



# MILITARY EVANGELISM

THE MILITARY FELLOWSHIP CENTER

DAVE MASON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

WWW.MILITARYEVANGELISM.ORG 910-347-5371 P.O. BOX 246 JACKSONVILLE, NC 28541



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## Walt

We were saddened to hear that Walt Croom, the director of Military Evangelism from 1980 to 2015 passed away on May 16<sup>th</sup>. I was honored to be asked to officiate at the graveside service which was held on May 26. Walt was 75 years old and had suffered from heart issues for the last few years. I have known Walt since 1997 and he became one of several mentors I have had in my time in the ministry. He will be missed on this side of eternity. His family donated the flag, that the Army presented them, to the Center, where it will be displayed.

## Kellum Baptist

We were excited to present the ministry to a "new-to-us" church this month, Kellum Baptist here in Jacksonville. We were at their Wednesday night Prayer service. They were very receptive and will be partnering with us in the future. In fact, they are cooking a Friday night meal for us once again in June! Thank You Kellum!

## Mason Montoya

The day of Walt's funeral was rough, but the Lord designed it to end on a high note for us. Months ago, I had scheduled Mason Montoya to speak on that night. Mason was part of our Center ministry, attending every Tuesday and Friday night meeting from 2017 to 2021, and coming back to visit several times since then. He finished his contract with the Marines and entered Bible College to study for the ministry, which he was called to while with us! Mason has since married, and he and his wife Halaina have a beautiful little girl who is just a few months old. He taught on the Woman at the Well and asked the questions: When was the last time you shared your faith with someone else? And do you have a disciple who is making disciples? It was a Biblical and convicting lesson. I was a proud papa in the faith!

## Chapel Crosses

This month I finished making an exterior cross for the new Camp Johnson Chapel. A few years ago, when the old chapel was about to be torn down, we rescued the cross on the inside which was badly weathered and I took it home and refinished it. It hangs in our temporary chapel and will be hung in the new chapel this summer when it is completed. The old cross on the roof was supposed to go back on the new chapel but it too was much worse for the wear than originally thought. I recreated it in new wood, at the exact same dimensions, and it will sit atop the new chapel. The original cross is being donated to the Montford Point Museum, which is dedicated to keeping alive the memory of the African American Marines who trained there before the Corps was integrated in the late 40's and Montford Point was renamed Camp Johnson.

## Baptisms

We baptized one more Marine this month. Cody first attended the Center at Thanksgiving in 2021. He got saved at that service. It took a lot of prayer and patience to see him follow the Lord in Believers Baptism. The Lord is faithful and Cody is now "public with his faith" and growing at both the Center and at Centerview Baptist where he is a member.

## Counseling

May was a month full of counseling. I met Marines for breakfast, lunch or just coffee over half a dozen times to help them with personal, Biblical and just life questions. Lots of progress was seen, especially in Josh, who I led to the Lord and baptized last month. He has shown great growth tempered with humility and I thank God for his progress.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT! WE COULD NOT REACH ALL THESE SOULS FOR CHRIST WITHOUT YOU!**

*DAVE MASON*  
from 1:16 & Patty