

My youngest son enlisted in the Navy at 17. This was his dream, his goal. Nothing would change his mind and he would have left at 16 if they would have let him. He graduated from high school early so he could enter the Navy as soon as possible. He successfully completed basic and received orders to his first base in Florida.

Of course, this was his first time away from home with no family. Within a year's time, he experienced several significant personal trials - not little tiny high school things but major life changes which culminated with a MVA leaving him with two broken feet – disheartened and temporarily wheelchair bound.

He was raised as a Christian in a Christian home and as a mom, I knew he needed SOMEONE. I couldn't be there in Florida for more than a visit – he needed a strong Christian who could walk and talk him through some of these trials. ENTER Missions to Military and Bill (and eventually Anne) Haney.

I googled Christian churches in my son's area and contacted several – to no avail I might add here. Blessings were heaped upon me when I reached Bill Haney. What a pleasant, kind, understanding soul. A military man himself with a multi generational military family – he spoke to me and listened to me, calmed me and shared a Christ-like love with me, and then he made plans to share with my son. He called my son (who was at this time in a second floor apartment alone because his roommates were underway). He went over, shared a pizza with my son, talked to my son and listened to my son - befriended my son at a crucial time in his young life. What a peace for me.

The Haney's have continued to love my son, encourage him with visits and even allowed him to spend Thanksgiving with them at their house with their family at their table. No strings, no pressure, – just love for him and love for his family and love for young military folks.

They have been available to my son and myself at the spur of a moment on several occasions. They have opened their home, family and life to us. They have provided hunger food and soul food to my youngest child. The love of Christ permeates through the phone lines from the Haney's and it permeates to my son who is still recovering and striving to regain his physical abilities and agility to complete the commitment he originally made to this country and the Navy.

This world would be a better place with more “Haney's”. I can't thank them enough for offering their lives to United States Service men and women and offering the love of Christ to those they come in contact with.