

# Hope Source

Volume 1 Supplemental Issue

Page 1 of 2

September 11, 2002

## Remembering When *Where I was, Where were you?*

Where was I? I was on my way to work, more on time than normal. I had been listening to NPR when a message broke in that the World Trade Center had been hit by an airplane. Honestly, my first thought was - "Why are they reporting about a kids remote controlled airplane hitting a skyscraper?". At worst I thought maybe it was a commuter plane. I had no idea what happened until I went into work. We didn't have a t.v., but the insurance company next door did. So, we watched over there as my boss went t.v. hunting. I remember commenting that it looked just like a movie. Everyone was silent.

As I was commenting it was a movie, it was evening in Okinawa, Japan, where my brother was in the barracks flipping through channels with some other Marines. They were looking for something to watch. They saw the first plane hit but thought it was a movie and kept going. Only after they came back to it later, realizing that the scene hadn't changed, did they know it was real.

Where were you? In the next edition, I would like to include some of your stories.

- Where were you?
- How did it change your life?

Email your response to  
[college@sharingthehope.org](mailto:college@sharingthehope.org)

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## A LITTLE HELP FROM INDUSTRY

by Robin Perry Pipeline Online - May 2002

Sol's Pipe played a supporting role, literally, in the clean-up efforts following the attacks on the World Trade Center on Sept. 11.

The Monroe, LA-based pipe distributor sent eight joints of steel pipe to New York City to support a pier that was built on the East River shortly after the attacks. The pier allowed barges to dock near the clean-up site and remove debris, greatly facilitating the clean-up effort. Before the pier was built, debris was being hauled to New Jersey via truck.

Each joint is 4 feet in diameter, 1 1/4 inches thick, 40 feet long and weighs 25,000 pounds. It is the same type of pipe that is used to build offshore platforms. The pipe was trucked from Sol's Pipe on Sept. 20. Due to the weight of the pipe, each truck carried only one joint. The pipe was inscribed with the words, "Sol's Pipe loves New York."

## SERVING OUR COUNTRY

### A TRIBUTE TO SOLDIER'S

If I remember correctly, I think I took college for granted. A place to sleep, food to eat, free time, friends, and learning more things everyday. I was pretty isolated from the things going on in the world around me. That is a general picture of college life. But, not all people your age are in the same place.

When the plane crashed, my immediate thought went to my brother. A U.S. Marine stationed in Okinawa Japan. God and I had a deal that there wouldn't be a war while he was enlisted. Right?? But, now I wasn't sure what would happen.

In reality, it was probably good he was over seas because there wasn't as much

of a chance he would move. But, when he came home in April, reality set in, he missed being shipped to Afghanistan by a week. One week. His then fiancé (now wife) wasn't quite as lucky; she was shipped out to the India/Pakistan border for a few weeks. Rather unnerving if you ask me.

I am sure that there are others of you that have a relative or friend in the military, and maybe some of you are in the reserves. We need to lift these people up in prayer as we go from class, to work, to eat, to hang out. They preserve our freedom. They help maintain the right to learn whatever we want. They keep us safe. They risk their lives, and give their freedom to keep our.

Do you want to honor a soldier? Please submit a one or two line word of thanks for the soldier in your life.

## *Comfort from Above*

*"Have no fear of sudden disaster or of the ruin that overtakes the wicked, for the Lord will be your confidence and will keep your foot from being snared."*

*Proverbs 3:25-26*

Keep this in mind:

1. The key is that we are not to live our lives in fear. God wants us to enjoy our life, trusting Him to take care of us.
2. As Christians we must remember that our life is not our own. When we accept God's will in our life, we may be called to give our life as a testament to Him.
3. Sin rules the world. Sin reigns here and until Christ's return and the redemption of all men, we have to live here. Sometimes we will be bystanders.
4. But, our future is secure. And we will live forever in heaven when Christ is Lord of our life. We know the end of the story and we win.

## HOW SHOULD WE TREAT MUSLIMS?

I work with several Muslims. One is from Kuwait, another from Iran. They sat in the office in the same shock and fear as the rest of us. We listened to the radio together. Some of them even joined when we held a time of prayer.

