

Faith under fire

The sky was dark and tension ran high. As a deputy sheriff, Glenn had been in this precarious situation many times. He received a call about a shooting and headed to the trailer in the woods. This trailer was familiar. He had been here before.

Glenn quickly drove up the driveway, remembering his last encounter with the drug-addicted felon who caused problems in the small town in which they lived. Carefully maneuvering his six-foot-four frame up the stairs, Glenn narrowly missed a pipe bomb placed on the steps.

Noticing that the sliding glass door to the trailer was open, something stopped Glenn from making his presence known. Instead he pushed back the curtain to assess the situation. He immediately unholstered his handgun as he observed the parolee sitting on a couch pointing a gun toward the door with a second gun beside him. Glenn aimed his handgun at the parolee and ordered him to the ground. The prayer for wisdom he prayed before his shift that day meant even more to him at that moment.

Glenn knew God was watching out for him.

It wasn't always this way, however. There was a time when Glenn simply did his job, hoping to get by. He enlisted in the Marine Corps at 17 to get away from an unhappy homelife. He hoped to find what he was searching for in the military. He did. He found God.

He came to know the Lord while stationed in Okinawa, Japan. An American missionary couple with the Overseas Christian Service men's Center took this bright young man under their wing and presented the saving message of the gospel to him. Since that time in 1978, the soft-spoken Marine-turned-sheriff can recount many times the Lord has worked in his life. In the same way, Glenn strives to work in a way that brings glory to his Lord and Savior.

Being a Christian and a sheriff gives Glenn opportunities to share his faith with his peers and with those who are going through trials.

A platform for testimony

Christians are called to be examples for Christ. Being a deputy sheriff does not exempt Glenn from that calling. From the day Glenn was hired as a sheriff, he has made it known that God has the final say in his life. He is known for being fair and just toward each person he deals with, including those who get in trouble with the law. In fact, one inmate, after being released from prison, thanked Glenn for treating him fairly. When Glenn transports people to prison (a 40-minute drive), he takes the opportunity to play a Christian radio station.



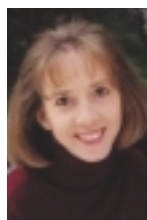
Glen McNama

Being a Christian and a sheriff gives Glenn opportunities to share his faith with his peers and with those who are going through trials. Brett, a sheriff of 18 years, became a Christian partly through Glenn's example. Glenn attempts to steer teens in the right direction and implements James 1:27 by looking after

widows. Being a Christian sheriff does not translate into being soft on crime. Through his zealous crackdown on drunk drivers, Glenn received the Mothers Against Drunk Driving award two years in a row.

Glenn's story is compelling not only because he performs a difficult job well, but because he does so in ways that bring his Christian faith to light in his work environment. His job is the platform for his testimony.

This story of a sheriff who has intertwined his faith with his work is a reminder that each of us can do the same. For Glenn, faith isn't just for when the bullets are flying—it's also for when the widow is crying. To protect and serve the way Jesus would want it—that's the only way for an officer named Glenn, and a challenge for us all. ■



Susanne Dacus graduated from Pacific Christian College with a degree in Christian Education. She and her husband Brad work with Pacific Justice Institute. They recently released their new book, *Reclaim Your School*. Brad and Susanne reside in Sacramento, California with their son, Austin.

"Faith at Work" is an occasional column that deals with the way Christians demonstrate their faith in God in the workplace.