



A Practical Guide for a Troubled Time

Volume One

Issue 1

The California Crusade...

Living in the Forge: Developing the Attributes of Christ

For much of my life I've felt as though I was an instrument of warfare being shaped or formed in The Master's hand. The sense of just what I was being formed into, however, has changed over the years. At one point I felt my life was to be as an arrow or sword: an implement of God's truth delivered upon the earth – at another, like a bow: the vehicle upon which that truth would be carried. Different times, different functions, different purposes; same result: God has a message He's commissioned me to bring.

I've recently returned from an eleven-day Crusade into Central California, where the Lord chose to deliver His message deep into the hearts of many individuals. Often I stand amazed, marveling at how He chooses to pour words through me that speak directly into the lives of people I know nothing about. That was an experience replicated many times over during the course of this trip.

Chris: a young man – a new believer – walking through a devastating divorce; Nikki: a twenty-five year old warrior battling cancer for the second time in her oh-so-short-lifetime; Sandy: a lady who truly knows what it means to face the trials of life and walk through them to victory; Dwight: a fellow Warrior stationed on a lonely battlefield who often feels he fights alone. The list could run on for pages, but the point to be made is this: each

person's life experience brought them to *this* place, *this* time, *this* circumstance that allowed God's Word to reach them through *this* instrument of warfare. None of these people knew each other, but the Lord provided the means for each to receive from Him a word for their moment, a touch for their life. Whether arrow, sword, or bow, I am deeply grateful to have been used as the method of delivery.

One of the recurring themes of the California Crusade became "how the armor of God is formed." The first Sunday I was there, The Holy Spirit poured a message through me about Christ's forging of the armor in the very fires of hell as He lived among us, died to save us, and rose to bring us into His newness of life; how by His passion the metals were formed to create the mettle of our lives.

Over the next several days, that message was refined and delivered within the walls of a Youthful Offender Boot Camp and a high-security Juvenile Corrections Facility. There, I spoke God's Word into the lives of young men and women who have headed down a pathway toward destruction. I spoke of "Iron Clad Principles;" character traits exemplified by the fully trained Warrior in God's Army and how being part of an Army is differentiated from the Gang lifestyle so many of them had chosen.

I was permitted to give each of the young people my business card with my 800 number on it. One of the most poignant moments of the whole trip came when one of the young men called out from

the back row, "Hey, dude, you mean when I get out of here, if I call you up, you will ACTUALLY talk with me on the phone?" As I assured him I would, I realized that the mere idea of someone taking a few minutes out of their day to talk with him one-to-one about matters of character and life was a concept he could barely grasp.

Day after day, person after person responded to the message. They were blessed; I was blessed; those who had organized the Crusade were blessed...but most importantly, we all had the sense that God Himself, was blessed as His touch served to awaken the Warriors He's called into the fray.

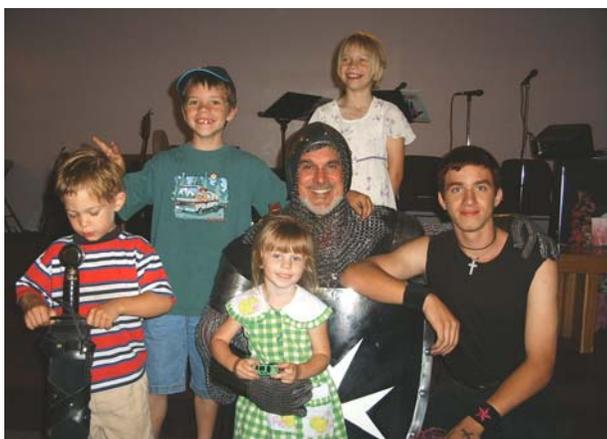
I look forward to the day He allows me to carry the message on a full time basis.

In His service,
Philip Paul Sacco

Pictures worth a thousand words...



Nikki Moore, Victoria Walters, and me



Oh what wonderful kids!



Accolade Ceremony
May 14, 2005



Kings County Youthful Offender Boot Camp



Just as she'd told me she would be!

The message of the hour...
Embracing Brokenness
by Victoria Walters

When I first encountered the book, “Awaken the Warrior,” by Philip Paul Sacco, I recognized it to be the best study I’d ever read on the Armor of God. But since the author had declared the book to be “in revision” I intended to wait until the revisions were completed before introducing the study to my Women’s Ministries Group at Lemoore Pentecostal Church of God – especially as he was allowing me to make input on some of the changes.

But in determining to wait, I sensed the Lord’s instruction that His message contained within the pages of Awaken is one He intends for the Body of Christ to benefit from now – not at some future date after all the editing and publication flaws have been discovered and ironed out. So, with Philip’s guidance and direction, I began teaching the message in February 2005 – just two months after having first picked up the book myself.

Although I had been captivated by the text, it still surprised me when the ladies in my study group grasped hold of the teaching as though it were a lifeline they’d long been searching for. The book may have been “flawed” – but the Living Water contained therein poured freely into our lives in a life-giving; life-sustaining way that only God Himself could have orchestrated.

When I said we were graduating twelve students, Philip said he wanted to be part of the ceremony. Thus we laid plans for him to fly to California and participate. Those plans quickly grew into what eventually became Warrior Week: The California Crusade.

Since the Crusade ended, I’ve examined my heart with the question, “What was **my** take-away from Warrior Week – what about the Awaken Message has impacted me most?”

The answer, “***I have learned to embrace my own brokenness.***”

Part of the message Philip brought while he was here portrayed the broken areas of our lives as outlets for God’s love to flow out of us into the lives of others. I’d always viewed my

broken areas as things to work on; to mend; flaws to be covered. I had never recognized anything “positive” in the frailties of my flesh. But the Awaken Message brought new light to that and has allowed me to see myself differently.

From this perspective, I can see how God’s grace pouring into me seeps from my areas of brokenness to impact the lives of those around me in ways that would not be possible if my earthen vessel was perfect and without flaw.

Recognizing this has brought a new level of healing to my inner-woman. Embracing God’s grace toward **my own** humanity frees me up to offer His grace to others in their times of brokenness and need.

But the key is to remain open before God; allowing Him to continually pour Living Water into my earthen vessel; so that in the dispensing out of it to others (through my brokenness) I do not become, myself, depleted.

I saw in that another correlation: while the first edition of *Awaken the Warrior* is not without flaws, it is so filled with God’s Word that the flaws serve as release points for healing to flow through into the lives of its readers.

The healing that impacted my own life and the lives of so many others during Warrior Week is not something unique to this time or place. This is the message of Awaken; it’s the message of the hour; perhaps even the message of this decade or millennia: Take unto yourself the Armor of God; learn what is required to bear it, to wield it; to proof it in the heat of battle.

The time is now; the spiritual battle rages about us; let’s embrace our brokenness, encase ourselves in the Character of Christ, and step into the fray.

Awaken the Warrior

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by
Philip Paul Sacco

You may order your personalized copy of
Awaken the Warrior

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For promo kits, book orders or to schedule Mr.
Sacco for personal appearances

Fully persuaded that we have God's mandate to carry the Awaken message around the world, we invite you to join us in the effort.

There are several ways you can get involved:

- Join a Bible Study
- Join our prayer team
- Sponsor books for troupes
- Pledge monthly support for Mission Iraq
- Give an offering toward future Crusades
- All the above

You will be blessed as part of this ministry team – and we will be blessed as a result of your participation.

All donations to Accolade International Ministries are tax deductible, and can be mailed to:

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