

## Overview

The Baptist Home is serving God and others through Veterans Care Ministry<sup>SM</sup>. We are developing resources for mobilizing, training, and networking churches and communities for helping veterans and their families. This includes:

1. Organizing community-based collaboratives to establish a sustainable and reliable web of care of persons, churches, and organizations
2. Training pastoral staff, chaplains, and ministry leaders for effective ministry to veterans and their families
3. Creating greater awareness of the needs and resources for veterans and their families
4. Working with other community-based organizations and coalitions focused on veterans' care

## Key Insights

While Veterans Care Ministry<sup>SM</sup> is generally focused on all veterans and their families, we are specifically focused on the issues related to moral injuries of war.

The role of the church is crucial to the web of community support available to veterans; those who have returned from war, those who were mobilized to hostile assignments, those who are now aging with declining health and wellness, and the families of those who have served. ***It is now understood that moral injuries require remedies that result in soul repair.*** Effective church ministries provide persons seeking spiritual answers to guilt, shame and anger with opportunities for healing, forgiveness, and redemption.

## Veterans Care Ministry Mission

**Awareness-building,  
Mobilizing,  
Equipping, and  
Networking**  
**churches and communities to  
create a sustainable and reliable  
holistic web of care for military  
veterans and their families.**

### **A charitable ministry of The Baptist Home**

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[www.thebaptisthome.org/veteranscare](http://www.thebaptisthome.org/veteranscare)  
(501c3 not-for-profit)

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Facebook / Veterans Care Ministry Network

VCM is a Partner for Training With



*My  
Soul is  
Bereft  
of  
Peace...*



*Do not cast me off in the time of old age;  
Do not forsake me when my strength fails.*

*-Psalm 71:9*

It is sometimes difficult to explain the feelings that disturb one's sleep and interfere with healthy relationships and daily life routines. But telling someone what you are feeling is a necessary first step toward help and healing.

**Moral Injury** (feelings of guilt, shame, remorse, anger, despair, mistrust, loss of meaning, isolation) is connected to other behavioral issues and is often associated with traumatic experiences.



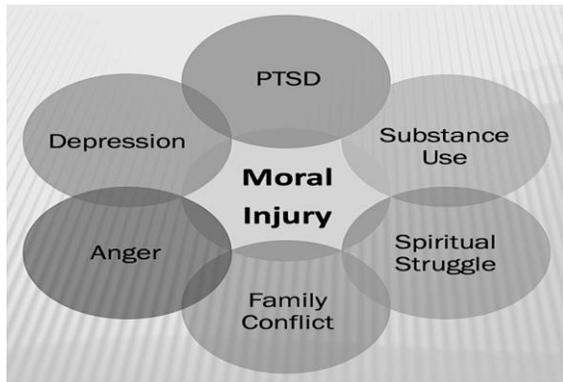
*Early in the morning I cry to you. Help me to pray, And to concentrate my thoughts on you: I cannot do this alone. In me there is darkness, But with you there is light; I am lonely, but you do not leave me; I am feeble in heart, but with you there is help; I am restless, but with you there is peace. In me there is bitterness, but with you patience; I do not understand your ways, but you know the way for me... Restore me to liberty, And enable me so to live now That I may answer before you and before humanity. Lord, whatever this day may bring, Your name be praised.*

-a prayer by Dietrich Bonhoeffer

### Intervention Actions

“Whatever war trauma a veteran is experiencing, the most successful step in the healing process is for veterans to tell their story to someone who is genuinely willing to listen.”

- If you are needing help, tell someone and ask for help.
- If you want to help, be a compassionate non-judgmental listener, assuring them they are not alone.
- Go with someone who's at risk to get help.
- Call 911 or seek out a health professional.



### Searching for Spiritual Answers

- Practice Bible Reading, Prayer and Meditation.
- Find a local church or worship community and Christian support group.
- Read John 11:29, Psalm 23:4, Jeremiah 29:11, Ephesians 3:16, Matthew 11: 28-30, Psalm 51:10, Philipians 4:4-9

*My soul is bereft of peace; I have forgotten what happiness is... But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, God's mercies never come to an end; They are new every morning; Great is your faithfulness.*

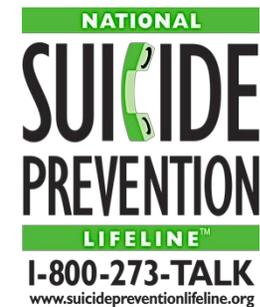
(The Bible) Lamentations 3:17, 21

### Where to Find Help

Active military, military veterans, and spouses need help for a range of services, including emotional and spiritual issues.

#### Places to seek help include:

- Military Chaplains
- National Guard Chaplains
- Spiritual Care Chaplains
- Local Clergy
- Mental Health Counselors
- National Guard Offices
- Military Reserve Offices
- VA Hospitals and Clinics
- Vet Resource Centers
- Veteran Service Organizations
- Other Service Personnel and Veterans
- Friends and Family



www.mentalhealthamerica.net  
online help for self and others