



AUTHOR GIVES DIRECTIONS TOWARD RIGHT ROAD IN LIFE

By Skip Vaughn

Redstone Arsenal, Apr. 28, 2004 -- Frank Chase Jr. was on a bad road and he knew it. Teen troubles led to arrest for theft; young adulthood led to illegal drugs and drinking. There was a divorce. He didn't know where to turn.

As a young Soldier he finally found his way. He became a Christian. He turned his life around and began writing a book in 1995 to share his experiences.

“False Roads to Manhood” by Chase, a writer for PS Magazine at the Logistics Support Activity, was published April 16 by Ashley & Taylor Publishing of Huntsville. Chase had a book signing for his first work the following day at the Dublin Recreational Center in Madison; and about 70 people attended, many buying multiple copies of the 284-page paperback for their fathers and brothers.

“The book is about roads and decisions that men choose in life that cause them to basically go down false roads which make life difficult for them,” the 44-year-old Baltimore, Md., native said.

The book's subtitle is “Breaking Free From the False TRADITIONS of Men.” That acronym stands for Truancy, Rejection, Anger, Discouragement, Ignorance, Transients, Incarceration, Offenses and Nomads. Each chapter is dedicated to one of those false roads and includes an interview with someone who has traveled on it, and gives Chase's directions for the road out.

“It’s a self-help book about getting men off those false roads and getting them back on positive roads in life,” Chase said. He added that it’s not only for men, but also should help women understand men’s concealed feelings and struggles.

“And I’ve always coined this term: Where knowledge is lacking, mistakes will be made. And we need knowledge as men and women about each other to bring about understanding,” he said.

He isn’t shy about describing his own mistakes, either.

Chase grew up in Baltimore, the middle child with two sisters. He started working for the Social Security Administration part time as a high school senior. And after graduation, he worked a year as a file clerk for the FBI with the thought of someday fulfilling his dream of becoming an FBI agent. But as a “dumb teenager,” he quit the bureau, returned home and started getting into trouble.

He got arrested for stealing from a store; and the judge gave him two choices: Either join the military or go to jail. He joined the Army in 1979 but his troubles continued.

“I was on drugs, smoked hash and drank heavily. So I went to a Bible retreat and that’s where my life completely changed,” he said. He served in the Army until August 1983, spending two years in Germany and two at Fort Lewis, Wash. He graduated from Washington State in 1989 with a bachelor’s degree in communications and minor in sociology.

In government service for 20 years, he has worked at LOGSA since December 1999. The Harvest resident arrived from St. Louis in 1997 when the Army aviation function moved to Redstone.



He credits his second wife, Teresa Wade-Chase, and his pastor, Karockas Watkins of Emmanuel Church International in Decatur, with supporting him during the challenging journey of writing a book. He has two children by his second wife and four by his previous marriage. Chase hopes his book will someday become a play and eventually a movie.

“I just want people to know this book is a good Father’s Day present, that it’s profound,” he said. “It will benefit anybody that reads it. No matter who you are, where you come from, you will learn something from this book. Whether personally or spiritually, you will learn something. Men and women both will learn something.”

Some 233 copies were printed; and the book, which costs \$14.99 excluding tax, can be ordered on his web site at www.positivejourney.com. The author’s cell phone number is 479-2611.

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