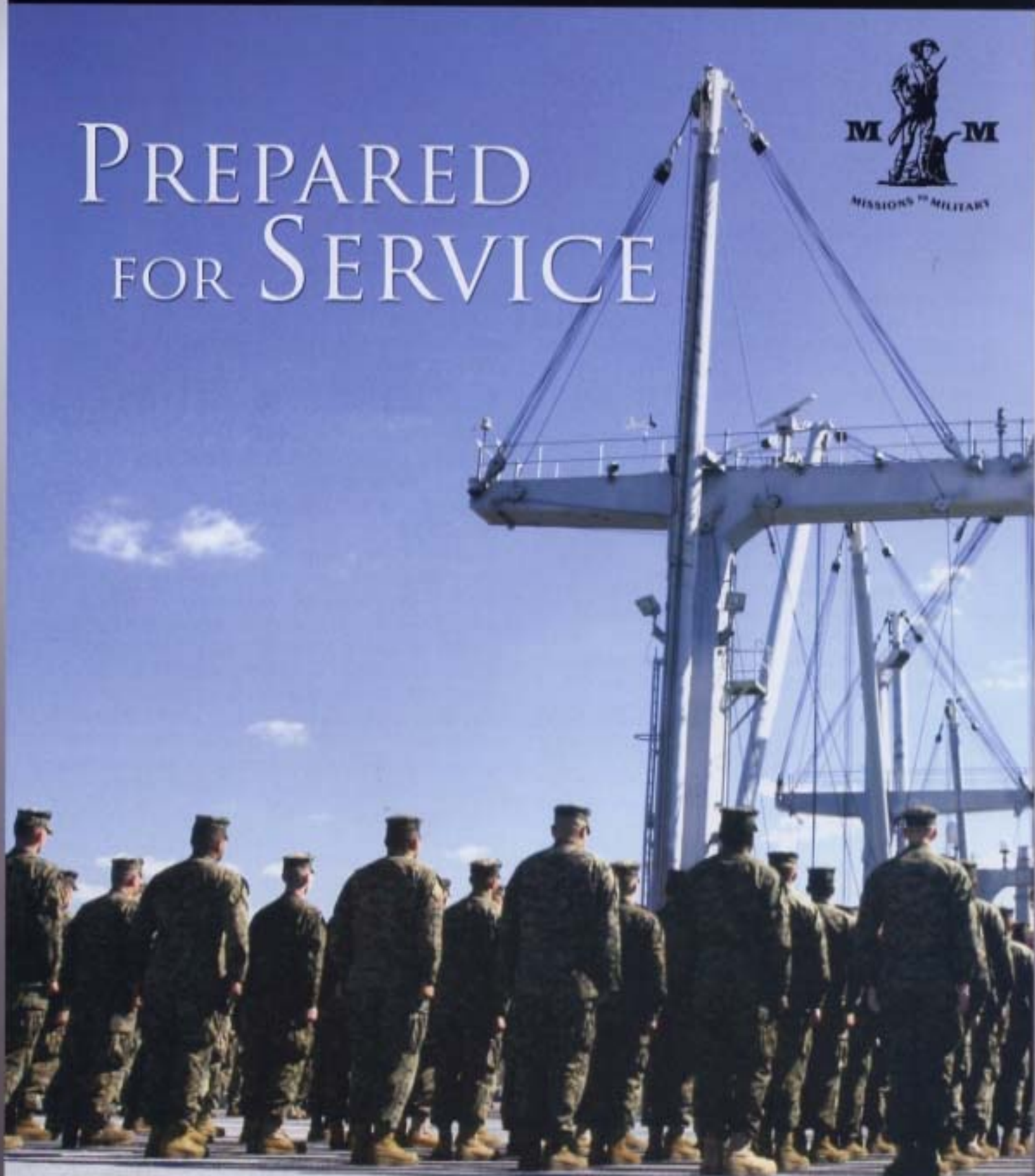


MTM MESSENGER

PREPARED
FOR SERVICE



A Ready Force for War

The military exists for the purpose of maintaining peace or being a ready force for war. The difficulty in fighting a terrorist war has brought new challenges: post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), which is an anxiety disorder that can occur after the experience of a traumatic event, and which leads to depression, problems of memory, mental health, and substance abuse. PTSD can be the result of an invisible injury. This type of casualty is taking a silent toll on our troops, especially the younger military of ages 18-24.