My company works with a vendor based in Israel. The company employs both Israelis and other Arabs. They don't always get along, but they all tell the same story. They tell (both my friends and our vendors) of being targeted for search in the airports. One is here on a visa - it took him almost a month longer than usual to get his paperwork.

I believe that we must be careful. We must protect our country, but we must also remember that not every Muslim is a terrorist. Some may hold a different view of our country - we have not always made ourselves popular with the rest of the world. But this disagreement with our policies is not the same as the attitudes that created September 11<sup>th</sup>.

We must, especially as Christians, treat everyone with Christ's love and grace. We are called to turn the other cheek, and remember that judgement is reserved for God alone. We must also show them Christ in our lives, and teach them of God's love. This is the greatest hope for us all. God loves us all.

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## A Prayer

(Intended as an opening prayer for a time of reflection in a multi-cultural, multi-faith place of business.)

One year ago we gathered here in fear and anxiety. We gathered in an unnatural quiet. We prayed for the people in New York, the Pentagon, and the families of those in who had died on the planes.

Now we gather in memory of a day that changed our lives. We have seen answers to our prayers - many lives were spared. We have also suffered loss. We are not as secure, we have lost an innocence that we once held. We have joined the rest of the world in dealing with fear.

I would ask that we come together again to pray. Some have loss and grief that needs to heal. We have fear that needs assurance. We have much to be thankful for. We have been kept safe and our country has been kept safe.

A year ago, we came to gather to ask someone greater than ourselves to intervene in our lives. Let us ask again, with different requests, but with the same desire for things greater than ourselves. For reconciliation, peace, and hope. For grace and love, provision and protection. **Let us pray:**

*God we thank you for the opportunity to gather here today. Thank you for the things that you have done in each of our lives during this past year.*

*A wise man once wrote,*  
 "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven:  
 A time to be born, and a time to die,  
 A time to plant and a time to uproot.  
 A time to kill and a time to heal.  
 A time to tear down and a time to build.  
 A time to weep and a time to laugh.  
 A time to mourn and a time to dance.  
 A time to scatter stones and a time to gather them  
 A time to embrace and a time to refrain.  
 A time to search and a time to give up,  
 A time to keep and a time throw away,  
 A time to be silent and a time to speak,  
 A time to love and a time to hate,  
 A time for war and a time for peace."

*God, give us a glimpse of your wisdom, a glance at your heart. Let us seek you in our response to this past year. We have*

*seen war, we have seen stones torn down. We have seen death and killing. We have seen and know people who mourn, people who are taken away. We know hatred, a desire for revenge and justice.*

*But we also celebrate - we are here, and many we feared lost are found. We embrace life, our families, and our friends. Life is more dear to us among the living. We hear of new life, of children born. We seek to rebuild - both the buildings and our sense of security. We laugh as life continues, and seek to heal.*

*Grant us the ability to rebuild and heal. You alone, who are greater than us, who are the author of life, can do this in us. Restore to us our peace and contentment. Give us the grace to forgive. Give us the desire and vision to find love for those who are different from us, that we would not ferment the hatred that brought about these horrible acts.*

*The same wise man concludes,*  
 "What does the worker gain from his toil? I have seen the burden God has laid on men. He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end. I know that there is nothing better for men than to be happy and do good while they live. That everyone may eat and drink and find satisfaction in all his toil - this is the gift of God."

*God, We thank you for what you have already done in our lives this past year. We thank you that we are safely gathered here today. We seek to find the beauty that you bring out of all things, even those created by evil and hatred. Help us to be reminded of eternity - something larger than us and our lives, and find you to fill that emptiness in our lives. Help us to do good, and find what it means to have your unconditional satisfaction - a peace that exceeds our ability to understand. Give us the love that only you possess, and most of all, hope for the future.*

*Be with us we pray,  
 Amen*

*(The sayings of the wise man are from the book of Ecclesiastes. The first quote is 3:1-8 and the second, 3:10-13)*