



VIETNAM AND CHRISTIANITY



A Vietnam Veteran's Transformation
from Army Soldier to Warrior of God

DON BOUDREAU



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The author has tried to recreate events, locales, and conversations from memories of them. In order to maintain their anonymity, in some instances the names of individuals are changed and some identifying characteristics and details may have changed, such as physical properties, occupations, and places of residence.

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DEDICATION

I dedicate this book, first and foremost, to my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, who has been so faithful in my life. I also honor my wonderful family, who are all my most cherished blessings from God: my loving wife and called prophetess, Sheila, who diligently prayed and encouraged me throughout the writing and publishing of this book, as well as my precious children. Further, I am deeply grateful to Kim Silva, my cooperative rewrite editor, who did an outstanding job in aiding me to transform my story from my disjointed notes to this book, and I praise Jesus and sincerely thank all members of the Redemption Press team for their patience and diligence as they labored to publish my work. I want to specifically thank my son, Joshua, for his tireless work to assist me in writing this book.

Vietnam and Christianity is also dedicated to American veterans of all generations for their selfless contributions on the battlefield and the home front—protectors of the greatest nation on earth—and to healthcare professionals throughout the world who devote their lives to helping those in need. Lastly, I dedicate this book to all those who have contributed to my spiritual growth, especially Pastor Jimmy Lopez, who ordained and licensed me as a minister.



INTRODUCTION

I ENTERED THE MILITARY AT age seventeen. I wanted to experience war like my father did in World War II. Though I didn't know God at the time, He knew my wartime experiences would come to represent more than physical war: in retrospect, He wanted me to learn war in the natural realm so I could later correlate my experiences to war in the spiritual realm. However, the Lord did not only send me to the Vietnam War to simply help me to understand the correlations between physical and Spiritual warfare, He sent me there to prepare me to actually fight the Spiritual war against Satan that was soon to begin for me.

The earliest records of war date around 2700 BC, and the first battle recorded in the Bible is found in Genesis 14. Later in the Old Testament, King David fought against the Philistines, and Moses and the children of Israel fought against the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, the Jebusites, the Hittites, the Gergashites, and the Canaanites. Father God wanted His people to fight the wicked and make the earth righteous.

We still war in the natural realm today, and we will continue to do so until the Lord of hosts (armies), Jehovah Sabaoth, comes back (Matthew 24:6). He is the God of war. Exodus 15:3 says, "The LORD is a man of war: the LORD is his name." Though in many cases

the motives of human rulers for initiating war have been quite evil over the centuries, God's motives for starting wars and conquests are perfectly pure and just. For instance, God says to the Israelites, "Not for thy righteousness, or for the uprightness of thine heart, dost thou go to possess their land: but for the wickedness of these nations the Lord thy God doth drive them out from before thee, and that he may perform the word which the Lord sware unto thy fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob" (Deuteronomy 9:5). The Lord is saying here that His purpose in destroying the nations for Israel was not because of the righteousness of the Israelites but because He desired to punish the wickedness of the nations that He was destroying. Since we know that God justly punishes the wicked (Ezekiel 18:25–26; Romans 13:1–4), it is clear to see that God's motives for war are completely pure, not driven by desire for selfish gain. But though I embrace my God as a warrior, I am grateful He is also a God of peace: "And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen" (Romans 16:20).

While not all of us will experience natural and physical warfare, we are all subject to spiritual warfare and need to be on the lookout: "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour" (1 Peter 5:8). My experience in Vietnam and my life as a follower of Jesus have opened my eyes to the spiritual wars that all believers fight.

It's been decades since I fought in Vietnam, and now I love to read what God's Word says about war and soldiers. I'm amazed at how my service in Vietnam correlates to my life as a born-again Christian. I have written this book to recount some of my experiences in military combat and to explain how strategies and experiences of military soldiers correlate to the reality of spiritual warfare for Christians. My experiences were not mere coincidences. Father God wanted those events to happen in my life, and He arranged everything. Even when I was not yet saved, He arranged my going to Vietnam through the US Army. Years later I became a

Christian, a true disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ. The word *disciple* means “learner.” I am in an ongoing learning process. He wants us all to become His disciples and come to the knowledge of the truth.