Senator Max Cleland responded to an alarming study of 103,788 soldiers who have suffered the consequences of war:

"You can't send young Americans to Iraq and Afghanistan and expect them to come home and just fit in. They bring the trauma with them. If we don't intervene with the emotional aftermath of the war up-front and early, it can slide down the precipitous path to hell."

I am afraid we are only counting the caskets being returned to the states and are not considering the whole sacrifice of this war.

At Camp Lejeune in Jacksonville, North Carolina, there is a barrack for "wounded warriors." The warriors who occupy this barrack are Marines who have been wounded in combat in Afghanistan or Iraq. The barrack is an expression of humanitarian concern for Marines who were exposed to enemy fire in harm's way. We salute the social effort of those involved in the "wounded warriors" service; however, close by Camp Lejeune, on Corbin Street in Jacksonville, is another facility of concern for these men; it is the Military Christian Center, where for more than twenty-five years the staff of **Missions To Military** has ministered to countless Marines and their families.

We, along with our Chaplains, recognize that a major problem of the stress of war is a lack of spiritual foundation in our younger generation. They have been raised in a "no God" society and now, in a crisis, they have no anchor to stay them in the storm of life.



Keith & Yvonne Davey

John Ahern, the director of the Camp Lejeune Center, recently asked a group of young Marines if they would go to church with him. They immediately said, "Yes, we are going to Iraq in a few weeks and we have never been there!" By the way, this has been a fruitful and blessed week of ministry with the Marines, as four Marines trusted Christ as their personal Savior, and the wife of one of the Marines also received Christ as her Savior. Yes, these new babes in Christ will go to Iraq and serve, but they have a security in Christ that will be of great advantage as life threatening dangers surround them.

One Marine, returning from Iraq, said, "Every time I was severely tested I quoted one of the Scripture verses in the Discipleship Program and I was strengthened." What comfort to know personally, "The Lord is my light and my salvation: whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?" Psalm 27:1



The most challenging project we face is the building of a new Military Christian Center on 503 N. Reilly Road in Fayetteville, North Carolina. This beautiful and strategically located three acres of land (pictured above) is located ½ mile from one of the main gates to Fort Bragg, the home of 43,000 Soldiers. Thousands of Soldiers drive by this property on their way to Fort Bragg every day, but as of today the scene is only beautiful trees. I personally wince when I hear on the news report of Soldiers from Fort Bragg who were killed and knowing that many of them drove by this property which has been paid for and dedicated to build a Military Christian Center; however, it is still on the drawing board because of lack of funds. We have received \$162,000 for the construction of this proposed 7000 square Center. The total in estimated cost for building and furnishing is \$700,000, so we are still in need of \$538,000 to complete this project.

Several have asked, "Why not borrow the money? You certainly have the equity in the property?" Yes, we have the equity, but the missionaries who will serve in that Center raise their personal missionary support as well as the cost of the daily operation of the Center, and we could not expect them to raise a monthly building payment also. **We need you** to partner with us that, together, we can make a difference in the lives of those going into harm's way for us! We cannot help those coming back in caskets,

but we can help many of them before they leave, and, those returning, we would like to welcome to a Military Christian Center that you helped to build! We also suggest that you can be a good steward by giving appreciated stock or property to MTM; you will have a tax-deductible advantage, and your gift will accrue eternal capital gains that will go off the chart!

