



MILITARY EVANGELISM

THE MILITARY FELLOWSHIP CENTER

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DEPLOYMENTS

As I write this the U.S. is engaged in military operations in the Middle East. One of our regulars was on a base that suffered counterstrikes but thankfully an evacuation kept them safe. Please pray for all our Troops on deployment right now. Two have come home since last month but more have been sent out. Some who have been away for over a year may have their return dates pushed back because of the current conflict. PRAY for their safety and return to us and their families. Also please pray for wisdom from the Lord on behalf of our military and governmental leadership, that Biblical values and a love for God's Chosen People would guide every decision in the current situation.

SNOW

We had to cancel a Tuesday night service this month because of snow. Jacksonville got an unusual 10 inches of snow this month and our local government has perhaps two snowplows for the entire county, so we had to wait for warm weather to clear the streets. Thankfully that came in the very next day. We checked on the Center Wednesday morning and everything was passable in the sunlight, so we put out a call for lunch. Everyone was still off duty due to the weather; nine Marines were able to attend. We got Smithfield's Chicken and BBQ as a treat and the guys enjoyed a couple hours away from the barracks. We also had a Bible Q&A which everyone participated in.

SUPERBOWL

The next weekend was the Superbowl and we had our annual Party at the Center. Over a dozen came out to enjoy the food and fellowship. I spent more time than expected in counseling with a few Marines, which was a relief for me since I had no interest in the game! All in all, a really good night.

VISITING CHURCHES

The snow forced us to cancel a trip to Delaware to visit First Baptist in New Castle, only the second time in 10 years that weather has stopped us. But we had churches visit us this month. Blue Creek Baptist and Friendly Community Baptist both came to the Center to cook for us on Friday nights. We are so thankful for these local churches who can come and provide both the meal and fellowship for our Marines. Having someone other than Patty or I, many of whom have been in the military, to talk to really adds to the lives of our Troops.

LETTERS

One of the great pleasures for me is to see our young Marines step up in leadership both on the job and in spiritual matters. This month I wrote letters of recommendation for Oliver and Rusty. Rusty is gunning for his next promotion, and Oliver is asking to be a lay leader for the Chaplain on his deployment this spring. Seeing young men take hold of the responsibilities of leadership is one of the main reasons I love this work. I truly believe Military Evangelism has a call to 'call out' the next generation of church leaders.

CALLED

On that note, this month the 23rd Marine who has attended MFCJAX announced his call into full time ministry. Nate previously guest spoke at one of our Tuesday night Bible studies. At the end of this month he came to me to say he feels God calling him to Chaplaincy. I gave him some advice on the transition, encouraging him to look into becoming an RP (Chaplains Assistant) first while he finishes his online degree. He is enrolled in Bible college right now, working on his core classes. Keep Nate in your prayers!

Thank you for your faithful, regular support. We could not do what we do without you!