



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

20 Feb 2018

Dear Pastor:

To date we have passed out around a thousand gospel tracts on Friday evenings – the most effective time to interact with Marines as they pass the church during liberty, looking for food or a bar. The Gospel has been shared over a dozen times and we have had 6 visitors in our services – 3 each of the past 2 Sundays; with the first three visitors returning for a second week. Additionally, two Marines have been saved as a result of the Friday evening evangelism ministry. One young man came as a guest of one of the visitors last Friday (9 Feb) afternoon to help with a project in the sanctuary; after the labor was done, the Holy Spirit labored in this Marine's heart as the opportunity to share the gospel presented



itself. He confessed his sins and accepted Jesus invitation to become a child of God. On Sunday (11 Feb) a young lady visited our services after hearing about us Friday evening. She stayed for lunch and then heard the marvelous Gospel shared personally with her and she responded by accepting Jesus as her savior. Please pray for these two precious souls who have been won away from the devil. This picture includes both of these Marines (on the right and left).

Only senior Marines and married Marines on accompanied tours can drive on Okinawa, therefore, the vast majority of Marines here must walk to where they want to go or rely on public transportation. This makes North Shore Baptist Church's location ideal because it cannot be missed. Bar owners have taken notice too and one even returned some tracts left on his bar counter to us with the comment "I've got to eat too". We are privileged to pass out these tracts and have heard a wide variety of responses, such as: "I'm an atheist" (although he didn't even know what that meant to him), "I'll read that when I'm sober", "I'm good", "I don't believe in anything", and a large number of "thank you's". Most pass by, but some stay to listen to the gospel as its shared.

We have been free to build and modify whatever we want in the facility, and the owner of the building has been very helpful to us. The bottom half of the building has now been rented to us (it was a walk up restaurant) at a phenomenally low price, with the owner donating 65% of the rent to us. The most significant change has been the addition of a platform – donated to us by veteran missionary to the Japanese: Dan Gardner. Other projects include: building window screens, framing and mounting a door, electrical work, attaching the church banner to the outside of the building, and building shelves. Brother Jellison and I typically spend 5-6 hours a day on these projects and there are still enough projects left to keep us busy throughout our stay. Painting is the next big project, and then there is the downstairs kitchen area – which we don't even know where to start with that.



Please continue to pray for the Jellison family and their work here. Pray for the Marines to whom they minister. "The Lord God, merciful and gracious ... and abundant in goodness" Ex 34:6.

Semper Fidelis, John and Debbie Martin

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