

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



Winter 2019

Dear Prayer Partners:

It is continually amazing to me how that time passes so rapidly! Here it is the second month of 2019 and it seems like only yesterday that I was growing up in the little mill village in upper Spartanburg County, South Carolina. I honestly don't see where time has gone. I used to hear the old-timers talk about it and couldn't understand it as it seemed that time was creeping when I was a child. My thoughts were, "Yeah, you old codgers don't know what you are talking about!" Well, I am the old codger now and I am fully aware of what they meant. Psalm 90:9 tells us that "*we spend our lives as a tale that is told.*" Moses writes here that the children of Israel who have just decided at Kaesh-Barnea that they would rather turn back rather than enter the Promised Land, which meant the death sentence for all over 20 years of age. His words drew a drastic picture of the brevity of life. As Moses watched them live and die, he realized that their experience was like a short story, just like a *tale that is told*. Each one of us is speeding head on toward the finish line each day we live. Then eternity! That is why we should live each day as though it would be our last. Then one day, we will not be disappointed!

This year my goal and desire every day is to be a better Christian than I was last year and do more for my Savior than ever before. Someone once said, *Be at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors, and let every New Year find you a better person.* I agree. May we each day so yield our lives to Christ that He can use us more for Him (Psalm 90:12).

Considering these thoughts, we are reminded that the ministries of some of our older faithful missionaries, who have been at it for a long time, is winding down. Some are retiring, some are going with ARM (assisting and relief missionary) and some are going Home. We appreciate each one's consistent and faithful service and honor them for it. General George Patton, famous WW II military leader, said, "*It is foolish and wrong to mourn the men who died. Rather we should thank God that such men lived.*"

Thank God, He is answering our prayers and sending us some new younger missionaries to carry on this great endeavor of ministering to our military, starting and pastoring churches near our military bases. This past candidate board meeting, we had two new families to join our military team. The John Hallman family is going to Europe and Brother Bryan Baggett (and Kris) came on as my new assistant director. He has pastored the Bible Baptist Church in Clarksville, Tennessee, (near Fort Campbell) for the past ten years. Before this, they were missionaries in Venezuela and were there when Hugo Chavez expelled all the missionaries from his new Socialist (communist) country. We look forward to working together.

In our annual board/candidate meeting in June, we have three more families scheduled to come aboard. This will give us a sum total of 90 BIMI military missionaries. As you know it is our goal and desire to plant a church near every military base possible and we will need more new, young missionaries to accomplish that goal. Please continue to pray that God will send more good men with a burden and calling to reach our military for Christ.

Don and Patsy Drake arrived on the field in Moron, Spain, in December. They are planning to start a new church to minister to the military stationed there. This gave us a total of four families arriving on the overseas fields in 2018. Brandon and DeVona Neal are leaving February 26 for Korea. This will be the first BIMI military missionary to serve in that country. Thank you for praying for these and we ask you to continue praying that God will use them greatly.

Thank you again for your faithful prayers and financial support of this ministry. This year I celebrate my 50th year in the ministry. It was on March 2, 1969, that I preached my first sermon only two weeks after I surrendered to preach. It's been a wonderful journey and if I had my life to live over, I'd do it all over again. We love you folks, covet your prayers and remain....

In His Service,

Jeff & Joyce Alverson

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