We must never forget we are involved in a great fight! It is the spiritual conflict of the ages, and Solomon reminds us that "...there is no discharge in that war..." Ecclesiastes 8:8. The enemy is real! Peter said he is "as a roaring lion, walking about, seeking whom he may devour"; John said in 8:44 that "...he is a murderer...he is a liar..."; and in Revelation 12:10, he is said to be our "...accuser... which accused them before God day and night." Our armor is of divine design and we are to "Put on the whole armor of God that we may be able to stand against the wiles of (our enemy) the devil." Ephesians 6:11. We are encouraged by I Corinthians 15:57, "But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" and I John 4:4, "...greater is he (Jesus Christ) that is in you, than he (our enemy) that is in the world."

would say with Nehemiah of old in Nehemiah 2:18b, "Let us rise up and build." **THANKS** for sharing in the victory!

35 + YEARS OF GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

AS I was reflecting upon the history of *La Mission Parmi Les Militaires*, which is the *Missions To Military* ministry in France, and about God's faithfulness throughout the years, my heart has been filled with gratitude to the Lord (Psalm 34:1; 40:5; 105:1-4), and also to YOU who have upheld us before the throne of grace.

35 years ago, my husband, *Chuck Greenstreet*, extended the ministry of *Missions To Military* outside the United States - to Toulon, France. He had just spent one year in Albertville, in the French Alps, learning the French language. At the beginning, he invited servicemen to his one-room apartment, or to my parents' home. At the same time, with the help of my father and my brother-in-law (a French Pastor), all the paperwork was done to legally start the work. It was finally officially recognized by the government on October 17, 1971. The Lord provided the funds to buy the first Military Center. Chuck and I were later married in Toulon in June 1973 and the Lord allowed us to reach out to many military, even starting a Bible Institute in 1975. In February 1980, Bob & Cyndi Scott came to France, closely followed (in June 1980) by John & Joy Gribbin. They went to language school in Paris to learn French. In August 1981, both families moved down to Toulon to work with us and they have been here ever since. Throughout the good and the difficult times, God has always been faithful. Some have come to know the Lord and even gone into full-time ministry. Many others have heard the Gospel and still need to come to the Lord.

TEN months after Chuck's accidental death on May 25th, 1986 (almost 21 years ago now), the Lord called me to work in a Bible Institute in the Paris area for 9½ years. I then came back to Toulon in October 1996 to work again with *Missions To Military*. The ministry of *La Mission Parmi les Militaires* did not stop during

that time, but continued with the Scott & Gribbin families. A new and larger building was purchased as the City was going to tear down the whole area where the old Center was located. More souls were touched, the ministry continued and still continues until now.



Joanna Greenstreet
Toulon, France

AS the years have gone by, it has become more and more difficult to reach the French military because military life has changed so much and there is no more conscription. Fewer military personnel are stationed in Toulon. Being professional, the servicemen have more income. Besides that, they also have homes, families, cars, computers, etc. It, therefore, makes it harder to attract them to a Military Christian Center; however, we continue to do our best to reach out and touch the lives of present and former servicemen. Here are just a few of them:

- *Jean-René Villalard*, one of our servicemen in 1973/1974, accepted the Lord during his military service. No other Christian lives near him. He continues to call us regularly, and we try to encourage him in the Lord and God's Word. These are the only contacts he has with other Christians. Pray for him. All of his family is unsaved.
- *Jean-Pierre (& Jocelyne) Maizière*: he was saved through our ministry in 1974 and then attended and graduated from our Bible Institute at the same time I did. Later, he became the associate pastor of our church (working alongside Chuck) before becoming our full-time pastor. In 1998, he left the church and moved to another part of France. About 3 years ago, he was diagnosed with liver cancer and this January had his

3rd surgery. Even though it went well, his case is very serious. Despite that, God's grace is with him, and he (along with his wife and daughter) continues to praise the Lord and have a very good attitude and testimony. Please be much in prayer for him and his family.

