



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

23 Jan 2018

Dear Pastor:

“What a joy divine - what a blessedness” being in the will of God and seeing his handiwork. We were able to secure a space available seat on Thursday, 18 January (the seat we had been praying specifically for) despite airport officials telling us there were no seats open – isn’t God good! We arrived Friday evening tired but full of expectation of what lies ahead. Within hours of landing on Okinawa, Japan we had the opportunity to talk to two young Marines just outside our apartment. There happens to be a tattoo parlor attached to the front of our building that attracts young Marines trying to prove their ‘manhood’ and ‘acceptance’ into the Corps. Within a few minutes the discussion was turned to spiritual things and they were confronted for the first time in their short lives with the Gospel. Today they are new creatures – having confessed their sins and claiming Jesus as their personal savior!! – And by the way, they left there without going into the tattoo parlor.

We were praying we would see them in the church services Sunday morning, but alas, they didn’t come. Pray we would be able to have follow up contact with Isaiah Cox and Chris Armbruster. The church facility is in the most convenient place for Marines to get to, just across the street from the main gate of Camp Hanson. From the sanctuary I can look right into the base and watch any Marines walking out of the camp. The service was filled with an assortment of folks the Jellison family has met since starting North Shore Baptist Church: a retired Marine and his Okinawan wife, a supply officer on a 6 month pump, a young enlisted couple – neighbors to the Jellisons; all a faithful core of this new church plant. Pray they would remain faithful and grow as a witness to the Marines they have influence with. Sunday



afternoon we spent in a local shopping district, which attracts servicemen and women, passing out gospel tracts and trying to be a witness for Christ.

It is such a wonderful blessing to be here and be part of this ministry. Just outside the front door of the church is where Maranatha Too Baptist Church (now combined with Maranatha Baptist) used to meet to pass out



gospel tracts on Friday nights as the Marines left Camp Hanson on liberty. I have great memories of those nights watching the Spirit do a work. We passed out thousands of tracts in the three years I was stationed here, I saw over a hundred Marines trust Christ right there at the front door, and I personally had the opportunity to lead many Marines to the Lord there. It’s been over ten years since there was such a witness at this post. This is a necessary ministry, pray the Lord will continue it, and pray for the Jellison family who has revived it.

Semper Fidelis,
John and Debbie Martin

martinstomilitary@summervillebaptistchurch.org • (541) 805-8681

**Sending Church: Summerville Baptist Church • PO Box 164 • Summerville, OR 97876 • (541) 534-9155
Baptist International Missions, Inc. • PO Box 9 • Harrison, TN 37341 • (423) 344-5050**