I am proud to have represented the United States of America in Vietnam. Just as the word *united* is in the title of our country, we need to be united in the Lord Jesus. Proverbs 18:14 (AMPC) says, “The strong spirit of a man sustains him in bodily pain or trouble, but a weak *and* broken spirit who can raise up or bear?” The vast majority of people in this country, whom I love, need to be born again through Jesus to have a strong spirit. Once we are born again, our spirits need to be fed all the time, day and night, as the Lord told Joshua in Joshua 1:8, “This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.”

It is my hope and prayer that everyone becomes born again in Jesus. I especially have a tender spot for those who have seen the inside of a military uniform—all current members of the military as well as veterans of all the branches of service, along with their spouses—to become born again and call upon His name to be saved. “Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else” (Isaiah 45:22).

I pray in Jesus’s name that the Lord moves on all people to read this book because it is God inspired. The Bible, of course, is the ultimate inspiration of God. Every word in the Bible is fully inspired by the Holy Spirit of God, and there has never or never will be a book written like it. Further, the Word of God is the only book from which we can most reliably understand God’s ways, character, and attributes.

When I say God inspired me to write this book, I mean the Lord told me thirty years ago to write a book. I was an uneducated man at the time and didn’t trust I was hearing Him right, so I told Him I needed confirmation. About thirty years later, a prophetess

(female prophet) I didn't even know told me to write a book. That was my confirmation. The Lord gave me ideas for the writing of this book to encourage Christians to fight the good fight of faith and to offer unbelievers an opportunity to turn to Jesus through the reading of my experiences in Vietnam. The Lord is good, and His mercy endures forever (Psalm 100:5). If it were not for Him, I would not have written this book.

I hope this book comes into the hands of warriors, soldiers, Marines, sailors, airmen, and anybody else who can relate to my story. I didn't write this book primarily for profit, but for the sake of heaven and for the love of Jesus my Lord.

There is no other religion in the world that offers eternal life to enjoy Jesus Christ forever. Jesus was crucified and raised and is alive in heaven today. Think on this one thing: Jesus is the Savior of the whole world. There is no other Savior.

Because of the Lord Jesus, I am more military minded now than I ever was when I was in the army and even in Vietnam. Today, I am militant for my Lord, and I am His soldier and warrior. He makes the difference by His blood, the blood of the Lamb of God slain from the foundation of the world. "And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world" (Revelation 13:8).

★ ★ CHAPTER 1

GROWING UP AND GOING TO WAR

*Whoso loveth instruction loveth knowledge: but he that hateth
reproof is brutish.*

Proverbs 12:1

AFTER DROPPING OUT OF SCHOOL twice, I never thought I'd become an ordained minister and a called prophet. A former pastor once called me a late bloomer. I bloomed, matured, and flourished once I met my Savior.

I was born in 1949 in the small town of Rayne, Louisiana, to Hampton Boudreaux Jr. and Bertha S. Boudreaux (née Simon). My parents and three siblings and I only went to church on Christmas Eve. My parents talked to us about God occasionally, but no one in my family was a Christian, and I didn't know what it meant to be born again.

My parents divorced when I was twelve. My father pursued other women while still married to my mother, and he drank heavily. I remember going to the honkey-tonks with him, even when I was a young child. Bar fights were commonplace. Once he asked a barmaid to watch me while he indulged in a bar fight; I cried in the corner as he fought.

After my parents' divorce, I didn't spend as much time with him, but when I was an adult and we did spend time together, it was

usually in a bar. Later in life, I learned that though I didn't have a reliable earthly father, I have a heavenly Father who loves and cares for me: "And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty" (2 Corinthians 6:18).

I spent a lot of my youth doing my own thing and getting drunk whenever I could. I was headstrong, and like my father I was drawn to partying. One of my uncles tried to keep me on the straight and narrow and provide a firm hand, but I was too bullheaded to accept his guidance and boundaries, and I continued to live how I wanted to live, not listening to or obeying anyone.

School never came easy for me, so I decided to drop out . . . twice. I first left school at age fifteen but thought better of it and gave it another try. I dropped out again for good at age seventeen. Immature and uneducated, I had no direction for my life. My mother wasn't happy about my decision, and she knew that finding employment without an education would be difficult, so she took immediate action to get me enlisted in the army. She called my father, who was living in Port Arthur, Texas, at the time. He took me to Lafayette, Louisiana, where I signed up for the US Army and became a military man.