- *Jean-Louis Van-Meris*, a former Jehovah's Witness, accepted the Lord in the early 1970s. He also went through our Bible Institute, helped in the church, and in 1982, he went to the United States with Chuck and me and stayed there for more Bible training. During that time, he met *Diane*, whom he later married. Feeling the call of the Lord to work in His own country, he raised support and came back to France. He has been ministering in his childhood town near Lille (Northern France), a few miles from Belgium. Please pray for him and his wife, that they might be encouraged by the Lord.

- *David Seauve*, a single fellow, is one of the few who was already saved before coming into the Center. He is now a civilian. Pray for continued spiritual growth in his life.

- *Eric Violini*, also a former serviceman, now a civilian, has been coming back to the Center and to church. He recently made a profession of faith and comes quite regularly to both the Center and the church.

- *Denis and Cathy Coilot* (still in the military) also came to know the Lord through our ministry. They are active members of my French brother-in-law's church on the East side of Toulon.

- *Eric and Nathalie Enguérand*. When he was in the military, he refused the Lord. Years after he left the Navy, he came back to see us and later accepted the Lord. Although his wife made a profession of faith about 4 years ago, she has shown no signs of really being saved. After many ups and downs, Éric has chosen to go his own way. Be much in prayer that the Lord might bring him back to Himself and that he might be the spiritual leader and example he needs to be for his family.

- Added contacts have also been made through our English classes. Among those are *Guy and Tracie* (see John Gribbin's article in the January issue), *Nathalie and Michael R., Benoît, Josiane, Rebecca & Siegfried, Alexandre, Rémy, and Erwan*.

- Several military wives who know the Lord

Sonia A. and Flavia R., are praying that their unsaved husbands *Bruno A. and Stéphane R.* would come to Christ. Stéphane is a bit more open than Bruno, but both of them let their wives live their Christian faith and participate in church activities.

MUCH more could be said and many more names added. Although we would like all of our contacts to come to the Lord, we realize that our responsibility is to be faithful in all things that God wants us to be and to do. The challenge is great, but our Lord is greater yet.

SO, as I reflect on these past 35 + years that have gone by, as well as reflecting on the present, I always see God's faithfulness, His grace, His strength, and His provision. Things haven't always gone the way we would have wanted them to, but God's will is always "*good, acceptable, and perfect*" (Romans 12:2).

LOOKING to the future, I would ask you to continue to uphold us in the fierce spiritual battle for souls which is going on here. People need the Lord and must be made aware of it. Would you pray with us and for us as we seek to reach the lost and bring them to the wonderful saving knowledge of Jesus Christ?

Added prayer subject:

Our colleague, *Bob Scott*, suffered a terrible fall and very bad fracture of the tibia in mid December and had to have extensive surgery to repair the damage. Being a diabetic has not helped things. Since then, he has been in a specialized rehab hospital 20 miles from Toulon. He still has a way to go before complete recovery. However, we praise the Lord for His faithfulness to Bob and Cyndi during these trying times and ask you to continue to uphold them before the Throne of Grace. Pray also that the Lord might provide for their every need.

Serving Him in Toulon, France!

Joanna

A Serviceman writes...

ON April 15, 2006, I set foot in Bagram, Afghanistan. Only two months after graduating from the School of Music at NAB Little Creek, Norfolk, Virginia, I found myself, a new Christian and a new soldier, halfway around the world in a combat zone.

FOR years I had struggled with my faith, and it wasn't until I was a senior at the University of Pittsburgh that I began attending church on a regular basis as an adult. I would then attend graduate school in Potsdam, NY, with the intent of becoming a music teacher, but this was not to be. The Lord had warned me while visiting Youngstown State University that this was not the path He had for me. But I did not have a relationship with Him. So I went my own way and suffered for the next two years, hitting an academic brick wall just short of a masters degree in music education and just short of student teaching. He had urged me to join a military band while I was in 12th grade, He was urging me to join a military band when I drove home from Youngstown, and He would again urge me to do so as everything began falling apart in Potsdam. But I did not trust God, usually choosing to blame Him for the frustrations

in my life instead. So, after two years in Potsdam, I found myself with no money and no direction. I moved back home to Rochester and sought work. Now, at the lowest point ever in my life, I began to seek God and His guidance, and then He began His work in changing me. I sought to lose weight, being disgusted at my 300 pound weight, and I began to shed weight. I sought career counseling, and the Lord began nudging me back toward the military. When I started looking at the military again, I had just lost 50 pounds and was able to seriously see the military as a possibility. It would take another year before I was physically ready to enter the Army, but the Lord enabled me to overcome every obstacle before me, even if it took longer than I had hoped.

