

**T**im Tye is a Marine.

He enlisted at the age of 17, graduating from high school early to join. After four years of service, he earned his discharge. But he missed the camaraderie and the travel so badly, he re-enlisted.

Semper Fidelis is the Marine Corps motto, Latin for “always faithful.” It reminds Marines to remain faithful to the mission at hand, to each other, to the Corp and to country, no matter what. Their core values are honor, courage and commitment. During his service, Tye was awarded the rank of Chief Warrant Officer 4 Marine Gunner. Gunners are the duty experts on all infantry weapons systems with the Marine Corps inventory. There is no such thing as an ex-Marine. A year and a half after his retirement, his watch is still set on military time. Tim Tye is a Marine.

Tim Tye is accustomed to combat.

During 27 years of service, Gunner Tye executed 13 deployments totaling 4 combat tours. He was in Beirut, Lebanon as part of the Multi-National Peace Keeping Forces. Following the 1983 bombing of the Marine barracks in Beirut, he recovered the bodies of his friends and infantry classmen. In 1988 he was part of a special Marine Air-Ground Task Force (MAGTF) that went to the Persian Gulf. In 2004 during Operation Iraqi Freedom II, at the Battle of Fallujah, he was severely wounded by an IED (Improvised Exploding Device) while evacuating wounded Marines. Tim Tye is accustomed to combat.

Tim and Regina Tye have endured challenges. Following their marriage in June, 1991, they were stationed in Camp Lejeune, N.C. Two months later, he got orders to be a drill instructor. This would set the pace for their married life together — home for a few months and then deployed. In 1992 they moved to Parris Island, S.C. Their daughter Abby was born there. After two years they moved back to Camp Lejeune, and Tim was deployed to Okinawa, Japan. He was back two months before son Zach was born. Tim was deployed again 18 months later. Then they get orders to 29 Palms, California where they were stationed for five years. Tim would deploy three times from there. They buried friends and watched families struggle with the demands of frequent deployment.

Tim describes their life, saying, “Regina raised our kids, at least half their lives I was gone. The toughest job you’ll ever love is a



“I really depended on God a lot when I was deployed. I don’t know where I’d be if I hadn’t had God, prayed for the things I’ve prayed for. Knowing that God brought Regina into my life, and the kids we have.”

— Tim Tye

Marine wife. It’s a tough job because she has to be Dad as well as Mom and deal with taking him to baseball and her to basketball.”

Regina admits, “It was hard for me as a wife to lie down and go to sleep with nothing to worry about, and to know that he didn’t have that luxury. To know he had to worry every minute. I couldn’t imagine. That’s when you have to trust God and turn them over to Him.”

They faced these challenges together with their faith in God and the support of the Marine Corps community. Tim and Regina Tye have endured challenges.

Tim retired from the Marine Corps in October of 2007 for his kids. “I retired because it became hard to explain to my kids

why I was leaving again,” he says.

He had promised Abby that he would retire so she wouldn’t have to worry about moving during high school. “When you promise something to the kids, keep your promise. I felt like I’d done my time and I’d served to the best of my ability. I had no regrets at all, none.”

God is in control.

A preacher’s son, Tim was frequently bringing Marines home with him. He helped baptize soldiers in Kuwait by digging a hole in the sand, lining it with ponchos and filling it with water.

“I really depended on God a lot when I was deployed,” says Tim. “I don’t know where I’d be if I hadn’t had God, prayed for the things