



MILITARY EVANGELISM

THE MILITARY FELLOWSHIP CENTER

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EASTER AND PASSOVER

The end of March and the first of April happened on the same week. And a busy week it was. I preached 7 days in a row and attended a total of 9 services in the week. This year I celebrated 24 years of teaching “Christ in the Passover.” The teaching is on how the Passover Seder, as it is observed by Jews worldwide, points towards Christ in almost every element. The central element is the Afikomen, the middle loaf of Matzoh which is pierced, striped, broken in half, wrapped in a linen cloth and buried, ransomed and redeemed at the dinner table. This is the loaf Jesus took when He said “Take, eat, this is my body.” I look forward to Easter every year as I love teaching the meaning of the Passover table and how it became the Lord’s Table. This year I taught the Passover 6 of 7 days in a row! We started on Palm Sunday at Friendly Community Baptist in Burgaw, just an hour away from the Center. Monday morning, I presented the table at Catalyst Church here in Jacksonville for their all-staff meeting. Tuesday night I preached at the Center and held a Q&A. Wednesday, Thursday and Friday nights I taught the Passover at North Topsail Shores Baptist, the Camp Johnson Chapel and then the Center for our regular Friday night meeting on Good Friday. On Saturday I returned to Catalyst Church and taught the Passover for the Music team for the 6th year in a row. Was I tired? Absolutely! Was it worth it? YES! I love teaching on how those things we hold dear in the church come from the womb of Judaism. It gives us a deeper appreciation for the culture Jesus taught in and deepens our relationship with Him.

MY DAD

Halfway through the month we travelled to Maryland for family get-togethers on both my and Patty’s side. As we were preparing to return to Jacksonville on Monday morning my Mom called to tell me she was taking my Dad to the hospital. We changed direction to the Hospital and stayed in Maryland for the next two weeks. My Father had fluid on his lungs and was diagnosed with COPD and a weak heart with multiple blockages discovered. He stayed in the hospital a full week and was sent home for palliative care. There is no treatment his body would tolerate, and the medical professionals gave little hope of long-term recovery. But I know a few things they might not know. First, my father is one of the toughest men on earth. Few 81-year-olds can do what he does. While in Maryland we picked up the Farm table he just made for our son Ben and his family. Dad is strong and has a great will to go on. Also, my Dad knows Jesus. No matter what I will never lose my Dad because I will always know where he is! Please pray for my family to be strong and confident in the Lord. When this happened, the Lord reminded me of Dr. Bonds, one of my old mentor’s sayings, “Why pray when you can worry?” A tongue-in-cheek way to remind us that prayer and worry do not occupy the same space. I have determined to pray and not worry about my Father’s condition. Join me in prayer if you would.

GREAT HELP

During the two weeks in Maryland, we were blessed to have great men and great Marines step in to keep the Center operating in our absence. John Loizzi from Blue Creek Baptist, our son and Assistant Director Luke, Pastor Adam Kord of Friendly Community Baptist, and retired Pastor Woody Whitt handled the preaching while we were away. Plus, our youngest son Ben cooked a phenomenal smoked pork and brisket meal for our Troops on the final Friday night. Hannah & Rusty, a Marine couple, opened the building each night. God allowed the ministry to continue through our family emergency. We had first time visitors every night too!

GOODBYES

This month we also had to say goodbye to Michael, who has been an integral part of the Center for over 2 years. He returned to Mississippi to start his post military life. We’ll miss Mike, but know the Lord has great things in store for him.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT! We could not do what we do without you!