



Report from Jacksonville, North Carolina

September, 2010

Dear Praying Friends,

*"Thanks be unto God
for his unspeakable gift."*

1 Corinthians 9:15

We have been reminded of this priceless gift many times as we have heard from current and former servicemen about how God's Gift has made a dramatic difference in their lives.

Recently, we had the opportunity to listen to *Mark Stuglemyer* preach at our church. He was saved at the church, and was discipled by *Don Jones*, a former Center Director, here at the Jacksonville Military Christian Center, in the early 1990's. Mark is now pastoring a church in Rocky Mount, Virginia, and bearing fruit of a changed life.

Another former serviceman, *Mike O'Dell*, called me to ask for more discipleship material. He has been teaching a Sunday School class, using the material he learned here during the Bible studies at the Center and, as a result of his faithful witness, his unsaved parents have trusted Jesus Christ as their Savior!

One of our current servicemen, *Timothy Brake*, trusted Christ as His Savior last year. He has been faithful to the Bible studies at the Center and is working through our Discipleship Program, in spite of the personal challenges he is facing, due to a legal separation from his wife. Timothy has a hope in Christ and a tender heart for others that makes him a joy to be around.

Because you have prayed for, and supported the work of Missions to Military, these men are fruit of your ministry as well as ours.

In our ten years with Missions To



**John-Caleb, John & Sheila, Emily
AHERN**

Military, we have seen God provide in ways that often times could not be described because it was beyond the logic of man. We knew, when the economic problems began, that it would very likely affect our support but, to our knowledge we have not lost one supporter because of the recent economic turmoil! Praise the Lord for this!

Missions to Military, however, has seen a decline in their receipts over these recent months, and that brings us to the purpose of this letter. While Sheila and I have not lost personal support, the costs associated with our ministry have continued to climb, and we have not had an adequate increase in support to offset the difference. Like all of you, the rise in our health care and insurance, Center utilities, and food, has been a problem for us. For example, our utilities have nearly doubled, and we were required to buy a special type of insurance for our home owner's policy, because we live in an area that is prone to hurricane damage. These two issues alone brought an increase of over \$5,000.00 per year. When the prices would

climb on one thing, we would cut back on something else, but we are at a point now that there is nothing else we can cut out and still do our work at the Center. In the past, Missions to Military graciously gave funds to help with this difference but, because of the decline in their support, they can no longer continue this assistance. **Our current need is for \$1,000/month in additional support.**

Our mission board has urged us to do a couple of things in response to this issue:

1. Inform all of you of our need for increased support, so that you can take this matter to the Lord in prayer.
2. Go back on deputation to raise the funds necessary for the operation of the Military Christian Center.

So, would you pray with us that God would be glorified in this need? That we would be faithful to what He has called us to do? And that we would find like-minded churches and friends to partner with us in support?

Isaac is a little boy in Sheila's Sunday School Class (2's and 3's) and has been a regular at the Center, along with his mom, *Colleen*, and brother, *Chancellor*, and sister, *Sarah*. He has been coming because his daddy, *Steve*, has been deployed for the last nine months. When his mom shared with him this need for the Center, his little heart responded. When we stopped by his house to return the dishes his mommy had filled with food for the Center, he gave Sheila a one dollar bill with a note: "*Dear Miss Sheila, Here is my dollar so you can buy food for the Center. I love the Center, Love, Isaac.*"

THANK YOU for taking time to read this lengthy letter and **THANK YOU** for taking time to pray for us! May there be many more young people like Mark, Mike, Tim, and even Isaac, who will be impacted for eternity because of your faithfulness.

Preparing Souls For Eternity,


John and Sheila Ahern
Missions To Military

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