My continued Scripture memorization has helped me, especially when talking with non-believers about Christ.

AFTER nine weeks of basic training, I found myself at Little Creek, and soon began asking myself if I was saved. After discussing this with a friend, also at the School of Music, I was invited to Colonial Baptist Church and the Virginia Beach Military Christian Center. I also



MATTHEW TUBBS

began to ask the Lord to know what it was to be a Christian. That fall, I entered the new members class and the MTM Discipleship Program. Center Director, John Seaton, began working with me to help me understand the Gospel, which I had read before, but was unable to understand. Eventually, by the grace of God I was saved, and later baptized in January 2006.

AS I was starting my personal relationship with Christ, I also learned of my pending deployment to Afghanistan, but I had learned not to worry. One of my memory verses, Proverbs 3: 5-6, stuck out in my mind. It says, "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart, and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him,

and he shall direct thy paths." I was then able to view my deployment as an opportunity to serve God.

I graduated from the School of Music that February and reported to Fort Drum, NY, home of the 10th Mountain Division, to begin my deployment training. In April I deployed to Afghanistan to meet the rest of the band. Over the course of the deployment, I had many experiences I will never forget.

MY assignment to the woodwind quartet gave me opportunity to travel around Afghanistan and see the appreciation we received wherever we went, whether it was a VIP event in Kabul, or a dining facility at a remote forward operating base. The band was also greatly appreciated as we played hymns for our fallen comrades as they began their final journeys home.

MY involvement in a chapel

singing group opened other opportunities, such as singing the Hallelujah Chorus between Christmas services and for the commanding general. It was also a time of trials, which the Lord used to remind me of His ultimate authority and faithfulness as He enabled me to endure them. I am also fortunate that I had much time to devote to the Word of God. As I continued my devotions and Scripture memorization, I was continually amazed at what the Word was doing in my life.

SINCE my salvation, I continue to be amazed at how much the Word speaks to me. I am able to understand passages I had read before, but never understood. I am able to find comfort and encouragement when I need it, and I praise God when I see how truly amazing He is as I read His Word. My continued Scripture memorization has helped me, especially when talking with non-believers about Christ.

I have also been challenged by the books I continue to read, both from the *MTM Discipleship Program* and others that have been suggested to me.

AS I continue to study the Word and the insights of godly men, I continue to strive to grow and model myself by Christ's example, being the best example that I can be among the non-believers around me. As I grew, people took notice. In particular, a few sergeants in my unit expressed to me how much I had grown as a person and a soldier throughout the deployment. And I continue to grow as I continue to study His Word, as I continue to be challenged by my devotions and the *Discipleship Program*.

AS Afghanistan is quickly becoming a distant memory, I am looking forward to where my Lord and Savior will lead me next for His glory.

Matt



YOU cannot lift the burden on this Soldier's back, but there is a way to help lift the burden on his heart!

Supporting the ministries of **Missions To Military, Inc.**, and our missionaries, who are committed to daily winning and training the Military for Jesus Christ, is a genuine way to lift burdens and change lives.

Your partnership could lift a heavy load today! **THANKS** for sharing!

Report from Fayetteville

by Earl & Linda Hammons



TRAINING FUTURE BIBLICAL SERVANT LEADERS

In Mark 10:45, Jesus said, "For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many." The president of Appalachian Bible College, Dr. Daniel Anderson (pictured at right), teaches a course entitled: "Biblical Servant Leadership." He defines servant leadership as "a stewardship from and to God requiring the sacrifice of one's life for the development of others." From this definition, we are challenged to incorporate three main components into our lives and our ministry. As a result, we seek ongoing opportunities to impart these principles to the men and women serving our nation here at Fort Bragg.



