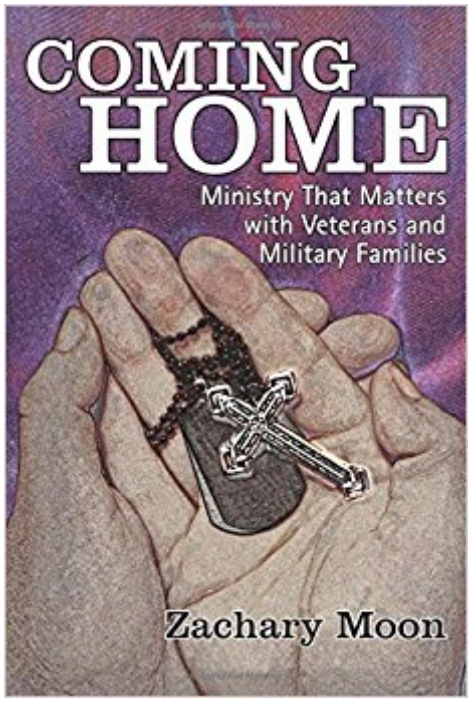
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Coming Home: Ministry That Matters With Veterans And Military Families



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Synopsis

Coming home from military service is a process of reconnection and reintegration that is best engaged within a compassionate community. There are almost 20 million veterans and service members living in the United States, including more than one million Americans deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan since 2001. Post-war life can be challenging unless there are communities responding with compassion and hospitality. How churches welcome and respond will be critical to the well-being of our nation's veterans, their families, our local communities, and our nation. Zachary Moon, a commissioned military chaplain, has seen the unique challenges for those adjusting to post-war life. In this book, he prepares congregations to mobilize a receptive and restorative ministry with military service members and their families. Designed to be accessible to both clergy and laypersons, this is an ideal resource for individuals or small groups interested in addressing the opportunities and challenges facing veterans and their families. Discussion questions and other resources included will help support small-group dialogue and community building.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Coming Home: Ministry that Matters with Veterans and Military Families is THE book for people of faith who want to start a ministry to military personnel and their families. The theological reflections coupled with practical suggestions and resources make this book an ideal study guide for small groups or individuals. I wish this book had been available for the congregations I served as pastor! --Col. Robert C. Leivers, Chaplain, USAFR (ret)Coming Home is an excellent resource for

individuals, study groups, mission committees, and congregational care teams in faith communities who want to engage in informed and caring relationships with military service persons, veterans, and their families. Chaplain Moon offers a compelling and richly thoughtful invitation into such ministries. He helps readers recognize that walking beside those coming home from war and their families gives congregations opportunities to deepen faith and practice. --Dr. Nancy J. Ramsay, Professor of Pastoral Theology and Pastoral Care, Brite Divinity SchoolWithin the peace-church tradition, so many of us are completely ill-equipped to respond lovingly or helpfully to members of the military or their families. Because of our inability to see beyond the war and violence we reject, we miss the opportunity to see individuals who may actually share our passionate quest for peace, purpose, community and God. Zachary Moon&#39s Coming Home refocuses our attention on the person now home from battle and wondering if there is a place for them in our congregation. The combination of story, bible study, and reflection questions makes this a very useful resource for faith communities interested in learning to accompany military personnel along a healing and transformation journey we all need. --Colin Saxton, General Secretary, Friends United Meeting

Zachary Moon is a commissioned military chaplain who previously served as a chaplain in the VA hospital system and with combat veterans in residential treatment for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. He received his Masters of Divinity from Chicago Theological Seminary and is currently a PhD candidate at Iliff School of Theology. He lives with his wife and his two enthusiastic toddlers in Denver, Colorado.

A short, concise text, easy to absorb, that deals personally with the aspects of both veteran and family relationships during and after military service. It’s lack of pages are quickly made up by it’s richness of content, This is a much needed, intimate snap shot of the realities of the returning warrior and their search to to regain the person (themselves) they lost to combat.

This is a wonderful book for personal study or for small groups. I have used it in my own church with a team engaged in ministry with veterans. That group responded to this book enthusiastically as it is clear and concise (not always the case with books on this subject) and filled with important insights and questions for reflection.What I so appreciate about this book is the way the author guides his readers through the subject. First he asks his readers to consider our own views on war and faith before we declare we are open to hearing the stories veterans have to share. My preexisting beliefs will shape how I interpret what I hear and how I respond so it is crucial to know what I believe. Only

then does the author move his readers onto "bridging" the gaps in communication. And that is not simply tackled in theory. Through the use of well chosen quotes from interviews with veterans prominently placed throughout the book, the author is modeling and, in some cases, even beginning that conversation.It is important to recognize this is not a book about ministering to veterans, but with veterans. Veterans are not portrayed as having one "universal" experience of their service. The author is realistic about the ways military service changes people and the harm that can cause. However the book also covers the powerful commitment to serve others that the military service instills. This book is not just about how people and churches can minister to veterans who are struggling. It is as much about what people and communities of faith can learn from creating space for our veterans to shape all the ministry we do.If veterans ministry is something you or your faith community is interested in becoming more involved in, I highly recommend this book to begin or deepen your journey.

A very short book, with lots of things to think about and, most important, a series of questions and ideas on how to be of best help to those service members who are returning to the US. I've known Zack slightly for several years; he's a very dedicated man and doing great work. This isn't an expensive book; go ahead and get it!

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