

# What a Life!

**“Maybe I’m already dead and I died without asking God to forgive me.”**

That was one of Randy Kington’s first thoughts when he found himself rolling in the air in slow motion above a rice patty dike in Vietnam on the morning of March 21st of 1966, after being shot in the neck by a North Vietnamese soldier and lifted off the ground from the impact—but death wasn’t God’s plan for Randy.

Randy’s company of 157 marines entered what they thought was a peaceful farming village, only to be ambushed by a complete regiment of well dug-in North Vietnamese soldiers. Blistering machine gun fire. Explosions everywhere. Randy was sweeping toward the enemy when two of them raised up from their single spider hole and began blasting away. One of their bullets tore into the front of Randy’s neck with so much violence, the impact literally raised him up off the ground and into the air. Once in the air, everything turned a foggy jet black and time stood still while Randy seemed to float there.

Randy screamed out, deep from his soul—“Please Lord...don’t let my mother bury me. She can’t handle that. Please save my soul.” Above all the noise, death and destruction—God heard Randy’s cry. His answer was YES. Only God could take a day that horrible, that awful, and turn it into the best one Randy would ever know. “Because of what happened that morning, I’m going to spend eternity with God in heaven—a place where there are no tears, no sadness...no wheelchairs.”

That morning, 16 young marines lost their lives and the Lord saved Randy’s life and He saved his soul—but He wasn’t even through. The moment Randy was filled with the Lord’s presence, he began to fall. Crashing into a dry rice patty field, he ended up with his legs over his face and his rear-end in the air. That position caused his ammunition belt to squeeze so deep into his diagram that it totally choked off his ability to breath. He went to pull his belt off, but his arms wouldn’t work. It was as if they weren’t even there. Unable to raise his head up to see if his arms were attached, he realized he was totally paralyzed from the neck down.

With the battle raging all around him, Randy calmly raised his eyes upward and asked—“God, I need my hands...PLEASE.” Before he could get the word “please” out, feeling rushed into his shoulders and down to his fingertips. He quickly reached up, shoved his knees off of his face and took in a sweet breath of fresh air.

Randy was assured by God in that moment in 1966 that He would never leave or forsake him. While he didn’t receive the use of his body from the waste down, there has never be a day that God has gone back on His word. Sixteen months after getting hurt, God sent a beautiful nurse into his life in the hospital during his recovery who would soon become his wife and life partner. Over 50 years later—with two sons, three grandchildren and a successful career in accounting, Randy has told his story of God’s faithfulness to thousands of people around the country.

Would Randy have it any other way? Interestingly, he has never prayed for further healing. Instead he prays, “Lord, your will be done...and that will be good enough for me.” To spend time with Randy and to see him in one of his talks, it’s easy to understand how deep the Lord can reach into a life and transform it into one of total joy, peace and love under the worst of circumstances. The title of Randy’s book (available on Amazon) says it all— ***What a Life.***

## Discussion

1. Why did God choose to save Randy’s life and not 16 others in his company?
2. How might the course of his life been different had he not become handicapped?
3. Have you experienced spiritual victory out of extreme loss or disappointment?
4. What have you done with that?

Click on the link for an 8 minute video of Randy’s talk

<https://vimeo.com/370756102>