

## WHY WE NEED A SAVIOR

### MAN

### GOD

**IN THE BEGINNING . . .** The first man and woman, Adam and Eve, were created by God and enjoyed perfect fellowship with Him. They were without sin and lived peacefully in a beautiful garden that supplied all their needs. God gave them only one rule, which was not to eat the fruit of a particular tree. However, Satan tempted them to eat the forbidden fruit by saying it would benefit them. They ate it, and that act of disobedience against God was the first sin. It severed Adam's and Eve's relationships with God because He is holy and cannot have fellowship with evil.

### MAN

### SIN

### GOD

**OUR CONDITION TODAY . . .** Since we are all Adam's descendants, every child in the world has been born with his fallen nature. Instead of coming into the world desiring to do right, we are all born with an inclination toward sin and evil. Proof of this natural downward tendency is abundantly evident anywhere human beings are found. Our sin results in tremendous pain, sorrow, and suffering. The consequences of sin reach far beyond this life because those who reject God and die in a sinful state will go to Hell and be separated from God eternally.

### MAN

### JESUS

### GOD

**GOD'S PLAN . . .** God wants to remove sin from our lives so that we can have a relationship with Him and spend eternity in Heaven. However, the penalty for sin is death, and that penalty must be paid. Out of His great love for us, God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Savior. Jesus lived as a man and died in our place for our sins. Because of that, if we follow the steps that God has laid out in the Bible, our sins can be forgiven. God will change our desires and give us power to live without sin so we can enjoy eternal life with Him in Heaven one day.

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# PROTECTED BY PRAYER



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The jungles of Vietnam and Cambodia were a whole new world for Mark. What would carry him through this time of mortal danger?

By Mark Zetter

**T**he explosion of a mortar round jolted me awake. Lying on the ground next to the foxhole I had dug the night before, I opened my eyes and saw a cone shape of white-hot shrapnel flying through the air. Shaken and half-dazed, I began crawling away from my foxhole, not realizing it was right next to me. I was almost outside the perimeter of camp when I heard some of the guys yelling at me, "Over here, Zetter! Over here!" I finally got my wits about me and found my way back. When I dropped down inside the safety of the hole the realization struck: the enemy was there and I had been out in the open, but somehow I had escaped unharmed—once again.



## MORE THAN MY NERVES COULD TAKE

**In 1969, at the age of nineteen, I was sent to Vietnam. I** was in the infantry, and my first assignment was point man

for a squad of seven or eight men. It was my job to lead the squad through the jungle, looking for booby traps and trying to see the enemy before they saw us. Usually it was the point man who was hit first—he was the one who would trip the booby trap or get shot by the enemy.

**I was new to the whole business of war, and didn't** have a clue as to what I was doing. Our training had been just that—training. But once we got to Vietnam, it was the real thing, and it did not take me long to realize it.

**Four months into my tour of duty, we had three** consecutive nights of firefights with the enemy. By the fourth night, I was so scared that I refused to go into the jungle on ambush patrol. I knew in my heart that we were going to get into another firefight, and my nerves just could not take it. The sergeant and I were good friends, and he talked me into going by telling me that enemy contact was unlikely in the area we were going that night. He was right that time.

**If it had not been for God's hand over me, I probably** would not have made it through the first month of my tour of duty. I had a Christian mother who was praying for my safe return, and to this day I truly believe it was her prayers that brought me through.

## THE FIRST TO ENTER CAMBODIA

**In 1970, the United States entered Cambodia, and my** company was the first to go. It seemed we were in a whole new world. The enemy was everywhere and we had contact with them five different times that first day.

**One night we got a call from one of our platoons** asking for help. We got on the armed personnel carriers and headed out, only to run into an ambush. We were in the open and they were hiding at the edge of the jungle

with plenty of cover. Our troops rode on top of the personnel carriers because a round from a rocket-propelled grenade would kill anyone inside. However, when the gunfire started, we were sitting ducks. I could see the flashes of their guns all along the jungle line and an explosion went off to the side of the carrier. I needed to find cover even if it was inside the carrier! I turned to jump inside but the others had beaten me to it and there was no more room. I had no option but to stay on top and fire my machine gun at the jungle to our side. Miraculously, once again I survived.

