

June 2009

Matthew 28:20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Military life has always taken its toll on marriages. Today's military has changed in that deployments are more frequent and turnaround time between deployments is shorter. This all adds up to much more time away from home and much less time spent with their families. Even within Christian families there are many problems produced by the absence of dad or mom because of operational commitments. All Americans enjoy the freedoms that we have but make no mistake of the great price many families who are in the military have paid to keep us free. For the last few months I have been counseling with a number of married couples in our church. Trying to help these couples has been heavy on my heart and I believe, through counseling with the word of God, we have made some head way. Also, last Sunday evening I started a series of sermons on marriage and the family. Yesterday, about an hour and a half before the evening service, while I was out knocking on doors, I met a man in the parking lot of an apartment complex. His name was Daniel. As I talked with Daniel he told me that he was in the Navy and had been in the Navy for 8 years. I asked him if he was married he said he is but he is getting a divorce. His statement referring to his pending divorce was, "You know how the Navy is!" I tried to witness to Daniel but he was not interested at all. As we were talking, his wife drove up only to drop off their daughter. I pleaded with them both to come out to hear the series I am teaching on marriage and the family and to try to keep their marriage together. But their hearts were hard and their minds made up. Please pray for our military. Not just that God keeps them safe in the field and on the seas, but pray that the Lord saves them. Pray that the Lord will work in the hearts of their families, and please pray for their marriages.

I received a phone call from a Pastor who lived in California. He told me that his son was in the Navy and was now stationed in Mayport and he asked if I would go see him. I told the Pastor I would be happy too. I looked up his son's address and found that he lives within a ¼ mile of our church. I knocked on his son's door and he answered. He is married and they have a daughter about 8 months old. As we talked he let me know that he was not interested in coming to church. I talked to him about salvation and he was not interested in talking about that either. My soul winning partner that day was my son Donny. I could only imagine if it were my son in the Navy and over 3000 miles away from home. Also, knowing that there is a good Independent Baptist church within walking distance of his apartment and he has no interest at all. How would I feel? I tried to reason with this young Navy man but I could tell it was going nowhere. For this pastor's sake I will go back again and again in hopes of reaching his son for the Lord. Please pray for him.

This past Saturday morning I won a young sailor named Shane to the Lord. Please pray for his wife's salvation and that they would come to church.

Please keep our military folks and their families in your hearts, minds, and prayers. Let us never forget that they serve and sacrifice to keep us safe and our country free.

In Christ,

Brother Chris War and Family