

MT. OLIVET BAPTIST CHURCH, 3500 Edwards Mill Road, Raleigh, NC 27612

NEWS & EVENTS – June 2025

Phone...(919) 787-1910
E-mail: office@mobic.org
Web Page: www.mobic.org

SAM GORE, Senior Pastor
NANCY MCBRAYER, Office Manager
MIKE KING, Maintenance Supervisor

These days it seems like we are reminded of wars and rumors of wars. We are told by good authority that there will be days like these. Wars. I am still processing some Memorial Day thoughts. The holiday is to remember those who died in war. The wars of kings of the earth against kings of the earth are one thing, but wars of the kings of the earth versus the King of kings is another thing coming. Or another *think* coming...if you want to think about it. Some are trying to not entertain that thought.

Recently I heard a report about a bridge being destroyed in some major city. Targeting roads and infrastructure is a wartime tactic to disable the enemy. Rendering systems of command and control ineffective is a major part of war fighting and war winning. My mind began to recall a memory of an encounter a few years after I entered the military in 1973. I was visiting my father's house and saw a book he had been reading lying on the table beside his easy chair. When I asked about the subject of the book, he said it was about a World War II battle over a bridge in the Netherlands, prior to invading Germany. The title of the book was *A Bridge Too Far*. At that point, the title did not interest me very much. Until he said the story mentioned the brother of Sergeant Frank Burriss. Now he had my attention. Sergeant Burriss was one of his former supervisors on the South Carolina Highway Patrol. I had grown up seeing Sgt. Burriss from time to time interacting with my dad. I was amazed that parts of the book mentioned a U.S. Army Captain named Thomas Moffatt Burriss. He was the younger brother of Frank.

Captain Burriss was also a paratrooper with 82nd Airborne. I was fascinated by the book and read it myself. The author told a compelling story about life and death in the course of that battle. The book was the inspiration of a movie by the same name, released in 1977. I liked the book more than the movie. Lately, I did some research to see what became of the captain. He was a young man in his 20s during the engagement known as Operation Market Garden. Moffat Burriss survived being wounded, and the war. He returned home to teach, started a construction business, and was elected to the S.C. Legislature. He also found the time to be a founding member of a Presbyterian Church where he served as a ruling elder. He lived to be 99 years old and died in 2019, almost 9 months from his 100th birthday. That is quite an impressive resume. But what impressed me the most was what impressed him. Consider the following excerpt from an article in a military publication. He was invited to speak to a group of incoming chaplains about some of his experiences in the war. Here's an excerpt of what he had to say.

Burriss said his former chaplain volunteered to jump into combat with his troops and accompanied the paratroopers during the famous Waal River crossing in Holland during Operation Market Garden. Burriss' role in that crossing was made famous by Robert Redford in the movie "A Bridge Too Far."

"Our chaplain was amazing," Burriss said. "He was everywhere. He was fearless."

The impressive part for me was not that he was not impressed by a movie star. He seemed to be impressed with a man of God...his chaplain...a **fearless** man. I asked Google this question: *What does the Bible have to say about a fearless man?* AI's answer is instructive.

*The Bible describes a fearless individual as someone who trusts in God and His word, allowing His power to overcome fear. **This fearlessness is not a natural human trait**, but a result of having a relationship with God and allowing Him to work in their lives. (How do you think AI knows that...hmm?)*

Now let's give Real Intelligence (*The Word of God*) the opportunity to respond...*for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but **divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.** (2 Corinthians 10:4)*

You see, the Word of God tells of a Supernatural War Scenario. God wins and His people win because the flesh is destined to die, and the spirit is privileged to live. A good book is better than a mediocre movie. The Word of God is a warfare manual. The purpose of the Word of God is to instruct us in how to fight the spiritual battle in which we are engaged in all our life. When we follow the one who wrote the Good Book, he equips us for every good work. Dying to self and trusting in God always brings the victory. *A Bridge Too Far* was actually about a failed mission of warfare. Trying to get to God through own efforts and manage our success without following Jesus is always a bridge too far...Jesus is the Bridge between Life and Death, His Life...our death. His Kingdom...our destiny. While we remember those who died in war consider this:

Have you died to self yet? Some have already died in this war and don't even realize it. They are dead in their spirit. God is Spirit. When we are born of God, we are born of the Spirit. His power is impressive. We must be born again to see the Kingdom of God. Think about it. And Pray for all the walking dead.

Blessings to you,
Pastor Sam

(If you are unable to attend Mt. Olivet's 11 AM Sunday worship service in person, can go to website www.mobic.org and click on "Worship Services" for live streaming or prior messages.)