



The President's Perspective



Selfless Service

"I do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign or domestic, that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter, so help me God."

Oath of Office, Military Officer Commissioning

This selfless oath of office sums up a conversation I had recently when I spoke with a special forces soldier on his way to his next deployment. He had fulfilled the obligations of his military service and had entered the private sector. After no more than a few months, he re-enlisted and was flown right into perhaps the hottest spot in the world—Falujah, Iraq. I asked him why, with a wife and two small boys, he would re-enter the dangerous world of military reconnaissance. His answer, simply stated, was this, "I longed to be in a place where what I did counted for something. I longed, once again, for the camaraderie of my military brothers. I loathed the "it's all about me" attitude of the civilian world." As I listened to him speak with pride and intense love of his buddies, I couldn't help but think how tragic it is that we, who call ourselves Christians, don't love our brethren and support them in that self-sacrificing way.

While self-absorption describes most of the world at large, and much of the "Christian" community, that is not a description of our H.O.P.E. staff and supporters. Self-sacrifice must aptly describe those who make H.O.P.E. Ministries what it is. The dedication and sacrifice of staff and friends made possible the glorious conversion of hundreds this past year. Selfless dedication made possible a city-impacting Crusade in our nation's capital. That same self-less spirit is making possible an evangelistic outreach at the Pentagon this coming year. May our attitude be the same as our Savior, who said, "I am among you as he that serves." Luke 22:27

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