BIBLICAL: A Stewardship

Stewardship means that we have the attitude: "I am the Lord's, given a task by Him, for which I will answer." Stewardship is manifested by one who has an insatiable hunger to know God. Joshua (pictured at left) arrived at Fort Bragg the day after completing Advanced Infantry Training (AIT). As we have gotten to know Joshua, it is clear that he has made his first priority in life to know God. Every time we visit, his questions and conversation indicate an understanding of his accountability to God to fulfill His plan for him. His current task is an unexpected deployment to Iraq, where the Lord has much to teach him about the intimacy of a personal relationship with His Son.



SERVANT: The Sacrifice

The sacrifice of a servant leader is a mandate, not an option...an obligation to "give the entirety of my being for the duration of my life to do His will."

Deployments continue to weigh heavily upon soldiers and their families. Cassi (pictured at left) is demonstrating a sacrificial heart as she assists her Family Readiness Group (FRG). Most recently Cassi and several other women made sure that several hundred single soldiers returned from one year in Afghanistan with bountiful welcome home baskets.



In our present day military, the call to sacrifice may, in fact, entail

the giving of one's life for our country. As a young Marine, Lance Corporal *David Houck* (pictured at bottom right on page 8), was beginning to understand what it means to grow as a leader. Over two years ago it was David's turn to be the first man through the door during a raid in Fallujah. It was during this raid that David gave his life in the service of his country. David understood the principle of sacrifice and paid the ultimate price. His life continues to impact his fellow Marines.

LEADERSHIP: Developing Others

"Leadership, in essence, is developing people to do His work and to bring out in others what God has ordained for the mutual goal of bringing Him glory and honor." As we win and train the military for Jesus Christ, our goal is to personify this quote! Biblical leadership enables others to fulfill God's specific plan for their lives. What a joy to see God mature lives at Fort Bragg.

We are privileged to be on the 'front line' of discipling young adults. *David* (pictured at right) fills in as leader of our Saturday Night Bible study when we are away. We desire to train others to teach God's Word and help them develop as future leaders and teachers.

Linda has taught The Abundant Life course numerous times. This spring, she found an Army bride eager to learn how to teach, and is mentoring her in this new position. The class is comprised of Army brides who want to learn more about the Bible and how to grow in the Christian life.



Only time will tell how many of these military men and women are destined to become mature biblical servant leaders.

Maturing Servant Leaders!!



Standing l-r: Cassi, RJ, Nicole, Joshua, David (with baby Garrett)

Seated l-r: Alycia, Stephanie (with baby Landon), Allison, Abby (with children, Conner & Decker), Phil seated in front

Biblical Servant Leadership: "a stewardship from and to God, requiring the sacrifice of one's life for the development of others." Here at Fort Bragg, the **Missions To Military** ministry is dedicated to following Jesus' example of biblical servant leadership. **THANK YOU** for your ongoing prayers and involvement!

* Quotations are from lecture notes from "*Biblical Servant Leadership*" used by permission from *Dr. Daniel Anderson*.

Preparing Souls for Eternity

Some months ago, while on the base handing out Center invitations, I approached a Sailor and asked him if I could give him an invitation to the Military Christian Center. His response to me was nothing more than a list of excuses as to why he did not want to come to the Center, or take my invitation. I simply made the comment to him, *'You know, you will be dead a lot longer than you will be alive. Are you sure you will not think about taking this tract?'* The young Sailor looked at me and responded that he had never really thought about it like that before. He took the tract and went on his way. The seed was sown in this young man's heart and I know that the Lord will use it for its intended purpose.

