

# The Armor Bearer



A Newsletter for Armed Forces Baptist Missions' Supporters

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*"We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you," ~Colossians 1:3*

## Dear Pastors, AFBM Family and Friends,

There is not a day where we do not thank the Lord for your faithful prayers and support. Thank you for your faithfulness. The Lord uses each of you for His glory and honor as we reach out to our military heroes.

Forty-six years ago, a couple from Iowa was praying how the Lord could use them to reach our military. After a vacation to Hampton Roads Virginia, God showed them His perfect will. As always, when we follow the Lord it starts with surrender. Pop and Mom Woolston sold their home and said goodbye to family and lifelong friends.

Arriving in Newport News, they joined a local church and began the search for a building close to several military bases. Within weeks the first servicemen's center began with several others close behind.

Over the first few years of the ministry, hundreds accepted the Lord--many just in time to ship out to Vietnam. To this day we meet pastors and church members from the early days who went looking for a good time and found a Savior.

The ministry grew as only the Lord could grow it, with servicemen's centers popping up around the country. As families signed on, churches like yours were right behind them in prayer and support.

Soon the Lord presented another direction. The servicemen's centers were to continue, however, there were bases around the world without local churches. It would be impossible to have a center without a church. We had our orders and by the grace of God we followed them. The first church was planted with many more to come.

As the churches became viable and as the Lord led, the missionary moved on or stayed to pastor the church. Late last year, I introduced our ministry outside of a base. After church the pastor told me one of our missionaries started the church in a store front many years earlier. We reminisced about how the Lord had proved strong

providing for every detail. Finally, we realized the role of the local church and supporters--each faithfully standing behind their missionaries. Many of you are still right there today, abounding in grace and unmovable. I thank the Lord for the rewards waiting for you in heaven.

Invariably, the conversation centered on those who trust the Lord, and sacrifice and trust Him. You, like our military, are heroes. I think the lesson for me is for any ministry to succeed it first needs our Lord, then as always He uses the faithful. You my friends are faithful!

By the Lord's grace, our shared ministry continues to plant churches, start serviceman centers and ship scripture to our military and veterans.

Please pray as we seek to bring honor and glory to our Lord by reaching our military heroes.

*Your Servants to our Heroes,*  
*Brother Doug Carragher, General Director*  
*AFBM, 757.488.3241*

**"Remember to pray for our heroes!"**

