPTEMBER 9 - 12

For details contact john.fischer@worldnet.att.net

ARMY OTTER-CARIBOU ASSOCIATION ANNUAL REUNION

COLUMBUS, GEORGIA

OCTOBER 6 - 10

Dear friends and family,

To those of you who've already read *Safe Landings* – and those of you who plan to – thank you ;o)

I've just learned from my publisher that the formal release date is March 23, but it is already on websites such as amazon.com and Barnes and Noble's. My publisher's marketing folks suggest that I ask you all to place your reviews on those websites. Be sure to search for *Safe Landings* or for me (Fran McGraw) as the author as there is a book out now titled *Safe Landing* about astronauts.

I can't wait to read your reviews!

Also, remember I have copies I've purchased myself and I can send them to anyone you might know who'd like one at a discount.

Thanks and God bless,

Fran

But, Oh no! It couldn't end there.....Being a little too involved in the fight I failed to notice my fuel level, and anybody who has ever flown in the Delta at night can attest, it is incredibly black. All I could think was, "If I go down out here the biggest piece they're going to find is the "Snoopy Dog" I have on the top of the instrument panel that I use to aim my rockets." We had highly sophisticated weapons systems!!!!

I saw the base lights and figured I was home free, when, on final the engine decided it couldn't go any further on just a wing and a prayer. At least I felt positive about dead stick landing, and I knew they would have a body to send home.

Obviously, since I am writing this you know that the Good Lord was flying as aircraft commander that night. The rest of the evening was passed evaluating how much Bourbon a body could hold, and, washing out my BVD's.

Scott

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NOTAM

2009 Reunion DVD

I just received word from Bill Poor that we have permission from Gene Alexander to provide copies of his terrific DVD of our get together to Shotguns and their friends that did not attend the reunion. Those of you that did attend should have received your copy by mail by now as a part of the reunion package.

If you would like to purchase a copy of the DVD please contact Bill at wtpoor@comcast.net . The fee for the DVD is \$5.00 which covers the cost of materials and mailing.

Any of you attendees that have not yet received your copy of the DVD should contact Bill and let him know. We experienced a problem with some mailing labels coming off.

NOTAM

Aviation Truisms

“Gravity never loses! The best you can hope for is a draw.”

“There are three simple rules for making a smooth landing. Unfortunately, no one knows what they are.”

“A helicopter is a collection of rotating parts going round and round and reciprocating parts going up and down - - all of them trying to become random in motion. Helicopters can't really fly - - they're just so ugly that the earth immediately repels them.”

The Military Wife

The Good Lord was creating a model for military wives and was into his sixth day of overtime when an angel appeared.

She said, “Lord you seem to be having a lot of trouble with this one. What's wrong with the standard model?”

The Lord replied, “Have you seen the specs on this one? She has to be completely independent, possess the qualities of both father and mother, be a perfect hostess...run on black coffee, handle every emergency imaginable without a manual, be able to carry on cheerfully, even if she is pregnant and has the flu...And oh yes, she must have six pair of hands.”

The angel shook her head. “Six pair of hands? No way.”

The Lord continued, “Don't worry, we will make other military wives to help her. And we will give her an unusually strong heart so it can swell with pride in her husband's achievements, sustain the pain of separations, beat soundly when it is overworked and tired, and be large enough to say, 'I understand' when she doesn't, and say I love you, regardless.

“Lord,” said the angel, touching his arm gently, “Go to bed and get some rest. You can finish this tomorrow.”

“I can't stop now,” said the Lord “I am so close to creating something unique. Already this model heals herself when she is sick...waves

goodbye to her husband from a pier, a runway or a depot, and understands why it's important that he leave.”

The angel circled the model of the military wife, looked at it closely and sighed, “It looks fine, but it's too soft.”

“She might look soft,” replied the Lord, “but she has the strength of a lioness. You would not believe what she can endure.”

Finally, the angel bent over and ran her finger across the cheek of the Lord's creation. “There's a leak,” she announced. “Something is wrong with the construction. I am not surprised that it is cracked. You are trying to put too much into this model.”

