



Volume 4, No. 9, September, 2016



September 11, 2001, is a date that few of us who were living at the time will ever forget. Just as with the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, no one will ever forget where they were as the realization that America was under attack sank in. Horror, disbelief, shock, anger and a rising sense of 'we are at war whether we want to be or not'. Few were immune to such emotions on that day. It has been 15 years now. This issue of Sunrise is dedicated to that day and its aftermath, but also to the faith and hope we have in our Creator God. No matter what happens to us, we can rest in His love and care.



### Not in a Million Years

On Wednesday, September 12, 2001, the day after that day which we now call Patriots Day, a school girl wrote a letter to New York fire-fighters. All over the country school teachers allowed students class time to write such letters to first responders who had gone to work and done their jobs that terrifying day. This particular little girl's letter read in part as follows:

Dear Fire Fighters,

My name is \_\_\_\_\_. I go to the \_\_\_\_\_ School, and I am nine and-a-half. It seems quite pointless to describe my everyday life to you, when you have just

risked your life to save people like me ... Enough about me; I think that it is time to talk about you.

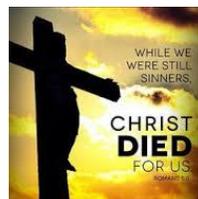
Your courage is outstanding. In a million years, for a million dollars, I could not do what you have done. Once we had pride in the two towers that gallantly scraped the sky. Now we have pride in you .... I think that you are the most courageous people in the world, because you are the ones who have risked your lives, to save the lives of others ... Thank you so much.

It's quite an insightful and articulate letter for a nine year-old. Yet there is one line in particular that resonates with me - "In a million years, for a million dollars, I could not do what you have done." We may have all had that thought when we have watched someone else do something amazing and incredibly brave, whether it's running into a burning building to save people, or traveling alone to a foreign country to take on some immense task, or even diving off the high board. Or perhaps we have entertained the thought, "I could do that," but when the actual moment comes - no, no way.



But there is another reason that line strikes a chord in the heart of a Christian, for the wording is reminiscent of words written long ago about Someone Else who was a hero. In case there was any doubt, Paul clearly explained to the disciples living in Rome:

You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly ... But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.



Romans 5:6, 8. When we were still powerless – as much as we might like to think otherwise, we can never atone for our own sin – not in a million years, not for a million dollars.

No amount of performing good deeds, hiding our transgressions, weeping, or ignoring the reality of that sin can ever take it away. But there is Someone who could take those sins away, and He did.

And He didn't just risk His life for us. He freely gave it.

Ina McKune, Rolla, Missouri  
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### For Those I Love I Will Sacrifice –

A member of the 1st Infantry Division, Hockenberry's world changed June 15. He was on a foot patrol just outside Haji Ramuddin, Afghanistan, when an improvised explosive device detonated nearby.



In this photograph, by Laura Rauch for the military's [Stars and Stripes](#) newspaper, flight medic Corporal Amanda Mosher is tending to Hockenberry's wounds aboard a medevac helicopter minutes after the explosion. Kyle Hockenberry, 19, lost both legs and his left arm in the blast.

Laura Rauch / © Stars and Stripes

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I remember the first time that I saw this picture; heart-wrenching is the word I would use to describe it. To see this young man lying there obviously fighting for his life while those around him are working so hard to save him and, then, to read those words tattooed on his side, "*For those I love I will sacrifice.*"

I cannot read those words without immediately thinking of another young man. This young man did not have words tattooed to His body, and He may not have spoken that exact phrase; but His actions certainly proclaimed those words to a world that desperately needed and is still in need of him. This young man went to His Father in fervent prayer—not once, not twice, but three times—and each time stating, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as You will." Those words translated hold the same meaning as **for those I love I will sacrifice.**

Jesus Christ's love for God and His love for me sent Him to the cross in order to deal with my sin problem. **His love for me is that personal; His dying on the cross is that personal.**

Jesus Christ, Lamb of God, redeemed the sins all those who lived before the cross, during the cross, and after

the cross. He has paid the price and provided the way for us to have a heavenly home.

