



# Report from the Lander Family



*Amy and Michael  
Luke and Andrew*

## Summer 2010

Dear Friend of our Military,



It's been one year since Amy and I first joined the Missions To Military team. We want to give you a picture of what has been happening here at the Military Christian Center in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

### Reaching Servicemen

There are **100,000 military personnel** in this area to be reached for Christ. From the start we faced two big challenges:

1. How do we, as civilians, get military base access?
2. How do we connect servicemen with our ministry?

Right off the bat, the Lord opened a door with a base chapel ministry at Little Creek Amphibious Base called the Koinenia Coffeehouse. This is kind of a seeker-sensitive Bible study and fellowship time every Sunday night on base. I am there to help lead the Bible study time, engage servicemen, build relationships, and evangelize. Through this, the base chaplain granted me a temporary base pass that would have to be renewed every three months.

For the first seven months, I was involved at the Coffeehouse, and tried various ways to connect with servicemen on base. I played football on base, I'd start up cold conversations with servicemen on base, I scheduled fun activities at the Center, and persistently tried creative ways to invite people to come out to our Center; however, no one from Little Creek would come out. We did have about seven men from the USS Truxton

(from Norfolk Operations Base), who were involved in the Center for a while. A couple of them lived at the Center for a few months. But no significant discipleship commitments resulted. Amy and I thought, 'Are we doing something wrong? Do we need to change our strategy?' Then in mid-March, things began to drastically change. Two people came out one Friday night, then six, then fifteen. Stephanie Parker, who coordinates the Coffeehouse, also started attending our Friday night Bible studies. Stephanie runs into new people everyday on base and has been so gracious to send them our way. We now have a regular core group of 12-15 servicemen and women connected with the Center. This is completely something the Lord has done. It seems the Lord opened doors in a way that I could not predict just to show us that He is good and He is in charge. The Lord has also given us a blessing by securing me a one-year base access pass to the Little Creek base.

### Spiritual Growth

Anthony has been in and out of foster homes since he was eight years old. He ran away from home at age fifteen, lived on the streets or with friends, and often resorted to theft and selling drugs to make a quick buck. Lying to others was his way of life. Anthony came to Virginia Beach from Tucson, AZ last April to visit his friend Adrian, who is an I.T. in the Navy, stationed here at Little Creek. While sitting in a Bible study at the Center in April, the Lord opened his understanding to the Gospel and he became a "*new creation*" in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17). Since then, his life has been transforming progressively. He currently lives here, in the Center. I engage Anthony in discipleship training a couple of times a week, we pray together, try to spend time together, and sometimes we have teachable moments when issues come up. It has not been

easy for him to live by a new principle of life and with accountability, but he is learning to "*endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ*" and growing in the grace of Christ one day at a time.

*Ivory* is an Army Chaplain Candidate, who also lives in the Center. He is a student at the Central Baptist Theological Seminary, here in Virginia Beach. In addition to his own discipleship, the Center has afforded him many ministry opportunities. I give him opportunities to lead Bible studies from time to time. We also give Ivory and Anthony a good amount of responsibilities at the Center, as opportunity to demonstrate faithful stewardship, and to grow in maturity as godly men. I would love to tell you how the Lord is working in every person plugged in here at the Center, but space does not permit. But please pray for all of these people.

*Russ Rubley* (retired Navy) has been leading our studies on Tuesday nights. We've been covering the book, *The Abundant Life*, which is geared toward grounding believers in the foundational principles in the life of a believer. We also make time to split up and practice Scripture memory. On Friday nights, we all sit down for a meal and fellowship before our Bible study time begins. People have been asking very tough questions during our Bible study and our discussion goes down rabbit trails sometimes. Our discussion does get interesting. But that's all good, because our purpose is to train them how to take basic Bible doctrines and apply them to the challenges of their workaday lives. At the end of the Bible study, people have been coming to me for counsel about how to deal with their life's issues - dating, marriage, career choices, etc. The Lord has given me many opportunities to share the Gospel one-on-one and lead people to Christ during this time as well.

### Please pray:

- For the men and women here, that they attain a worldview that is informed by an unchangeable, sufficient, and divine source - the Word of God (2 Timothy 3:16, 17).
- For godly discernment in these men and women, so that they "*should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting*" (Ephesians 4:14).

- That servicemen would make a weekly commitment for discipleship training, for spiritual growth is anemic without a commitment.
- For help with building maintenance, meals, and people who are willing to get personally involved in these men and women's lives.
- For financial support in order that we may spend more time in ministry.



The Military Christian Center is a strategic stronghold in the world of young servicemen and women. It is a place where we participate in the greatest enterprise on planet earth in transforming lives - the Gospel. The Center gives us an advantage as disciplinarians. We can engage men and women on an intimate level, knowing how to pray for, counsel, encourage, and challenge each person with their own unique circumstances. **Helping them grow toward spiritual maturity requires a large investment of personalized time.** I would love to spend more of my time investing in the lives of these men and women, but I currently work 30-40 hours a week to support my family.

We have begun the deputation process where we ask churches and individuals to be on our team, to partner with us for prayer and financial support. We are not asking for a handout, but **our hands are out to you, for it is through you that our hands are able to be extended in the daily ministry to our Military here in this area.**

Hearing from you would be a great encouragement to us. Your partnership with us in winning and training the Military for Jesus Christ would be an answer to prayer - **THANK YOU.**

Serving In the View of Eternity,

*Michael & Amy*