

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



Winter 2018

Dear Praying Friends,

It was 50 years ago, January 31, 1968, that I encountered the most traumatic experiences of my life. Around midnight the TET Offensive began in the Viet Nam War. The North Vietnamese Regulars, accompanied by the Viet Cong, hit our base at Bien Hoa at 0300 hours (3 AM). I wrote in previous correspondences about how I thought I was going to die that night as the rockets and mortars were exploding all around. God surely got my attention that night, and the days and nights that followed that resulted in my getting right with Him and having Him change my life and direction. It was 49 years ago this month (February) that I surrendered to preach His Word, and it has been a wonderful journey.

Since our last correspondence in December we have had three families to arrive on the mission field. All went to Japan. Mike and Tonda Pinson and the Ben Edwards family went to Yokosuka to begin their ministry ministering to the 25,000 Americans stationed there at the Naval Base. Please pray for them as they learn to drive on the other side of the road, as well as minister in Japan. The John Martin family also arrived on Okinawa to work with the Jellisons as they have begun the Northshore Baptist Church, a ministry to the several thousand Marines stationed there on the north side of the island. They have acquired a building and set up church services and already have 15 to 20 coming. Please be praying for this great endeavor and the difficulty that goes into beginning a new church.

Don and Patsy Drake are just awaiting their visas to enter Spain where they will start a new church in Mo'ron, Spain, among the American military stationed there. They have submitted their Letter of Invitation and now wait for the Spanish government to respond (they don't get in a hurry). Please pray for them that they can be there soon.

One special and urgent request I would like to make known is that one of our missionary families has an immediate need. Jesse and Lynne Pilalas (and now little Jesse, Jr, born Feb. 17) are serving in Misawa, Japan. They have been there a number of years but with the addition to the family they have, of course, incurred lots of expenses, including a rise in their insurance premium. Before the baby came, they were struggling financially but were willing to do what was necessary to stay on the field. However, this has put even more of a financial pressure on them, and instead of their packing up and coming home to raise more support, I wanted to see if there were some that might be able and willing to pick up their mission support, which would help tremendously. But regardless, please pray for them that God will meet their needs.

In September of this year Maranatha Baptist Church in Okinawa, Japan, our first military church, will celebrate her 50th anniversary. It was during the height of the Viet Nam War in 1968 with more than 100,000 Americans stationed on the island that Brother James Kennard, missionary to the Okinawan people, got a burden to start a church that would be English-speaking. Since that time literally thousands of military people have trusted Christ and well over 400 preachers have come out of the church; an amazing testimony! Joyce and I will be attending as we will have the biennial (every other year) Pacific field conference for our Asian missionaries in conjunction with the 50th anniversary celebration. Please pray for these events.

Another special prayer request is what we ask for so often and it is more military missionaries. Join us in prayer that God will call some good young men and give them a burning passion to minister to our military personnel and their families.

Also, please pray for me as I am scheduled for back surgery on March 14 here in Chattanooga. Thank you for your love and concern for Joyce and me and for this ministry to reach our military for Christ. We love you and remain....

In Christ's Service,

Jeff & Joyce Alverson

Baptist International Missions, Inc. PO Box 9 - Harrison, TN 37341 - (423) 344-5050 ext. 2405  
Home Address: 176 Big Creek Lane - Ringgold, GA 30736 - (706) 861-6653 - Alversonj1118@gmail.com