I had basic training for eight weeks at Fort Polk, Louisiana. Military personnel receive extensive training. Basic training is as grueling as its reputation. The physical training and proficiency tests were challenging, requiring us to meet certain thresholds for running and exercising in our combat boots and fatigues. If we failed, we'd have to recycle, or restart, basic training. We also had close-order drills in basic training, learning how to follow orders and memorize proper army protocols. Our superiors would holler orders such as "left face," "right face," "left-shoulder arms," "right-shoulder arms," and I'd struggle because I wasn't used to listening carefully to instructions. I also struggled with weapons training. I was a bad shot and found it hard to get used to the report and recoil of the M-14 rifle. It was startling to me, to say the least. I learned a lot about discipline with tasks such as ensuring my boots were shined and my bed was

made correctly. But by far the hardest part of basic training was enduring as my superiors yelled in my face when I disobeyed orders or acted in a way they did not appreciate. They'd demand pushups or harsher disciplinary action while hollering inches away from me. Unfortunately, too many squad leaders misused their authority by giving unnecessary and unprovoked disciplinary action.

I remember a few drill instructors (DIs) who were really tough. It seemed that the army authorities looked for weaknesses in every new soldier's file and then devised activities to drive them to quit. I remember one guy who fell asleep during training, and the DIs picked on him heavily. They made me low crawl (crawl as close to the ground as possible for long periods of time to avoid detection) more than anybody in my platoon, but I would not quit. I'm not sure where my resolve came from, but I wanted to prove to myself that even under extreme pressure, I would not quit. Two of my fellow soldiers must have decided it was too hard for them, though, because they went absent without leave (AWOL). One of them was caught and paraded in front of us, just to let us know the seriousness of the consequences.

As a Christian today, I know Satan also looks for our weaknesses and tries to capitalize on them. Just as I refused to give in to the army authorities who were targeting me and trying to make me quit, now as a Christian, I stand firm and refuse to give in to Satan's attempts to capitalize on my weaknesses.

After my basic training in Fork Polk, I traveled to Texas for my Advanced Individual Training (AIT), where I received two months of training in Hawk Missiles. I was then sent to Germany, where I was in a missile battalion and tasked with putting missiles on top of launchers. After three weeks, they threw me out of the missile outfit and put me in a tank division because they learned that I had recently applied to go to Vietnam. After the transfer, I trained on tanks for seven months. Altogether, I was in the military for about eleven months before I turned eighteen and was finally able to go fight in a very unpopular war in Vietnam.

My daddy fought in World War II, and he had told me about his exploits in Guadalcanal against the Japanese. My time in Germany wasn't what I'd envisioned of the army, and it didn't sound like my daddy's time in the military, so I put in a 1049 application to go to Vietnam. I like action and adventure, and that wasn't going on in Germany. I wanted to experience combat. Plus, Germany was cold!

When I think of all our military who fought in Vietnam and who have fought for our country since its beginning, my mind goes to the Lord Jesus and all He did for us. After I became a Christian, I learned what Jesus the Christ did for me and for all mankind. We, as Americans in the armed forces, do it for our country and loved ones. Jesus did it for even the ones who were putting him to death. He said on the cross, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do" (Luke 23:34). John 15:13 says, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." The Lord of glory laid down His life for the whole world. He took upon Himself the sins of the whole world—past, present, and future.

Nothing compares with Jesus laying down His life for the whole world. The sacrifice of nearly 60,000¹ American soldiers who died in Vietnam makes me appreciate, however, even more what Jesus Christ did for us 2,000 years ago. I had no concept of the Lord's sacrifice while I was serving, though, and no idea of how God would help me make peace with my experiences.

I was wounded in Vietnam, and my best friend lost his life there. After I came to the Lord Jesus, I began asking Him questions about Vietnam. The Lord said to me, "I sent you there to learn war." *Sent* is an interesting word. When the Lord sends someone, there is apostolic meaning to it. For example, in John 6:44, Jesus says, "No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day." And in Hebrews 3:1, we see that God sent Jesus as an apostle. He also sent apostles throughout the New Testament. Acts 13:4 informs us that the Holy Ghost sent Paul and Barnabas on their travels to spread the news of Jesus. Since we know that these two men were known as apostles

(Acts 14:4), we see here the special apostolic, anointed, powerful release given to Jesus and these men when they were *sent* out by Father God and Holy Ghost.

Though I, of course, was not given the same mission or anointing as Christ, Paul, Barnabas, or any of the other apostles of the New Testament, God had a specific, anointed purpose in sending me to Vietnam.