

MILITARY BIBLESTICK

A ministry of **Faith Comes By Hearing®**

Thank you for the opportunity to be used by Jesus to provide the Word of God to our military. We had a great campaign and excellent responses for this noble cause and purpose. Over the 3 weeks in preparation to give what God had laid on our hearts, I went through a sermon series on God's Word to us and how important it is to be on the right frequency with God throughout our lives. We went through "Getting on the Right Frequency," "Determining the Right Frequency," and "Staying on the Right Frequency." I had a lot of response and excitement for getting the Word of God on Military BibleSticks to soldiers so that they could do the same.

As you know, you send out a packet containing all the information, a DVD, and a Military BibleStick for the pastor....I did not feel right keeping the Military BibleStick for myself as I have access to all sorts of avenues to see and hear the Bible. I have been pastoring this church for only 3 months and have had many renewing their walk with Jesus Christ. We have a softball team that plays during the summer months in a church league that came to an end about 6 weeks ago. It was during that softball league that I met a fellow by the name of Dustin who had been in the church at one time when he was younger, but service in Iraq and Afghanistan affected him mentally. He suffered PTSD and thus had a difficult time in coming to the church and being around a bunch of people. About 8 weeks ago, Dustin started coming to church and sitting out in the foyer. We leave our doors open in the sanctuary and people can worship from out in the foyer and also hear the message.

The first Sunday I began promoting the Military BibleSticks I shared with the congregation at the end of service that I had received one and did not feel right keeping it since I am not in the military or never have been. I then said that I wanted to give it away to someone who had been in the service as a thank you....I proceeded to call Dustin by name up to the front of the church...I peered back through the doors as Dustin was sitting there on a chair listening.... Shocked, he pointed to himself with a questioning look on his face like "Me? You want me to come up there?" I said, yes, you Dustin, please come up here. He stepped foot in the sanctuary for the first time in years and approached the front where he would stand in front of the audience of people. I thanked him for his military service, told him I wanted him to have the BibleStick I had been given, and we then all applauded his service. He said "thank you" and began walking away as I called on a parishioner to dismiss the service in prayer. While they were praying, my wife, daughter, and I made our way back to the foyer where we would say goodbye to people as they left the church building. I looked into the sanctuary while they were praying and lo and behold, there was Dustin in a pew, not back in the foyer, but in a pew praying with the congregation in closeness. Can I get a "Praise the Lord"?!

We showed the first DVD first session the Sunday before last and the second one this past Sunday. Military veterans took up the offering in an Army hard-shell helmet and a Navy commander's hat at the beginning of service. The congregation surrounded and laid hands on the veterans as they held the hats filled with the offering and we prayed over them together. We have mailed out a combined giving check to Faith Comes By Hearing for \$2048! I was told that's more than what we received during the Christ's Birthday offering at Christmastime. It seems this service in Jesus' Name means much to the church.

Hebrews 4:12-13 records...

"For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account."

That's our prayer. That through these Military BibleSticks, our servicemen and women will see beyond the physical battle for our freedom for which they lay their temporal life on the line day after day to the spiritual battle for freedom of the soul for eternity. May they be encouraged, uplifted, and purpose-filled as they lay their life down for Jesus Christ, take up their cross and follow Him. May they see that the brotherhood and sisterhood is thicker through the blood of Jesus Christ. Thank you for this opportunity once again and let us know when you would like us to do this again.

**Your brother in Christ,
Josh Kespelher**