



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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Farewell For Now

Last month I asked you to pray for my father, Dave Mason Sr. On Memorial Day my Dad saw Jesus face to face. All told we spent 29 days in Maryland from April 18 to June 1. Three separate trips up and back. It has been taxing on our bodies, hearts and minds. We held a memorial service for Dad on Sunday afternoon May 31 at our home church in Maryland, New Life Baptist. God gave me the strength to organize, schedule and even preach the funeral. Four precious souls called on Christ at the end of the service. The U.S. Army sent three phenomenal young men to play Taps and present a flag to my Mother. I asked God to strengthen me and help me not to cry so that I could show my father the strength I promised him I would show throughout the process. I did have my moment of sorrow in my car the morning of the service, and then God filled me with His strength to press on. I will miss my Dad, but I will not miss his presence. I see him every time I look in the mirror, hear him every time I sigh. He made me the man I am. The rough and blunt preacher you know is the fruit of a hard, country, rough old man who lived the truth and did not apologize for it. I told of two of my Dad's sayings at the funeral and I share them here: "The truth is more important than anything, even family." And "When will folks realize you don't go to church to get, you go to church to do?" Here is a drawing I did of my Dad with his first great-grandson.



Graduation

The situation with Dad kept us from two planned trips. The second was to a ministry conference in Louisiana and our nephews wedding in Amarillo, Tx. The first was to be to my Seminary graduation ceremony in Springfield, MO as I have finally finished my Masters in Biblical Studies. I called the Dean and told him the situation and he said he was doubly sad since I was to receive an award for top student in the program. The college is mailing my diploma, cap and gown, and the award this week. My boys and their families held a surprise graduation party for me on a Saturday night. Throughout this tough month, that night stands out as a time of healing, having both of my boys and all of my grandchildren together.

Mason Montoya

During our few days in Jacksonville this month, we had a very special night at the Center. Mason Montoya was a part of our Center from 2017 to 2021. He was called to preach while with us. He finished his tour with the USMC and immediately married his sweetheart and moved to attend Bible College. He is back in town helping his home church Brookwood Baptist plant a new church in the southwest side of the city. Mason will be the youth pastor of this new church plant. He came to the Center on Friday night and presented the new work to our Marines. He encouraged them to stay faithful at the Center and at their churches. But to those who have not settled in a local church he asked them to pray about joining Hope Church when it opens later this year. It was special to watch a young man who we had a hand in discipling answer the call to ministry. Please keep Mason in your prayers.

New Project

I am working now on several new publishing projects. The newest will be exclusively for our Troops here in Jacksonville. I have shared my Bible Doctrine lessons with several on deployment this year. I am arranging them now into a small book that I will print just for our Marines to give them when they go on deployments around the world. They will use this to lead Bible studies on ship and in the field. Please pray for this project.