

66

A Parable: A Marine is Made

February 12, 2001

Young boys who have just graduated from high school many times don't know what life is all about or what they want to do with their lives. In the summer after his graduation one such boy started running with the wrong crowd and got into trouble with the laws of the land. Instead of serving time in jail for the offense, he agreed to the judge's offer of joining the marines. There was one condition. If he failed and was booted out of the marines, he would have to serve the jail time that had been suspended when he joined the marines and he would then have a record.

As with most boys he had the look of the world upon him in his dress, mannerism and speech. Upon arriving at marine basic training his life took a sudden and shocking turn. He had to obey the Sergeant in charge of his platoon and speak when spoken to, told when to eat and when to sleep and always with sir, yes sir at the beginning and the end of his speaking. He was also cut off from the world that he knew and had left behind.

At first he resented this change in life and wanted to quit, but he knew what was waiting for him back home. During the first week in training after a hair cut and new clothes, he began to accept the routine of basic training. As the pride and spirit of the marines were instilled in him, his spirit came alive and receptive to this new way of life. He began to eat, breath, and think marines twenty four hours a day.

He excelled in all areas of his training and was promoted to squad leader of the platoon. He came to know the weapon of issue for the marines, the M16 rifle. He could take the weapon apart and put in back together blind folded in the shortest time of his platoon. He was trained and eagerly learned all phases of weapon usage. His Sergeant told him that in times of battle, he must know his weapon, its capabilities and what it could do to save his life. The marines held nothing back in his training or what laid ahead in times of battle and that he could even be killed. He also learned that the platoon was a body that functioned together for strength and safety.

After graduating from basic training, the young man had leave to go home and see his family and friends. Arriving home, all who came into contact with him knew what he represented and he had pride and honor that shined and radiated from him. He had new mannerisms, dress and speech. He found that his old friends no longer wanted to hang out with him, because he would not follow and

do the things of the past. When leave was up, the young man was eager to report to his new duty station and do what he was trained to do.

Training was a way of life for him. He knew without training, he would become inadequate for the mission assigned to him and when trouble came it could cost him his life. He knew what could and does happen in battle for the marines held nothing back in his preparation and training. With training he had the edge that could carry him through the battle and serve with honor and distinction.

Holy Spirit Guided Ministry

John A. Kropf

A Prophet of Jesus Christ

8476 Pine Ridge Lane

Rogers, AR 72756

479-531-1903

mej2way@cox.net

www.holyspiritguidedministry.com