Responses to the Books

Strength for Service to God and Country

“We are honored to be included in this program and recognize the importance of this kind of support for our firefighters. They are all dedicated public servants who routinely place themselves in harm’s way to protect the citizens we serve and often need this kind of support as they struggle through tough times.”

Mike Wisko, Fire Chief
Galveston, Texas

“I’ve been a first responder for over 20 years as a paramedic on an ambulance and for the last 17 years on a fire truck. I’ve had many heart-breaking experiences throughout my years and have come through it solely by the strength of my faith and the support of others. This devotional has helped me move from reactive to proactive and always seems relevant. It has had a tremendous impact on my life.”

Eric Knoefel
Knoxville, TN

Strength for Service to God and Country

“Thank you so much for your support via the God and Country daily devotional books. I love them and have been handing them out like candy to our sailors onboard the ship. Not only is there some very good content in the booklets, there is that all important connection to the past heroes that is so important to our military mindset.”

Lieutenant Buster Williams, command chaplain
USS Gettysburg
Mayport Naval Station
Jacksonville, Fla.

“A good family friend gave me a copy of Strength for Service prior to my year-long deployment to Afghanistan. This year has been very rough and we’ve lost a lot of soldiers, including soldiers we never knew but fought so hard to save; most times we won that fight but sometimes we lost. I read the daily devotional every night before bed to help me reflect on my day, become a better Christian and build my faith. On one of our toughest days here I returned to my room and said to God before opening the book, ‘This better be a good one... I need you’ and the devotional spoke about ‘Glorifying God in Suffering’. It was one of the most moving readings and I thank you from the bottom of my heart for creating this book. It has helped me through a very tough time in my life and has become one of my most treasured possessions.”

Captain Bagzis
U.S. Army
Afghanistan

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Order online: [www.strengthforservice.org](http://www.strengthforservice.org)
In 1942 the Nashville-based Methodist Publishing House invited 365 leaders of all denominations to prepare one-page devotions for soldiers, sailors and marines, soon leaving their homes to engage in combat across the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans.

By 1954, more than one million copies had been distributed to troops in World War II and the Korean conflict. The book then went out of print and was forgotten until Evan Hunsberger, a 14-year-old in Orange County, California, found a worn and tattered copy on a bedside table of his grandfather, Eugene Hunsberger, a World War II veteran.

Eugene Hunsberger carried a copy of Strength for Service to God and Country as a Navy corpsman in World War II and the Korean conflict. He occasionally read devotions to wounded men after treatment.

In 1999, Evan Hunsberger asked if his Eagle Scout project could be republishing the historic book for the Marine Corps at Camp Pendleton and Joint Forces Training Base in Los Alamitos, Calif.

Evan received help from the General Commission on United Methodist Men. Together they added 40 additional devotions from contemporary religious leaders.

To the surprise of all, the modest goal of publishing a few copies to two military bases resulted in the publication of 485,000 copies of the 72-year-old book.

A few churches and civic groups wanted to honor local fire fighters and police officers and they gave them copies of Strength for Service to God and Country. While these community servants were appreciative, they noted that the meditations did not address their situations, and asked if a book could be written for them and other first responders.

The Strength for Service team responded by publishing Strength for Service to God and Community, a book of 365 daily devotions especially written for fire fighters, police officers, EMT workers, and other first responders.