



MILITARY EVANGELISM

THE MILITARY FELLOWSHIP CENTER

DAVE MASON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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December 2022

CHRISTMAS

We had a great Christmas season @MFCJAX! Far more Marines and Sailors stayed on base than we ever anticipated, but the Lord provided. Our Annual Christmas party included lots of games, prizes, and gift bags made possible by you. Because of the generosity of Oxford Bible Chapel and Centereach Bible Church we were able to not just provide those that come to the Center with gifts, but over 70 other Marines both at the Chapel on Camp Johnson, at the Chapel on New River Air Station, and on Christmas Day, outside the Chow Hall on Camp Geiger. We ended our regular Center meetings before the Christmas Break with a Christmas hayride at a local farm, which has become an annual event these past three years. Afterwards we went to a BBQ restaurant for dinner, dessert and lots of laughs. THANK YOU for making it possible for us to give these Marines and Sailors a little taste of home comfort when they could not go home!

CENTER MINISTRY

In 2022 we had to say goodbye to many of our regulars. I handed out Challenge Coins nearly every month as we saw Marines and Sailors head to Okinawa, Camp Pendleton and Twenty-Nine Palms. Most finished their contracts and decided not to reenlist, and went back home to civilian life.

During this exodus, God kept sending new Marines our way. New faces show up at the Center almost every week. We hit a high of 52 in a Friday Night Bible Study in April, and the ebb and flow continued throughout the year. New Marines arriving at Camp Johnson, PCS moves and finished contracts, can affect our numbers week to week. We keep trusting God to send fresh souls and do our best to stay in touch with those who have crossed our paths.

CAMP JOHNSON

The Chapel Ministry really is another full-time ministry for us. We were called here to run an Outreach Center, and God saw fit to double our ministry by opening the door for me to now be the pastor of the Camp Johnson Chapel. Every week we print a bulletin. Every week I write a devotion for the Bulletin, the "Weekend Word" that supports the sermon for the day. Every week 40-180 new Marines come to the base and I get to speak to them at the Entrance Level Receiving assemblies, introducing and inviting them to the Protestant Chapel Services. And every week we get to speak into lives of those that desperately need a pastor, a mom, a dad to guide them. The one thing I missed about pastoring a local church when I moved to this ministry 7 years ago this month, was preaching every week. God gave me the deepest desire of my heart and I am so very thankful.

PARTNERSHIPS

We want to take a moment and thank our new partners with Military Evangelism. Blue Creek Baptist has been supporting us by coming to the Center every other month and cooking the Friday night meal for us. Last month Pastor Joshua McCord let me know the church voted to start supporting us financially every month as well! First Baptist Church of Keyport NJ had us in to present in late 2021. Early this year they also took us on for support! There are many churches who raised our support level in 2022. Thank you one and all! Finally, we want to thank the more than one dozen individuals who started supporting this ministry on a monthly basis in 2022. Because of you and the churches, we were able to string together back to back months of making budget several times in 2022. What was always a monthly deficit is now on budget. There is still work to be done, we need to continue raising additional support for growth, rising costs, and for repairs and upgrades around the Center. Pray with us this year for 10 new church partners and several new individual partners. Every bit helps us reach even more Marines and Sailors with the Gospel!

DAVE MASON
Feb 11/6

Happy New Year - From the Kitchen Window

This year we celebrate 7 years living in Jacksonville, FL running a ministry (we now see as a growing family) where we serve both food & the Word.

We get to celebrate the holidays with so many from around the country & around the world. Since we have been at the Center, we have some who have never decorated a Christmas tree until meeting us.

Others who never had a Christmas stocking until coming to the Center. This year we got to celebrate with 2 Marines who never celebrated Thanksgiving and they loved it!

Floyd, who is from Hawaii had egg nog for the very first time. With all of the firsts, the most special of all is a Marine named Ricardo who held a Bible for the very first time and has been reading it ever since.

I am so thankful for Tyro here in North Carolina & I have experienced many firsts myself. I'm thrilled to celebrate & share in the "firsts" with our Military men & women especially when it involves the Lord.

♡ Pally