



John & Debbie Martin

MISIONARIES TO THE US MILITARY

But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.
Romans 5:8

1 Dec 2017

Dear Pastor:

I want to express my gratitude for your support to us as we are preparing to depart for Okinawa, Japan in about six weeks. Our family is getting giddy as the date gets closer – and not just because Christmas is nearing. Our three grown children are somewhat jealous, as they all have wonderful memories of Okinawa as children there; and our youngest two have visions of paradise based on stories heard from their siblings. I will go along with the visions as well, it is like a paradise to my wife and I. This is where we were grounded in our faith and first received the call to missions many years ago. At the time we didn't know how and where that missionary service would come, but we knew we would be in the service of our Lord, ministering to the military – and how about this – we get to serve with MARINES!

The Jellison family arrived in Okinawa in September and has already laid the ground work for the beginning of a new church – North Shore Baptist Church. They began a bible study in October and have recently located a space they are working on acquiring for their church building. With much prayer and God's intervention this will be secured before years end. The Jellison family is looking forward to us being there with them. The Lord has allowed our paths to cross several times in the past three years and we have been friends since our first meeting. Stuart Jellison has been looking for a flat for us to rent and has located a couple of furnished apartments that could possibly meet our needs. Pray for us as we look into these.

Deputation has been an experience, and trying to balance that with all of our other responsibilities and meeting our children's needs has been a challenge, but so enjoyable. The Lord has been gracious to us in so many ways, especially in meeting our financial needs; we are so thankful and humbled for HIS gifts. We are indebted to each church we have been in and to the kind folks who have received us, entertained us, fed us, loved on us, supported us and encouraged us. How can we thank you all? : By being faithful in what God has called us to do and faithful to the work we have presented to you. We are also so very thankful to the churches and pastors in which we have not been to, who took us on for support without having us present. Without your prayers and support, God's work he has called us to do would be hindered and delayed. I do my best to pray faithfully for each of you every day. Thank you.

We also would like to thank our Pastor, Frank Humber, for his diligence and kindness on our behalf getting our name and work to each of you. His and Summerville Baptist Church's involvement in our ministry has been invaluable and has made our preparations for this so much easier. His loving support has also enabled us to be ready to depart to Okinawa next month.

Again, thank you and Semper Fidelis,

John and Debbie Martin

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