What does he ask?

– That we put Him on (clothe ourselves with Him) in baptism—

- We join Him in His death, by dying to our old sinful lives;
- We bury (immerse) ourselves into a watery grave;
- We rise up to a new spirit-filled life where sinning brings us no joy. [*Please note: This does not happen automatically; this part is something we strive for, and it is and will be a daily work-in-progress for all of us until our physical death separates us from this world or we meet Him in the sky.*].

– That we take up our cross and follow Him (Matt 16:14).

Please, take another look at the picture and envision that the person lying on the table is a loved one/friend that is not a child of God; we must be the medics doing everything we can to save their soul. *For those I love I will sacrifice.*

Kathy Webber, Rolla, Missouri (August 2016)

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### A Prayer For America

Heavenly Father, we come to you on bended knee. Our great, proud country is in mourning. We have been humbled.

Father, for many years you have blessed our great nation with freedom and prosperity such as the world has never before known. In response, we have been a great nation. We have defended the weak; we have fed the hungry. We have fought for the oppressed; we have provided much in the way of the world's goods to those who have had so little. We have fought to free people who were languishing under tyranny.

But Father, we have strayed from our greatness. We have profaned your name and have denied your very being. We have denied our children the right to pray to you in their schools. We have removed your commands from our public buildings. We have ridiculed those who

believe in you and look to you as their source of hope and peace.

We have exalted humans who mock your name and your children. We have made "gods" of entertainers, athletes, and politicians. We have destroyed the most innocent humans among us because of our own selfish desires. We have exploited women and children by using them in ways that your word calls abominable. We have exchanged the natural for the unnatural.

Our national sins are many. They are profound. You have blessed our nation with resources and wealth untold, and we have squandered our heritage. We ask your forgiveness. We ask you to cleanse our national soul and to refocus our vision.

The enemies we face now have the very face of Satan shrouded in the name of religious fervor. These enemies have no respect for human life, not even their own or those of their wives and children. Their objective is to maim, to wound, and to kill the innocent. They intend to destroy the very fabric of our nation. Their hatred for us as a nation, especially for Christians and Jews who believe in you, is all consuming. They will stop at nothing to destroy us.



Father, our people are hurting. Many are dead or dying. Thousands of hearts are breaking — wives for dead husbands, husbands for lost wives, children for parents who will never come home again. Parents weep for children lost because of the evil wickedness of madmen. The workforce mourns the loss of co-workers, employers, employees and service personnel. Firefighters and law enforcement people fight frantically to find and rescue people buried alive while there might still be hope. Medical personnel work tirelessly to treat the wounded.

As evil and as powerful as they seem to be, however, we know that they are as ants in the face of your power and might. They can be defeated; they can be crushed. We pray your wisdom and guidance for our leaders. We pray that this nation will rise up to defeat this evil, to root it out and destroy it. We pray for the men and women who will be fighting this war. They are, in many cases, the young among us. Some of them are our own children, our own families. Many of us have sons and daughters who are either in the military or may soon be called to serve in the military. Our hearts break at the thought of their being engaged in such danger, but we lift them to

you and ask your blessings on them that they will return to us safe and whole.

Father, we face the future with some fear and trepidation. But we also face it with confidence and hope and faith. We know that all things work together for good to those who love you. We know that you will be with us in our darkest hours. We know that your strength is mighty.

Forgive us for the sins of our nation. Help us to rise up and lead our country out of its spiritual darkness so that it might again be a shining light of faith and freedom. May our cries to you during this crisis become a long lasting dependence on you rather than a temporary whimper that lasts only until the immediate crisis has passed. May our nation come to realize that only when we are on our knees before you are we truly great, truly strong.

In the midst of all our misery and suffering, many turn to you for guidance, for strength, the will to carry on. May our national leaders prostrate themselves before you, then rise to lead our nation through these dark times. We will endure and overcome as you guide and lead us.

