



# THE SCUTTLEBUTT

Newsletter of Point† Man - Piedmont Outpost

<http://www.Point-Man-Ministries.org>

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## Yearend Report

2014 has been an eventful year for Point Man International Ministries in the Carolinas. The Union County outpost continues to meet in Waxhaw and several veterans, including myself, continue to meet for food and fellowship in Gaffney twice a month. The Gaffney group also enjoyed some outings, including a day of shooting sporting clays and a trip to the Gastonia sniper conference. Tom Casey (Vietnam, 5<sup>th</sup> Marines, Sniper Platoon) spoke, at the conference, and shared his insight on leadership and on finding peace in Christ. Several competitors visited the Point Man Ministries information table to chat and pick up literature and pocket size military bibles.

I was blessed to be able to attend my Vietnam company (Echo Co, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn, 1<sup>st</sup> Marines) reunion and function as the reunion Chaplain. I was also able to present a session titled Healing the Spiritual Wounds of War. I took several copies of the Point Man Bible and of Namvet. By the end of the reunion, all books were gone, as were most copies of Warrior's Witness.

Point Man continues to enjoy a warm relationship with the Faith Farm ministry (transitional housing for homeless women veterans) and to help meet their needs for cleaning supplies, paper goods and donated clothing.

Unfortunately, I have had few opportunities to speak to church men's groups recently. However, I hope to increase these engagements, as they provide a way to introduce Point Man Ministries. Most importantly, they are a way to share the message of God's unending grace.

Point Man is a 501c3 faith ministry. Since its founding in 1984, Point Man has existed entirely on donor's gifts and receives no government money, denominational support or grants. Please remember Point Man Ministries in your prayers and in your giving. Thank you.

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## Warrior's Witness

In our nation's capital there is a wall and on that wall there are 58,286 names. This wall honors those who shed their last drop of life's blood, for the cause of freedom, during the Vietnam War. For whether it be the blood of patriots or the blood of the Lord, the price of freedom has always been blood.

Many veterans survive war but not the after effects of war. The rate of suicide among veterans is approximately twice the rate of non-veterans (data from the Center for Public Integrity) and these veterans are just as much victims of war as those who were killed in action. Of course, this is not limited to recent wars. It was the same for Caesar's Legions, Napoleon's Army, Lee's Army of Northern Virginia and Patton's 3<sup>rd</sup> Army. After the Vietnam War, the condition these warriors suffer from was given a name; Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. During World War II it was known as Battle Fatigue, during World War I it was called Shell Shock and during the American Civil War it was given what is perhaps its most poignant name; Soldier's Heart.

In Henry IV, Act II, Scene 2, Lady Percy describes her husband's struggles; "Why dost thou bend thine eyes upon the earth and start so often when thou sit'st alone?...In thy faint slumbers I by thee have watched and heard thee murmur tales of iron wars...Thy spirit within thee hath been so at war and thus hath so bestirred in thy sleep, that beads of sweat have stood upon thy brow like bubbles in a late disturbed stream..."

Because they believe no one else will understand, many veterans will not share their experience with anyone except another veteran. A person can hear about combat or they can read a book or watch a movie. They will then know about war, but they will not know war. Yet, **Hebrews 4:15-16** tells us there is One who understands every sorrow, every trial, every deep wound, every tragic loss and every failure for He has been tempted and tried in every way that we have.

His many names include...Counselor and Comforter.

Semper Frateri  
*Bud Strobe*

*"For we do not want you to be uninformed brothers, about the hardships we suffered in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired even of life. Indeed, in our hearts we felt the sentence of death. But this happened that we might rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead. He has delivered us from deadly peril and He will deliver us. On Him we have set our hope that He will continue to deliver us..." II Corinthians 1:8~10*