I have had many similar experiences that have caused me to evaluate my life and my purpose here in Jacksonville. Twenty years ago I was where these young Marines and Sailors are, and honestly, I did not consider where I would spend eternity either, in fact, dying was the furthest thing from my mind. I will never forget those who took the time to care about my eternal destiny. Because of the relationships they established with me and the gospel they proclaimed, my life was forever changed. For so many of the servicemen I talk with, the concept of God's sacrificial love is foreign. They have come from pasts where self-centered love and self-centered living is the rule rather than the exception. Therefore, they don't know quite how to react when someone comes along who demonstrates the opposite of what they have known.

The ministry of Missions To Military has always been focused on evangelism and discipleship. My friend, this is how we are to fulfill the Great Commission. Planting a church, building homes, medical missions or having a Military Christian Center out-

side a base is just a means to the end. We are to be involved in relationships for the purpose of evangelism and discipleship. These relationships require a great deal of sacrifice which at times stretches us to grow more in

God's grace. This is a good reminder that we are weak in our own strength, but with Christ working through us, we can do anything. The joy of seeing a life changed by the message of the gospel and by working through the discipleship program is beyond compare! All it takes is the willingness of one to share his or her time and knowledge of God's Word.

Three weeks ago *Scott* came to the Center for lunch after church, at the invitation of his friend. *Scott* was religious but had no relationship with Christ. I asked *Scott* if I could show him from the Bible how he could have eternal life. *Scott* trusted Christ that afternoon and walked away knowing that he has eternal life. My relationship with *Scott* now has progressed to discipleship. 2 Timothy 2:2 is the pulse of Missions To Military worldwide.

What a blessing it is to teach others how they not only have eternal life if they trust in Christ, but they can have an abundant life by following Him every day, for He said in John 10:10, "I



John & Sheila Ahern

Jacksonville, North Carolina

have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly."

Ever since my experience on the base, I have been challenged with the thought that I really do have the privilege to prepare souls for eternity. The reality is that we all will spend eternity somewhere; the question is: where will your neighbor spend eternity and why? Will it be because you never told them about Jesus Christ and His love for them? So, let me ask you today: (1) What is your purpose in life? (2) What are you doing to make things count for

Eternity? (3) Who are you preparing for eternity?

Ephesians 5:17 says, "Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is." God has a job for all of us. He has given gifts as he sees fit. What are we doing to bring the most glory to Him?

THANK YOU for your prayers for Missions To Military and our team here at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina who are preparing souls for eternity.



Pictured here are our Ukrainian co-laborers, Peter (on left) and Sasha (on right) in Sevastopol, Ukraine, with four Russian Sailors. Sasha and Peter witnessed to them about salvation in Jesus Christ, and the translation of the Russian (at top left of picture) says, "they know the Gospel!"

Pray for Peter, Sasha, and our ministry in Ukraine.

APRIL

2007

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"If we ever forget that we're one nation under God, then we will be a nation gone under!" -Ronald Reagan

Middle age is actually the prime of life . . . it just takes a little longer to get primed!

"You take all the experience and judgment of men over 50 out of the world and there wouldn't be enough left to run it!" -Henry Ford

Man's rules should never replace God's requirements!

An angry man is seldom reasonable; a reasonable man is seldom angry!

Satan's ploys are no match for the Savior's power!

Reformation is turning over a new leaf; regeneration is receiving a new life!

Life is a one-way street; we are not coming back!

Grudges are too heavy a load to bear!

"It is impossible to govern the world without God."
- George Washington

God writes with a pen that never blots, speaks with a tongue that never lies, acts with a hand that never fails!

"Government is a trust, and the officers of the government are trustees; and both the trust and the trustees are created for the benefit of the people." -Henry Clay, Speech, March, 1829

An ounce of quiet-working grace does what tons of effort can never accomplish.

Great minds discuss ideas, average minds discuss events, small minds discuss people!

Men must be governed by God or they will be ruled by tyrants!
-William Penn



The Teacher's Prayer

Lord, fill my mouth with worthwhile stuff, And stop me when I've said enough!