

# The Port of Hope

• Preparing God's people for works of service,  
so that the body of Christ may be built up.  
Ephesians 4:12

Helping to Build Spiritual Movements Everywhere so Everyone Knows Someone who Truly Follows Jesus Christ

## Equipping the Saints

April 2011

### Prayer Requests

#### Bridges to Healing (BTH) a Huge Success

When I first became a follower of Jesus I remember singing a song based on Psalm 133:1 that refers to the blessing it is when God's people dwell together in unity. That song and God's Word was so powerful then and has such an impact on us today.

Recently we conducted another Bridges to Healing training event where more than 100 people from the Ft. Lewis region came together. Throughout this two-day event we looked at the clinical realities of what combat



Becky Registering BTH Participants

trauma is, but more importantly discovered Christ-centered ways to address this.

Chris and Rahnella Adsit, authors of the *Combat Trauma Healing Manual* and *When War Comes Home*, took us through the dramatic reality of what our combat veterans face. From the pre-deployment mentality, into the combat environment and then finally the post-combat life, we were able to see from a practical perspective what a man or women faces and how it impacts them physically, emotionally and spiritually. (cont. next pg)



Author Chris Adsit

### Josh's "New Normal"

At the BTH, former Army Sgt Josh Renschler, shared how he woke up in a hospital thinking he was a prisoner of war. After trying to persuade an Army doctor that they needed to escape he came to the reality that it was a shrapnel wound that brought him from Iraq to an Army hospital in Germany.

From that day forward Josh fought like a valiant infantryman to get back to his unit.



Iraqi Freedom Veteran,  
Josh Renschler

After more than two years of denying his injuries, the fact set in that his unit would be deploying without him. As painful as this was, things got worse.

While in Iraq his entire squad, men that he had trained and led, were killed by an IED. Everyone of them gone! Without him to help them he was consumed by the pain.

As he sought to remain strong, the survivors guilt, traumatic brain injury (TBI), and immense sorrow became too much to bear. (cont. next pg)

- Pray for Josh and Matt as they conduct another Operation New Normal Retreat this month
- Pray for Becky and I as we seek God's will for the ministry here in the Northwest
- Pray for the churches and leaders who attended the BTH
- Pray for our upcoming Military Appreciation Banquet in Everett. Pray that the churches effectively reach out to these families with the power of the Holy Spirit

## Welcome Home Navy

After 7 long months that included flight operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, pirate interdiction off the coast of Somalia and humanitarian support the USS Lincoln, Shoup and Momsen returned home to Everett, WA.

For their loved ones this has been a tough time. For those of you familiar with Navy operations, this is very awkward and challenging process. Deployments are generally preceded by months of “workups” and for many of these families it has been a year of trials and tribulation.

For those who don’t know Christ this is even more challenging. Their hope is found in phone calls, e-mails and a short-lived welcome home. For those who do know Jesus we’ve had the opportunity to help them see how faith in



First Kiss on the USS Momsen

the God of hope offers peace before, during and after these trials.

We want to thank all of you who provided love, comfort and most of all the gospel of Jesus Christ to these families. Many of you prayed, quilted blankets (check out the pictures) and lived out your faith in ways that will forever impact our nation’s finest servants.

We want to especially thank Theresa and Darlene who’ve provided so much time and effort to these families. Because of these ladies we had more than 90 quilts and blankets made for the babies who were born on deployment.

You truly live out Gal 3:6 and do everything as unto the Lord.



New Mom and Baby Waiting for New Daddy

## Equipping continued

From there we began to discuss the fact that the world has no answers for the battle of the mind following this. They can offer counseling, pills and a host of therapies, but the reality is that these methods “manage the Post-Trauma” aspects: They don’t heal them.

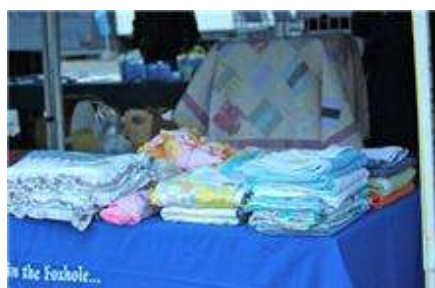
This is where we then began to help “equip the saints to do the works of service”. We focused on the scriptures that helped



Shawn at the Information Table

these believers see that God is the Healer and we’re simply the bridge to that Healer.

It was a beautiful to hear the comments of people from a variety of denominational backgrounds share how God has uniquely positioned them to begin addressing this need within their church. They laughed with each other, cried together and left with a focus on the reality that God has equipped them to help our combat veterans through the power of the Holy Spirit.



Hand Made Quilts for New Babies

## Josh continued

Finally a severe anxiety attack took him down and reality set in. He was broken and needed to be fixed, so he entered an intense program of “rehabilitation”. Like a good soldier, he took the pills, he attended the meetings, he met with the doctors, but something was missing. Searching for the old normal was futile because it was gone.

During this time Josh met Matt, a recently retired Iraqi Freedom veteran. Matt took a Christ-centered approach to the situation and eventually they got hold of the *Combat Trauma Healing Manual*. For

the first time, Josh began to discover that he’d been looking for healing in the wrong places. He realized that the “old normal” was gone and that he needed to find a “new normal”: one where God was at the center and the Healer.

Josh then began to turn to Christ as the sole source of healing and as a result found that “new normal”. He began sharing this truth with other veterans and found that God was using this “grunt” to bring men to an understanding of God’s love.

Since that time Josh and Matt started “Operation New Normal”, a retreat for combat veterans. They share testimonies, the gospel and create a mentoring environment where the “new normal” is exposed and healing begins for other combat vets.

To hear Josh’s powerful testimony go to [www.northwestmilitary.org](http://www.northwestmilitary.org). It will bless you and help you see what we (including many of you in your support of our efforts) are doing to serve our nation’s military and their families.