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Dear Faithful Saints in Knoxville,

We have heard about the fantastic ministry that the Knoxville Regional Veterans Mental Health Council, the Legacy Peer Support Group and Vet To Vet Tennessee are having with our heroes and their families who are struggling with the long-term effects of war. And we are especially excited about the up-coming "When War Comes Home" forum on May 1! Thank you, Ed Junod, Freddie Owens, Dennis Lovin, Ron Morton and Frank Vollmer, and the other Council members for the wonderful, God-blessed job you're doing on behalf of our veterans!

There are two things that we are convinced of: (1) that the Department of Defense and the VA can provide some level of material, medical, employment, educational and financial help, but (2) only God can bring about soul-deep transformation and *healing*!

It makes us think of Proverbs 18:14 – "The spirit of a man can endure his sickness, but as for a broken spirit, who can bear it?" Strong men and women with proper resources can recover from physical and situational blows. But where can they go when combat and its secondary effects break their spirits? Only God can heal those wounded spirits. Your efforts to incorporate God and the faith-based community into the healing process for our troops and their families is vital and foundational to honoring their service for our country, redeeming their traumas, and facilitating true *healing*.

We are also excited to learn that your efforts incorporate the two manuals that the Lord allowed us and Marshéle Carter Waddell to "scribe" – *The Combat Trauma Healing Manual* and *When War Comes Home*. We hesitate to say we "wrote" them, feeling that God was truly the author, and we just wrote down what He wanted us to write! We feel this way because of the effects we have seen the manuals generate. They are not effects we could have cooked up by our words. They are, and continue to be, generated by the Spirit of God. As such we are grateful and humbled to simply be a part of His plan.

We are convinced that the Council also recognizes that God is the Healer. Nevertheless, your faithful execution of the responsibilities that God has given you to help create that environment in which He can have optimal access to the body, souls and spirits of wounded warriors and their families is obvious. It is a genuine partnership with God, and you are holding up your end of the deal in outstanding ways!

We wish we could be there May 1 for the Forum. I know God is going to bless it mightily! We'll be there in spirit though, and look forward to working more closely with you in the near future. May God continue to bless your work for Him in Tennessee, and wherever He expands your ministry!

In His service with you,

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