



MILITARY EVANGELISM

THE MILITARY FELLOWSHIP CENTER

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JULY 2023

TRAVEL

July was a big month for travel for Patty and I. We returned at the first of the month from a church conference in Covington, KY just to turn around the next day to travel to Maryland to see family over the 4th of July holiday. We were back home for a week and then it was off to Latrobe, PA for Patty's family reunion then down to Elkridge, MD to visit the fine folks at Faith Bible Church. When we got home from that, my truck suffered a malfunction in the gas tank gauge and went into the shop for a week. The city came to the Center for the Fire Inspection (always a good time!), and several emergency counseling sessions with Marines. It was a full month!

LUKE

Through it all Luke stepped up and really helped us in big ways. He ran the Bible study for us on a night we were out of town, got us prepped for the fire inspection, and did a lot of things behind the scenes that just made life at the Center better for everyone. The Marines really like when Luke teaches, as he is only a few years older than most of them and he "speaks their language" and makes big Biblical concepts understandable to their generation.

BAPTISMS

Since the middle of June, we have had several RP's (Religious Program specialists, Chaplains Assistants) attending our Camp Johnson Chapel services while they are stationed here for training. Demarius, Evan and Jesiah have been an incredible blessing to our ministry. Demarius is the oldest, a 42 year-old federal police officer, who just this year, joined the Navy as a reservist. He takes on an active leadership role with the younger recruits. I was talking with both Evan and Jesiah the last Friday of the month after dinner and both told me how they were saved during boot camp. That led to a discussion about Baptism, and that led to me baptizing both the last Sunday of the month! We took all three out to lunch after the baptism service and it was one of the sweetest times of fellowship.

CHAPEL NEWS

The Chapel Ministry continues to be a source of blessing. Numbers are down right now as we are between training schedules, but the base population is expected to grow greatly this fall and just in time. The new Chapel is expected to be ready for operation within the next few weeks. I recently had a meeting with the Deputy Commander on the base and everything seems to be falling into place to allow us to continue ministering at the base for years to come. God has even made it possible for me to establish a relationship with the Chaplain over all of Training Command for the Marine Corps and he has been very supportive. Soon our Memorandum of Understanding should be finally signed off on and our ministry will be officially recognized as the main providers of Protestant Religious Services on the base. There is no chaplain on Camp Johnson right now, and even the weekly ELR (Entrance Level Recruit) briefing on Religious services has been handed over to me to present. This is unheard of territory, in other words, it's a God thing!

TUESDAYS AND FRIDAYS

Though numbers at the Chapel are down, the Center is growing during the "summer slump." Tuesday nights Doctrinal Lessons especially have been well attended. We can usually sit everyone on a Tuesday at one table. Not this month! And Fridays have seen us start bumping 30 nearly every week. The spiritual thirst of these young Marines and Sailors is palatable. They have been asking increasingly deep questions that show us they are getting serious about reading their Bibles. God is good!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT. WITHOUT YOU WE COULD NOT REACH THESE TROOPS WITH THE GOSPEL!

DAVE MASON Rom 1:16

+Patty