

THE VOLUNTEER





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We landed in Nicaragua and passengers began to leave the plane. The man next to me showed me a small family photo of his wife, young son and daughter. He then showed me another one of a youthful man in US Army uniform. *“This is my oldest son,”* he said, *“He was killed in Iraq.”*

Getting my hand-luggage ready to leave, I was taken by surprise. In a moment, our relationship had changed. I did not know what to say to him that would be adequate, respectful and sympathetic enough. This Nicaraguan stranger wanted to tell me that his son’s life had been surrendered for me in a war many miles away. He did not know, nor did he seem to care, about my views on the war!

What he did have to tell me was about his son’s sacrifice. His 19 year-old had volunteered for war, put on the American uniform, and traveled to a land he would not have chosen to go to in normal circumstances. He then gave his life for many people he would never even meet.

A BIGGER BATTLE

Battles rage around the world today, many people are dying and all of us are involved, whether or not we have volunteered. **There is an even bigger battle** going on today for **your** life, **your**

¹ Jesus said this: “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; but I am come that they may have life, and have it to the full.” John 10:10,11.

very soul and the souls of your loved ones.¹ Like that father from Nicaragua, God the Father offered his Son, Jesus Christ, to engage in an age-long, invisible and spiritual battle for **YOUR** soul... *“The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil’s work...”*²

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His son did not have to go to war. He was Nicaraguan, his country was not at war with Iraq. He **volunteered** to fight for his adopted home, for America! Jesus also **volunteered** for a world of strangers, for you and me. He took on a human “uniform” of flesh and blood and engaged in this colossal battle between DARKNESS and LIGHT. He, “...*the Word (of God) became flesh and lived among us...*”³

He chose to defend YOU. “...*He humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross...*”⁴

YOUR RESPONSE

Right now, you may feel AS I DID on that plane. I was lost for words but moved to gratitude. I am totally grateful to that Nicaraguan father and his son. They had both made choices. They had volunteered and sacrificed for you and me. Our Servicemen and women are prepared to suffer, get injured and even die for us. They take the bullets, bombs and terror attacks that are meant for us. They pay the price, so that we can live in safety in this temporary life, irrespective of whether we believe in them or not!

²1 John 3:8

³John 1:14

⁴Philippians 2:8

Maybe it is time we changed! This is certainly an opportunity for YOU to make that choice today! The NEW ETERNAL LIFE that you can have from God is because Jesus Christ was a VOLUNTEER. He paid the price, suffered and sacrificed His Life for YOU, whether you believed or not!

Here is how you can change, not only your mind but your entire life! Change the direction⁵ of your life NOW. Receive this FREE GIFT OF FORGIVENESS AND ETERNAL LIFE:

1. **Thank God that He cares about YOU. REPENT⁶ and ask forgiveness for your SINS⁷!**
2. **Thank Jesus Christ who volunteered to take your sins and defeated death for YOU.**
3. **Receive His NEW LIFE, start to read His Word, the Bible and pray every day.**
4. **Tell others this great news and find a church of real believers to join the global battle for the liberation of others!**

⁵ The Bible calls this REPENTANCE.

⁶ Both apologizing and turning away from your wrongdoing.

⁷ "...your SINS have separated you from your God." Isaiah 59:2

Contact Syd Doyle
Email: nationslight@cs.com



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