The Lord appeared offended at the angel's lack of confidence. “What you see is not a leak,” he said. “It's a tear.”

“A tear, what is it there for?” asked the angel.

The Lord replied, “It's for joy, sadness, pain, disappointment, loneliness, pride and a dedication to all the values that she and her husband hold dear.”

“You are a genius!” exclaimed the angel.

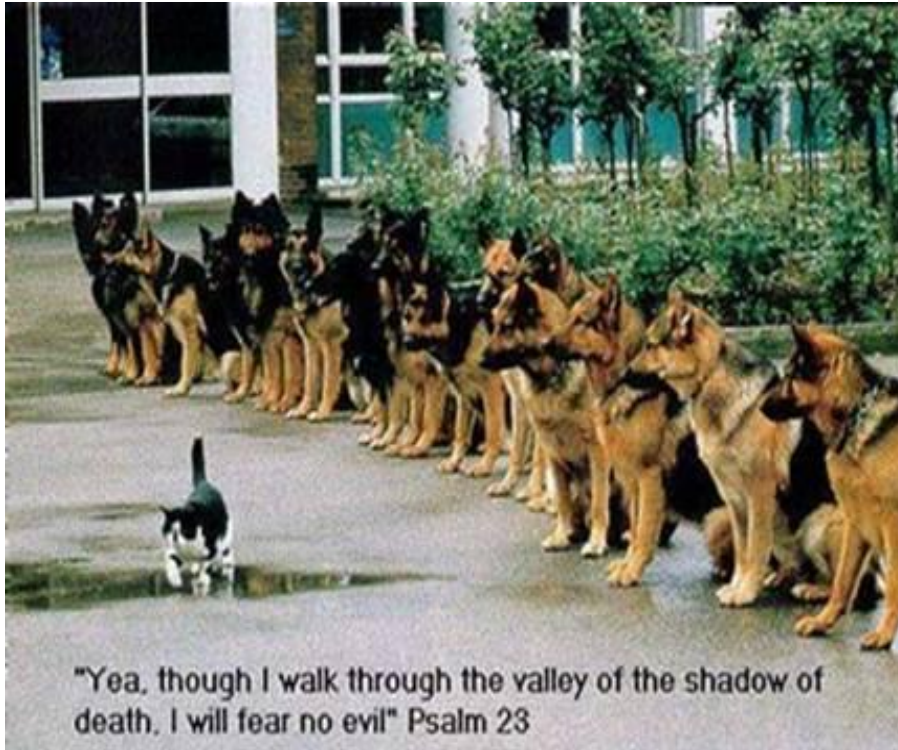
The Lord looked puzzled and replied, “I didn't put it there.”

Author Unknown

Thanks to USAWOA Online

Revisiting the Past

A worn newspaper photo can evoke memories of places "Long ago and far away." If you have one in your scrap book e-mail it to me to be included in a future edition.



OK,
why exactly, is this critter
called a Kitten
and not a
Shotgun?

Food for the Body

1, 2, 3, 4 Gravy or, How I Learned to Make SOS...

I used my High School Home Economics Class cream sauce recipe to make gravy often as a new bride and I learned quickly that if I did not want lumpy gravy or gravy that was too thick or too thin, I should always look at the recipe! But that was cumbersome, so I went about trying to memorize it and in the process, discovered this memory aid: "For **one** pot of gravy, use **two** cups of milk, **three** tablespoons fat (or butter), and **four** tablespoons of flour. It was easy to remember there were three letters in the word fat, and the word flour was similar to four, so it works every time!

One Pot of SOS ("Slop" on a Shingle)

Brown together ½ lb. of "Hot" sausage and ½ lb. of hamburger. Stir in 2 tablespoons of dehydrated diced onions. Mix in 4 tablespoons flour and add butter or oil only if needed to smooth the flour. When smooth add 2 cups of milk and bring just to a boil. Salt and pepper as desired. Serve over toast or biscuits for a traditional serving of SOS!

My Shotgun asks for this every Saturday.

Fran McGraw

Anybody else out there that has recipes for the foods we all love to eat should share them with us, we all have to eat...The Editor