



Report from the Lander Family



*Amy and Michael
Luke and Andrew*

February 2011

Dear Friend of our Military,

Thank you for your continued prayer and support for us and for our Military, here, in Virginia. You play a vital part in making it possible for us to reach our military with the Gospel.

As Americans, we would agree that we love and appreciate our Military. These men and women are trained and willing to lay down their lives to protect our freedom. So what do we do to give back to them? If we were to see them in uniform at the airport or store, we might tell them, *'Thank you for your service to our country.'* But I think we can do much better than that. In fact, I know we can give back to our Military in a very practical way. Our military desperately needs the help of the church.

You see, our Military is in a real crisis. We do not realize that our military is full of people who are hurting, and lonely, and desperate for real answers to life's tough questions. Does anybody notice or care? The fact is, today's troops are more of a danger to themselves here, at home, than being in a combat environment. Suicide rates are at an all-time high, binge drinking is rife, DUIs are rampant, and the divorce rate is climbing steadily in the Military. The Military recognizes this problem, but does not have any real solutions. Not every person in the Military is engaging in high-risk behavior, but there is definitely a spiritual crisis. Most of our Military have no reference point to life, no anchor to the soul, no hope, confused about purpose, and definitely confused about truth. This is the effect of a generation raised in a post-modern world - no

fixed, authoritative foundation of truth. But post-modern thinking has largely penetrated the church too. Even among many professing Christians I meet in the Military, they're still not sure if what they believe is true with any absolute certainty. We are losing the battle in America over the absolute authority of the Bible! So we want to help our Military with more than just prayer. They are desperate for someone to care about them, who will personally get involved in their lives, someone who will pursue them in their best interests, who will encourage them, and challenge them in the interest of connecting them to God's purpose and plan.

You can give back to our Military in two ways:

1. If you live in this area, you can invite a serviceman to your home, or to go fishing, or over for dinner. Whatever you have in mind, the point is to build an ongoing Gospel relationship with him and show him you care about him. If you see them at church, get to know them. After all, aren't we, the work-a-day saints, the ones called to do the work of the ministry (Ephesians 4:11-12)?
2. You can **partner with us** in supporting this ministry as our aim is to engage our Military with the Gospel on a full-time basis.

We were very encouraged to be able to make many new contacts with Military in December. Dozens of new servicemen came out to the Coffeehouse at Little Creek for their Christmas party and many of those people came out to our Christmas party at the Center the next week. We praise the Lord for the opportunity to share the

Please make your checks for our support payable to Missions To Military; the money will be applied to our personal support. Your receipt is tax-deductible.

Gospel with a large group of Military. That's exciting, but the real challenge, however, is following up with them. Many will attend an event one time, few will trek across base to attend Coffeehouse, but the percentage of servicemen willing to commit to a weekly discipleship is very slim. Many show interest with lip service when I invite them, but not many are willing to venture off base, even when we offer to pick them up. You're saying, "So go on base Mike and pursue these people." Well, I'm already committed three nights a week to Bible studies, and working full-time during the day; however, perhaps I need to adjust my game plan to make that happen. So please pray for three things:

1. for co-laborers who are willing to pursue servicemen and women with the Gospel toward discipleship,
2. that the Spirit of God would put in our servicemen and women a supernatural and singular desire for the Word of God (1 Peter 2:2), and
3. more time availability for me toward full-time ministry.

It is very encouraging to see Christ continuing to conform the hearts of servicemen. My discipleship time with *Ivory* and *Dakota* has been very sweet. I am trying to pour myself into them and train them up as servant-leaders. Their growth has been tremendous lately. *David*, *Reed*, and *Ken* are also making steady growth. Though *Reed* is still on deployment, he is back in the area for a month for special training. Please pray for *Erin*. She is growing in the Lord, yet, she would attest to you that she is quite "double-minded and unstable" in certain areas of her life. Pray for *Jordan*. I can't share with you the details of his situation. He is an incredibly intelligent, kind, and creative young man, but he desperately needs wisdom right now. Please pray for all these people above as they are all



**Food, Fun, and Fellowship
in the Coffeehouse**

in the midst of making large life decisions right now and they need wisdom from the Lord.



**Tony races to find a chair
during game time in the Center**

Please pray for Amy and me as our attention is beginning to focus more on raising our ministry support. Pray the Lord would allow us to connect to, and partner with, churches and individuals who share the same burden that we have for our Military. **We thank you** for your concern for our military.

Thank you for praying!
In Light of Eternity,

Michael & Amy

**FIELD ADDRESS: 5632 Shell Road ~ Virginia Beach, Virginia 23455 ~ (757) 464-0886
Cell phone: (757) 718-4422 ~ www.missionstomilitary.org**