**God's shield around His own is real and not something imaginary;** no one can tell me differently, because I saw it in action. Many times my mom woke up in the middle of the night, when a firefight broke out or some kind of danger was at hand, praying for her son's safety.

**One day we were walking single file down a trail with me on point.** For no apparent reason, I stopped for a few moments and looked back at the men behind me. After that brief pause, I started walking again. All of a sudden, I heard a loud explosion and a chunk of shrapnel about the size of a car wheel, jagged and sharp like a saw blade, sliced through the air. I watched as it hit the ground at the approximate place where I would have been if I had not stopped for those few moments. I've often wondered what it was that made me stop, and the only conclusion I can come to is that God's hand was over me once again.

## VICTORY OVER FEAR

**I was just a kid, and the danger around me was real. There** were many times when I was afraid—terribly afraid. But I distinctly remember the morning the fear of death left me.

It was just before sunrise and I was seated for guard duty. My eyes were fixed on the terrain in front of me. The sun, still below the horizon, was turning the sky a gorgeous reddish orange. As I looked out at that beautiful morning sky, I suddenly noticed an incredible stillness. There was no shooting going on. No explosions from artillery or mortars going off in the distance. It was as if, for a little window of time, I was in a whole different part of the world. Everything was peaceful and still. I looked up into the heavens and simply began to talk to God. To think that there could be a peaceful moment in that war-torn country, and I was experiencing it! Tears welled up in my eyes, and I thought about the peace I felt inside.

**My inner peace was anchored in an event that had** taken place in my life in the summer of 1966, when God got hold of my heart. Though I had been to church hundreds of times in my growing-up years, that summer the conviction gripped my soul that I needed to give my whole life to God. One day after a church service, a friend asked me if I wanted to pray. Until that time, I had never really thought about my need for salvation. But that day, God let me know that I desperately needed Him in my life. I knelt down at an altar of prayer, and a deep sorrow for my sins flooded my heart. I began to weep and tell God how very sorry I was for the way I had lived. I wanted God's power in my life—power to live a life without sin.

**Throughout my early teen years I had tried to live like** a Christian, but I had no power to do so because there had been no change in my heart. But that day, God saw my willing heart and made the transformation I was looking for. My life was turned around in a moment. God forgave my

sins, and peace and happiness filled my heart. My desire to do right and be good to others was reinforced, and God helped me do just that.

**Little did I know that I would soon be facing service in** the Army, many months of which would be spent in the jungles of Vietnam and Cambodia at the height of the Vietnam conflict. Yet on that beautiful morning during guard duty, His Spirit touched mine in such a way that my courage was renewed. God knew I needed His touch, and He provided it. He let me know that He would get me home safely. The fear I had felt was gone. Although there were many more patrols and terrible experiences to come, I had God's assurance that no matter what happened, I was going to make it out of Vietnam alive. That kept me going until the day I finally headed back to the States.

## NO PROBLEM TOO BIG FOR GOD

**My experiences in Vietnam changed my outlook on life.** They made me so thankful for what God gives to those who lean on Him. While I still face challenges in life from time to time, no problem is too big for our loving God.

**My testimony is far more than just a war story. I want** to tell those who read this of what God can do in a life. He has a plan for each of us if we will just heed His call and follow what He has laid out for us. Life truly is precious and our God has given us this time on earth so that we can live for Him. I owe Him my life, and it is my purpose to give it back to Him. ■

# STEPS TO DELIVERANCE

## ACKNOWLEDGE

**Admit that you have sinned and need God's help.**

*For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God. (Romans 3:23)*

## CONFESS AND REPENT

**Be genuinely sorry for the sins you have committed and ask God to forgive you.**

*If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9)*

*Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish. (Luke 13:3)*

## FORSAKE

**Determine that with God's help you are going to turn away from all sin in your life.**

*Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him . . . for he will abundantly pardon. (Isaiah 55:7)*

## BELIEVE

**When you have honestly and sincerely taken the steps above, then believe that God will hear your prayer and save you.**

*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. (John 3:16)*

## RECEIVE

**God will let you know that the work is done in your heart.**

*The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God. (Romans 8:16)*