

Church of God Ministry to Operation Enduring Freedom



Kevin received word that he would be deployed to the Middle East. Jackie, his wife, knew deployment was eminent, but when the call comes there's always a sense of apprehension. Kevin and Jackie and their three children were not new to deployment. Kevin had served in Bosnia. The difference is that Bosnia was more certain as to its mission and the time of return. Kevin could not tell Jackie when he would return from this deployment, nor could he tell her exactly where he would be during his time away from her and his 14 year old daughter, 11 year old son and 10 year old daughter. Jackie, a child care provider in her home, also had accepted the care of a 4 year old child of a couple who had both been deployed to the Far East. Kevin has had the opportunity to preach in chapel services held in his deployment area and has seen many accept the Lord's saving grace. Kevin rejoices that God is using him to serve his country and to minister the Word of God. He's equally thankful that his family is taken care of at home. Kevin is a member of the Hinesville, Georgia, Live Oak Church of God.



The Church of God Ministry to the Military has always been on the forefront of ministry to military personnel. The changing world situations have altered our military's way of doing business. Their new strategies have compelled us to revise our methodology of ministry. The continual force reorganizations and troop deployments have required us to reach out beyond our Christian Servicemen's Centers and Pentecostal Fellowships to develop Military Lay Leaders who are trained to minister wherever they're stationed or deployed. We've also had to consider how to minister to the spouses and families remaining behind – sometimes overseas away from their own family support groups. Our overseas Christian Servicemen's Centers and Stateside Military Contact Churches have risen to the need. Military Lay Leaders are ministering in the deployment areas to their brothers and sisters while the Christian Centers and Contact Churches are ministering to their spouses and others staying behind. Following are brief descriptions of some of the ministries presently in place.

Marisol Morris, director of the Ministry to the Military group at Live Oak Church of God in Hinesville, Georgia, (near Fort Stewart, Georgia) shared how they are developing their ministry to military personnel at Fort Stewart. They depend on building relationships with the chaplains, both to advertise their ministry and to convey their willingness to assist them in their on post ministry. "Word-of-mouth advertising works about the best," Marisol says. "Someone who has benefited from the ministry can always do a good job in reaching others." Marisol has also personally gotten to know the Army Community Service Coordinator to help get the word out to the military personnel and families. Marisol shared, "Our Support Group for spouses of deployed soldiers, care packages to deployed soldiers, and scheduling classes conducive to their schedules, seem to be their most beneficial ministries to help the military and to keep them coming to the church." Live Oak also provides one-on-one financial counseling for those unable to balance their checkbooks or having trouble keeping up with their bills. Live Oak is in the process of offering specific support groups for different needs. Joan Cowart, wife of the Live Oak senior pastor, Michael Cowart, has personally been involved with the Live Oak "Spouses of Soldiers" program reaching out to the spouses of deployed soldiers who have remained behind.



The Abundant Life Church of God in Killeen, Texas (next to Fort Hood) has a Spouses of Soldiers (S. O. S.) support group. This group provides encouragement, prayer, food and fellowship. All spouses of soldiers are welcome to attend this Christian support group. Child care is provided at the church during this meeting. They also, as do a number of contact churches, assist these family members by providing services normally accomplished by the deployed spouse. One of these services is providing a vehicle check point – checking the oil, radiator fluid etc.



SATURDAY CAR CHECK

9:00 - 11:00 AM
Saturday - March 1

Have you heard
the news?

SPouses of Deployed Soldiers may bring by their car to have
the fluids (oil, brake, transmissions, etc.)
checked. This service is for free.

1210 FLORENCE ROAD
KILLEEN, TEXAS 76541

Sponsored by Abundant Life Church of God Men's Ministry

The poster features a green SUV and a yellow mobile phone icon. The background is red with white and yellow text.



The Beaufort (SC) Church of God has a Crossties Ministry. Since its inception in January, 2002, their Ministry to the Military has helped many marine recruits at Parris Island. The Crossties Ministry Team leads a Spirit-filled service each Sunday morning at the Recruit Chapel on the Parris Island Depot. Recruits are welcomed into the Lord's presence. The Word of God is brought to them by one of our staff pastors or a special guest. The Crossties Ministry Team works hard to make sure that any recruit who has a special need or wants to come to know the Lord has that opportunity. The weekly prayer requests are brought back to the Church for any and all to pray over.

North Georgia Church of God Soldier Internet Submission Form "Operation Enduring Freedom"

Eagle's Landing Church of God in McDonough, Georgia, has established a Ministry to the Military website (part of www.elcog.com) devoted to the ministry of intercessory prayer care, personal contact and communication with our Chaplains and soldiers who are involved in "Operation Enduring Freedom." During "Operation Enduring Freedom," the ministers and churches of North Georgia have been asked to participate in the Operation Military Prayercare" program, which includes prayer care for our president and commander-in-chief, George W. Bush, our congress, our nation, and our young military personnel who will be placed in harms way. Their program includes:

1. Adopting-a-Soldier(s),
2. Praying Daily for our Soldier(s),
3. Fasting-A-Meal Daily,
4. Communicating by letter, tape, care package, E-mail or a personal message,
5. Contacting their church.

The website for this ministry is www.elcog.com and the e-mail is: troopsprayersupport@elcog.com. They have not limited the ministry to North Georgia churches.

This is just a sampling of the many ministries that have been established to reach out to our deployed soldiers, sailors, marines and airmen as well as their families staying behind. Our overseas Christian Servicemen's Centers are on the "front lines" of ministry as many of the deployed troops have come from their areas. Watch www.mttm.org for further ministry development. You may also contact the Church of God Ministry to the Military by e-mail, mttm_office@compuserve.com; telephone: 423-478-7259; or fax: 423-478-7254.