

DIRECTOR OF MILITARY MINISTRIES
THE **ALVERSONS**
MINISTERING TO OUR MILITARY PERSONNEL
AND THEIR FAMILIES



Spring 2017

Dear Praying Friend:

1 June 1944, 73 years ago, the allied armies stormed the beachheads in Normandy, France, and began the liberation of mainland Europe from Adolf Hitler's Third Reich. It came at a great cost! I have stood and wept in the American cemetery overlooking Omaha Beach where almost 10,000 American soldiers are buried.

General Bradley's 1st Army fought across Belgium as General Patton's Third Army moved through Luxemburg into France, all headed toward Germany. However, units of General McAuliffe's 9th & 10th Army Division ran into some stiff opposition and found themselves in deep trouble in the town of Bastogne, Belgium. The German SS 6th Panzer Division along with others surrounded the city and boxed the Americans in on Christmas Day 1944. It was looking rather grim for them, but word had come to General Patton, whose army was fighting through Luxemburg (normally two to three days march for an army to Bastogne). General Patton literally turned his army around and in 24 hours had miraculously moved his troops into Belgium with a counterattack and saved the day for his surrounded comrades.

I have mentioned the above in order to make this point. The "experts" said **It couldn't be done** (that it was impossible to turn an army around and counterattack in 24 hours), but General Patton did it! Years ago they said that we would not be able to build churches near military bases overseas. However, we have seen many churches started, established, built and sustained as military missionaries went into areas near the military bases, gathered a core group, started and pastored local Bible-believing Baptist churches. Since 1968 BIMI military missionaries have started some 59 churches in several different countries of the world where our military personnel and their families have been stationed.

In addition to this, when we consider that on the average, with the constant rotations of military personnel, a new church is begun every three years or so, means that several hundred military churches have started (or at least several hundred new congregations). Also, when we take into account the hundreds of preachers who have come out of our military churches through the years and have gone out and started churches in different countries of the world, we see just a little of the impact of the ministry of Military Missions in church-planting.

On a different note, everyone around the mission is gearing up for the upcoming Candidate School June 4-9. Some 73 missionary candidates will be here for the many sessions though Friday night ending with the pinning and certificate "graduation" ceremony. Please pray for these as they begin and continue their missionary deputation. We have five military missionary families scheduled to attend.

Also, pray for our upcoming European field conference scheduled for October in Salzburg, Austria. We are trying to raise some funds to help defray some of the cost for our missionaries. If any of you would and could help, please send to BIMI, Military Fund #642 and label *Field Conference*. Any help would be greatly appreciated as this is such a great time of refreshment and revitalization for our missionaries on the field. What comes in will be equally divided among them to keep down their cost. Thank you for your help, and if you cannot help at this time we surely understand and appreciate your prayers.

Joyce and I want to thank you for your faithful support of our military ministry both financial and prayer. We fully understand that we could not continue without you. Please continue to pray that God will give us the wisdom we need to direct this great endeavor to reach our military around the world for Christ. We love you and remain....

In Christ's Service,

Jeff & Joyce Alverson

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