We know you understand our grief, for you also mourned a nation that strayed. Even so, you loved us enough to allow your precious Son to die on the cross so that, in spite of it all, we have hope, joy, and peace.

It is in His dear name this prayer is offered. Amen

Evelyn Waite  
©September 14, 2001

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## Freedom

As the ferryboat circled the island, we saw the piercing eyes of Miss Liberty from many angles. Such an impressive sight! How the hearts of those immigrants long ago must have fluttered (as mine was now doing) as they gazed at the Statue of Liberty which symbolizes freedom.



Freedom was something they had dreamed of and could only imagine. They risked their families' lives and futures on this dream.

They were soon to find that the price of freedom was poverty and hard work; but the cost was worth it. They didn't want to go back to the lives they had left in the old country. With perseverance and high expectations for their children, they worked and sacrificed to enjoy living in a free country.

We have freedom in Christ Jesus. He's the one who paved the way for us with His suffering, His obedience, His death,

and His resurrection. He lived and died with high expectations for those of us yet to be born.

We have freedom from sin's clutches. It doesn't rule our lives like the tyrants of the old country. We can enjoy the spiritual blessings of peace and joy, even in a world of turmoil. We don't belong to the old country of sin and death; we are members of God's family and have life everlasting.



In your mind's eye, look again at Christ hanging on the cross. He's your symbol of freedom. Does your heart still flutter at the sight?

Lorna Smith, Lubbock, Texas  
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## 9/11 Death and Injury Total Still Rising



[Kevin McCoy](#), USA TODAY 4:44 p.m. EDT

September 9, 2015



File photo taken on September 13, 2001, shows an American flag amid the rubble of the collapsed World Trade Center towers in New York City as [the] emergency

responders searched for survivors of the terrorist attack. (Photo: Beth A. Keiser, AP)

The 9/11 death and injury toll is still rising as this week's 14th anniversary of the terrorist attacks approaches.

Nearly 21,000 people have filed eligibility claims with the September 11th Victims Compensation Fund as of September 6, up more than 4,000 from this time last year, according to updated data that fund officials released Wednesday.

More than 9,000 claimants have been determined eligible for compensation of medical bills and other expenses, and more than 6,000 have received compensation decisions.

First responders at the site of the decimated World Trade Center towers in New York City — more than 5,300 in all — represent the bulk of the approved claims and payments to date.

The total dollar value of the claims now tops \$1.44 billion, an increase from \$493.8 million in September 2014, the data show.

In all, 2,620 approved eligibility cases involve cancer-related illnesses. The cancer total nearly equals the 2,753 people who died at the World Trade Center during the attacks, and the 2,977 overall 9/11 deaths that include the strike at the Pentagon and the airliner crash in Shanksville, Pa.

"I think that number's going to rise considerably," said Sheila Birnbaum, the special master who oversees the compensation fund. Explaining that more than 62 types of cancer are eligible for coverage, she added: "These are very common cancers, so we are likely to see a lot of them."

The illness-related aftermath of the 9/11 attacks is increasingly a national issue. While New York accounts for most of the victim applications and approval, the fund has also approved applications from claimants in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

Some of the claims involve victims who moved elsewhere after the terror attacks. But Nell McCarthy, the fund's deputy special master, said some applicants submitted personal statements saying they felt a need to come to New York City and help after the attack.

"It shows us how many people came from all over the country to help and have gone back to their communities, and now they need our help," said McCarthy.

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Memories of September 11, 2001, are painful. The downward spiral into immorality and the embrace by so many of a life of hedonism and godlessness continue. We are not the first to see our world plunging headlong into darkness. As bleak as it seems, we are not without hope, for *"our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ."*

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*Sunrise* is a monthly newsletter written and/or assembled by members of the Rolla Church of Christ. All previous issues can be accessed by going to <http://www.seekgrowserveandlove.org>. Click on Resources, then on Sunrise Newsletter. You will find the current issue plus all previous issues.

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