



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

August 2018

Dear Pastor:

Time has a way of passing quickly when you are busy – especially when you are about our heavenly father's business. It has been a joy re-uniting with some of the African's who have been a part of this church for many years. Three of the young men graduated from the bible institute here at Bible Baptist just before the Olsen's departed for furlough. They have a true servants heart and have been a great help in the ministry for the Olsen's during their absence. They each have taken a turn preaching the Sunday afternoon service, they open and close the church building for each service, and Michael cleans the church on Saturday afternoons. We showed up one Saturday to be a help to Michael, but he wouldn't have it – he sees' it as his ministry. What a blessing!

I was invited by Kingsley (one of the Nigerians) to his apartment complex last week to meet with his neighbors and share Jesus! He arranged the meeting and invited as many as would come. Five young men and two young ladies came to the meeting. I spent 45 minutes sharing the Good News. What a blessed and fun day. Although no one responded to an invitation, we are confident the Lord will bring fruit – as his word never returns void. Each person there acknowledged that they believed they were born again. As we left I challenged the audience to be a testimony of God's grace, be a witness of Christ, and glorify God with their lives. We passed out several more invitations on the way out. One of the young men came on Sunday to the services; he said he enjoyed it and would be back.



We were invited to have dinner with one of the servicemen and his wife (Marco and Ashley) earlier this week. After a great dinner, they took us bowling. Bowling turned into a wonderful opportunity to meet sailors and get tracts passed out. We had two servicemen who showed interest, and had already heard of the church through Marco; it is a blessing to hear a good report of the church members. We have had one Navy family transfer back to the states this month, but the Lord has already replaced that member with another family – they have visited three weeks in a row now and are excited about the ministry going on here.



Currently the church membership has a true international flavor: US Naval personnel and their families, DOD employees, a British couple from the NATO presence here, two naturalized Italians and their children, refugees from Nigeria, Ghana and Liberia, and an American living in Italy and married to an Italian (she was saved in this ministry 30 years ago as a young sailor). We picked Matt and Diane Olsen up from the airport Wednesday (Aug 22nd). They were tired but happy to be home. We thank the Lord for our time here, his provision, safety and grace. We will be looking for space available travel next Friday (Aug 31st). Thank you for your prayers and help to us.

Semper Fidelis, John and Debbie Martin

"The Lord God, merciful and gracious ... and abundant in goodness" Ex 34:6.

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