

Critical Praise For GOD'S COUNTRY

Thomas E. Naumann lives with his wife, two sons, and daughter in Union Co, North Carolina. He graduated as a Grayson Scholar from Mars Hill University in the Appalachian Mountains of NC. He is the President and Owner of EatSleepHunt.com and Cherokee Run Hunting Lodge LLC, a guide & outfitting service in Chesterfield, South Carolina. God's Country was inspired by his great passion for the Lord and the outdoors.

“This book will lead anyone to view the outdoors with an enthusiasm that they never had before...you get a clear-cut picture of God's desire for your life.”

- *Chip Ferguson, Former Quarterback,
Florida State Seminoles*

“Tom has captured the essence of what a sportsman sees everyday...showing that everything ties into the Bible and our faith in God.”

- *Larry Long, 1995 North Carolina Bowhunter of the Year*

“In God’s Country, Tom presents and paints a vivid picture of exciting encounters with nature...descriptively showing us the beautiful and astounding world that God has created.”

- *Travis Thompson, Former Pitcher, Cincinnati Reds*

GOD'S COUNTRY

A Devotional for the Outdoorsman

Thomas E. Naumann

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Deer Stand Devotions

It is so difficult for us to hear God speaking to our hearts. I believe we are just too busy to listen. Everyone has their own daily routine. We work, eat, and sleep most of the time in a 24-hour day. Time management becomes our focus. Where did all the time go? The last I checked, there is the same number of hours in a day now as there was in 1940.

It wasn't too long ago that God, family, and the front porch swing were a way of life for most. There is so much available now to keep us busy and entertained. We panic if we lose the remote control to the TV! Our response is always, "I don't have time!" I am reminded of that the moment I climb up in a deer stand. It is as if God says, "It's about time you slowed down enough so I could talk to you." What a great opportunity to spend intimate time with our Savior and Lord.

I do pray on the way from the truck to my stand that something doesn't get me in the dark. You know what I'm talking about. It's an hour before daybreak. You're walking up a hollow of dense hardwoods and a bobcat cries out nearby. You wet your pants and start praying, "Lord, just get me up in

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that deer stand!” We’ve all been there. It’s part of the excitement and thrill of the hunt.

As the sun slowly breaks the tree line, it is as if God turned on a light switch. The once quiet forest comes alive. Birds begin singing, squirrels scratch around, and a mosquito is buzzing in your ear. The beauty and serenity of the moment humble me. God is never more real to me than at that time.

Regardless of the outcome of the hunt, spend some time with the Lord in prayer. Tell Him what’s on your heart and mind. Whatever you might be doing in the outdoors, use the time to draw close to God.



Life gets real quiet when you sit in a deerstand. You're just a little closer to God when you're 15 feet off the ground.

Hog Wild!

Have you ever been so afraid that you literally ask God to deliver you? It sounds funny, but I've done so on many occasions. During my freshman year in college, I hunted and fished more than I ever studied. One of my favorite hunting spots was Flattop Mountain in Yancey County. You talk about beautiful country! Back in those days, I often hunted the mountains by myself. Not the wisest thing to do.

I was bow hunting miles from nowhere late one evening. As I slipped along a logging road, I could hear something rustling the leaves in the hollow above me. It sounded like several deer scratching the forest floor in search of acorns. The stalk was on. I went into "stealth" mode! The sounds led me into a laurel thicket. On my all fours, I inched closer to the persistent sounds.

As the source of the sound became visible, all I saw were a bunch of black-haired Russian Boar. My heart sank as I searched for a nearby tree to climb. There was no tree around that would hold up my 240 lb. self. I was "as nervous as a cat on a rotten limb". I actually closed my eyes and prayed, "Lord,

please help me. I'll never eat bacon or barbecue again." Boy, have I broken that promise since that day.

We can really pray when we are in trouble, can't we? It is so easy not to call upon God when times are good and all is right with the world.

Well, the Lord heard my plea as I was able to slowly crawl away undetected. Call upon the Lord in all things, before they've gone "hog wild".



*Showdown! Our family dog Marley comes face to face to with
our pet hog Olive.*