



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

June 2017

Fellow Warriors for Christ:

Summer is upon us already. Debbie and I just returned from Chattanooga, Tennessee where we finished up our Baptist International Missions Inc. (BIMI) missionary candidate school. We are now fully prepared to be on the mission field. This has been a two year process, getting approved and then finishing their required training. So – praise the Lord! - we are in the chute awaiting orders. Our pastor and church family has been such a wonderful encouragement to us through this process, without which we could not have followed through with this. We were blessed to be among so many missionary warriors preparing to serve our Great King all around the globe.

While on the east coast we were able to attend the retirement ceremony of our dear friend - Marine Colonel Nancy Springer. We first met on Okinawa, Japan at Maranatha Too Baptist Church in 1999. What a great place to meet lifelong friends – at church! She has been a wonderful blessing to us through the years, and it was a privilege to attend her ceremony. It was conducted in Washington D.C. in front of the Marine Corps War Memorial, which provided a spectacular backdrop. The invocation was provided by her pastor – Brad Wells of Graceway Baptist Church near Capitol Hill. Glory was given to God and Jesus was thanked for a blessed career by both Col. Springer and her pastor. It was refreshing to attend a public event and hear the name of Jesus used in a respectful tone.

While at BIMI, our field director discussed a few ministry options that may become available for us later this year. The strongest suggestion was as a help to a missionary planting a work in the central part of Okinawa, Japan to minister to the Marines stationed in the central and northern part of Okinawa. This opportunity would provide some OJT and tangible experience in ministry for us. Please pray with us as the Lord opens doors for us.

Meanwhile, in Summerville we are still faithfully serving where the Lord allows. I serve as a deacon and teach the young adult age Sunday school class along with a faithful young man who is so helpful to us when we are away. Debbie is involved in the music ministry and children's programs. Additionally, Deb and I will be starting a discipleship program with a young couple who recently joined our fellowship. During our return from Chattanooga this past week, we stopped at a fast food restaurant and as we paid for the meal, Debbie handed the clerk a gospel tract, for which she thanked us. Part way through the meal she asked if we could spare some time to visit when we were done eating. This young lady had read the gospel tract and was interested in salvation!! We had the pleasure of leading this young lady to the Lord that very morning. Praise God for his grace.

Please pray for us as we continue to prepare for ministry overseas with our military.

Semper Fidelis,
John and Debbie Martin

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