

A Veteran's Day Service 2005

The ministry of *Victory Christian Fellowship*, under the leadership of Scott L. Robles, has always placed an emphasis upon patriotism. Periodically, Pastor Robles ministers to instill within his congregation a gratitude for the freedoms Americans enjoy, as well as an appreciation for the men and women of the military who through their service have insured that these freedoms remain intact.



In 2004 Pastor Robles wanted to develop a special service focused on veterans. This service was to be held on the Sunday before Veteran's Day. The first service of this nature was an overwhelming success. There was such an overflow of people in attendance that chairs had to be set up in the church lobby. Using only word of mouth in 2005 1,019 people attended this service. The service agenda changed only slightly from its original format and is outlined in this handout.

The service was completely centered on veterans.

Pre-Service preparation: **Four weeks** before service

The congregational attendees were asked to fill out a card if they or if any member of their family was a veteran. Requested card information was: Name of veteran, name of person submitting the information, branch of service, years of service, is this card being turned in for a deceased military person? Was this individual a: P.O.W., M.I.A., or Killed in Action. If submitting a photograph both the photo and the card must be submitted in an envelope and turned into the church office. All pictures will be returned after the service is over. Deadline for pictures is: _____. (Date would depend on church staff compiling information).

These photos were scanned and made into a video. The person's name, branch of service, and years of service were displayed under their photograph. Background music accompanied the photographs.

This card information was also made into a special Veteran's Day Service Program. Included in the program was: veteran's name, branch of service, and years of service (and if this person was a P.O.W., M.I.A. or Killed in Action). A brief note of appreciation from Pastor Robles and his wife was included on the inside cover page. The back page contained the U.S. Military Code of Conduct (which was obtained off the internet).



Three weeks before service: A special card was placed within each church bulletin. This card gave the specifics of time, location, etc. for the Veteran's Day Service. It also included a special invitation welcoming any veteran to join us for that service.

Congregational attendees were asked to give the card to any unchurched person they might know who is a veteran, or who might especially enjoy this type of service.

The following is a brief description of the order of service:

1. Pre-service music was played that consisted entirely of military marches. These are available commercially on CD or can be downloaded off of Internet just plug in "military marches" or "military music" or www.2.acc.af.mil/music/patriotic.
2. Patriotic quotes were shown on the auditorium screens while pre-service music played. Quotes were obtained from the Internet (just plug in "patriotic quotes").
3. To start service: the DVD: Under God was shown. This is a commercial DVD that may be obtained from Word Music.

4. A narrator welcomed all who were in attendance and worship team ministered the following songs: The Battle Hymn of the Republic, My Country Tis of Thee and I Pledge Allegiance to the Lamb (a Ray Boltz song).
5. During the song: “I Pledge Allegiance to the Lamb” a military man (in dress uniform) and a believer walked down the aisle bringing in the American and Christian flags and placed them on the platform.
6. Our Royal Rangers then marched in, lined up in front of the congregation and led the congregation in the pledges to the American and Christian flags.



(Royal Rangers is a Christian based program for young boys grades K-12 that uses indoor and outdoor activities to foster within them a personal relationship with Christ, positive character traits, as

well as the skills needed to be more successful in every area of their lives.) More information about this program may be obtained at www.royalrangers.ag.org.

7. The narrator spoke briefly about the American flag and a special musical number: “I Pledge My Allegiance” was sung.
8. The narrator did a brief expose about America and the choir then ministered the song: “This Is America”. At this point the church’s young girls’ dance team entered waving flags and did a choreographed routine. During their presentation the entire Kidzone Department entered down the center aisle waving flags. The boys wore plastic red, white, and blue top hats, and the girls had star garlands in their hair. (Both items are available at M&M International

or Oriental Trading.) At the end of this song, all the little children shouted: God Bless America.

9. Pastor then brought forth his message. Message summary:

Pastor Robles developed a message that compared three major wars to the work of Jesus Christ. World War II was briefly described as a war that fought a specific evil, just as Jesus Christ came to this earth and confronted the specific evil of sin and Satan. The Korean Conflict was outlined as the forgotten war (the war that most people only have a recollection of because of the television series MASH). The comparison was made that much of what Jesus has accomplished for mankind can be forgotten. Finally, the Vietnam War was recalled highlighting the harsh treatment that many Vietnam veterans received when they returned home. Isaiah 53: 3 was used to relate how Jesus Christ also experienced rejection and harsh treatment. *

At the conclusion of his message Pastor Robles asked that all veterans come forward for a special recognition. These men and women lined the front of the church and Pastor shook their hands and gave each person a card. Cards were printed in house and on the inside instructed that if the recipient returned the completed card (name and address) by a designated time, they would receive a \$25.00 gift certificate from Bob Evans.



10. During this time of recognition a video is playing consisting of the picture, name and military branch and years of service of members, regular attendees, and relatives that were submitted to our office through the veteran' s cards. (See pre-service preparation)
11. After all veterans were addressed by Pastor Robles and awarded their card, the song: "God Bless The USA" was played with accompanying

video visual imagery. The congregation was then asked to express their appreciation to these veterans. They did so through a standing ovation.

12. Deceased veterans were then recognized posthumously. Taps is played (it can be downloaded off of the Internet) while veterans are recognized by Pastor and also given a card to complete. Those completing the card will receive a certificate of appreciation on behalf of their deceased veteran along with a patriotic car magnet. The magnets were located online under a search for: patriotic gifts.
13. A human video was done to Mark Schultz' s song: "Letters From War." This video can be ordered from any Christian Bookstore.
14. The explanation of the symbolic POW table was done. Information about this may be obtained from any American Legion, VFW organization or on line.
15. Pastor Robles then recognized any person in attendance that may have been or who may have had a family member who was a POW.
16. Pastor then recognized those who have served during the Afghanistan or Iraqi Wars, or who were currently serving in the military, this was done by having them stand. An in-house video was played using these men and women's photographs, branch of service, and years of service. (See pre-service preparation veteran' s cards).
17. Drum cadence began and the local color guard came in presenting the colors. (The color guard was obtained through our local funeral director.)
18. The National Anthem was sung.
19. Color Guard exits to drum cadence.
20. Pastor concluded the service by summing up the importance of veterans and setting forth the spiritual proposition for salvation.
21. Tithe and offerings are received. (Pre-service military march music is played)

22. Pastor prays a blessing over the congregation. The congregation then exited to military marches.

Decorations:

Were very simple and minimal. A few bunting's hung in highly visible places. Several red, white, and blue balloon bouquets were placed in the hallway. About eight small American flags on wooden sticks were placed in present floral arrangements. A huge



4x20 banner stating: Thank You Veterans was hung in the church hallway.

Memorabilia Table

Several congregational members who had served in the military were willing to bring in some of their items for display. An usher was present at all times to watch over these items.

* Message is available on CD by contacting the church office: 419 332-1527