



MILITARY EVANGELISM

THE MILITARY FELLOWSHIP CENTER

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MARCH 2025

FIRST SERMON

Vinnie, a Marine and his wife Rachael have been coming to the Center for over a year. Vinnie started talking to me a few months ago about what the call to preach looks like. He started writing sermons on his own and I would critique them for him. This month he delivered his first sermon at the Center on a Tuesday night. He did a fine job. Before the service he asked me if I could critique him at the end of the evening. I asked if he wanted the full critical review and he enthusiastically said yes. After the service we sat in my office and I went over my notes on his content and delivery. He took it all in and asked if he could have my handwritten notes I made during his sermon. As long as he keeps such a humble spirit I believe God will use him mightily in the future. Vinnie makes 17 men called into ministry at the Center since 2016.

TRAVEL

This month we were in four of our partner churches through two different trips. We were at Brooklyn Bible Chapel in Baltimore for a three service weekend as I preached through Romans 1:1-17. We always love our time with these folks. A couple weeks later we travelled back to Maryland and Pennsylvania for a week long trip to see family (my sister had an operation that was successful and she is recovering). While there we were able to visit our home church New Life Baptist and give a quick update, then it was on to Lebanon Valley Bible Church and North Hills Bible Church in Lancaster County, PA to finish the trip. We had not been in either church in several years so it was good to reconnect.

PASTOR WOODY

While we were on the road this month family obligations dictated that we would be out of town on a Friday night. Luke was also out of town so we were in a pinch. I called my good friend Pastor Woody Whitt of Maysville, NC and he was excited to preach for us. Luke was able to order pizza on his app and have it delivered. One of my trusted Marines showed up at the Center early to open up the building and receive the pizza. Many others served and cleaned up afterwards. 26 Marines heard Pastor Woody preach on "running the race." Praise God for good friends and trustworthy Marines who could keep the service going when we needed to be away.

DOCTRINAL QUESTIONS

This month I fielded many questions on Doctrine that frankly surprised me. Though I expected a little pushback from my Marines with Catholic or Orthodox backgrounds, others startled me. During a discussion on religious formality I knew some would push back, but that led to one Marine arguing with me about the "perpetual virginity" of Mary. He claimed that the grammar of Matthew 1:25 proved Mary never had other children. I parsed out the verse for him but he remained unconvinced. Soon I will sit down with him and teach him a little on hermeneutics (biblical interpretation) and diagram the verse to show him what the true interpretation is. Other Marines have told me that reciting the same prayers over and over again is spiritually gratifying. I have had to confront them with the question "Is your satisfaction spiritual or emotional?" I honestly love these moments. The Lord gives us many victories with these discussions, though at times we never convince the gainsayers. It highlights the dire need to bring solid doctrinal teaching to these young men and women. They are the future of the church and if the Lord tarries we need them properly trained. Moments like these remind me how urgent and needed our ministry to the next generation is.

DAVE MASON
Rom 1:16



The Kitchen Window 4/25

As winter turns into Spring, I marvel at the change that Creator does all over His Creation. Change + transformation is happening in our service men + women too.

Recently, we have had 1 of our Marines, Michael, come in with a new Bible + was putting tabs on each book of the Bible for a friend of his he was going to invite to the Center. 2 weeks later, Michael, his friend + the Bible came to the Center. The next week Michael came into the Center with another Bible + went to the trouble of adding tabs for another friend that he is inviting out for dinner + Bible study.

I was able to sit on the couch + hear the rough lives + families they were raised in. They shared the change + the beauty that has come. This is a new season in each of their lives.

