

## **All Points Baptist Mission**

Military Chaplaincy
"For God and Country"

# From the Desk of Dr. Mike Farris - Missionary to U.S. Military

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## February 2023

#### **Graduated from CHBOLC:**

One of the real privileges of this ministry is going to watch our chaplain candidates graduate from their respective branch officer training schools. In December, it was my honor to go to Ft. Jackson, SC and watch our endorsed Army Chaplain, 1st LT Jess Foster graduate from Army CHBOLC (Chaplain Basic Officer Leadership Course) at Ft. Jackson. LT Foster is now the Chaplain of the 4-118<sup>th</sup> CAB with the SC Army NG (National Guard). We look forward to Chaplain Foster being used in a great way in preaching the Word of God and the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ to these soldiers. Please pray for Brother Foster and his family.

#### **Pray for our Church:**

Our sending church, Bible Baptist Fellowship Church in Gypsy, WV has begun the search for our next Pastor. As stated in our previous newsletter, our Pastor of over twenty-seven years, Dr. George Heitman, passed away suddenly and unexpectedly in November 2022. Please pray God will give our church wisdom to choose the Pastor God has already ordained for us.

#### **Endorsers Meeting:**

Each January, we attend the annual Military Chaplain Endorsers meeting in Washington D.C. Various topics were discussed from leading Ph.D.'s around the country on ministry related issues such as suicidal ideations in our military, helping the oppressed, and providing care to the caregivers, the chaplains themselves. The Directors of military personnel speak on deployment of assets topics. The Chaplain recruiters provide reporting on military chaplain assession trends and goals. Then the Chief of Chaplains of each branch share their respective vision for ministry in our military through the chaplaincy. Notable in this year's discussions is the recognition by military leadership, and now many in congressional circles, that there is an immediate need to increase the numbers of chaplains in all the respective branches of service. One branch is looking to increase the number of its chaplains by up to eight percent over the next five years. This is good news as we continue to search for young men called of God to be U.S. military chaplains. It is important to note that we do not go to Bible colleges or churches looking to convert men that are called to be Pastor's or missionaries into military chaplains. We are asking God to provide us laborers, men of God, which are called by God specifically to be U.S. Military Chaplains. Please pray with us for God to send more laborers into this field that is white unto harvest in our military.

### **Family Prayer:**

We ask you to pray with us about the health of our loved ones. As reported, Kim has been spending much time over the last few years caring for her aging parents Tom and Shirley Greaver. Recently, Bro. Tom (82yrs old) had a nasty fall fracturing the socket in his right eye and bones going down into his nose. Due to his lack of mobility, and increasing difficulties of dementia and other health issues, we've chosen to move them into our home. Twenty-four-hour care is now required. Please pray for Kim as this has placed a much-increased burden upon her. In addition, my mother, Elsie Lezu (who is almost 91yrs. old) is going in the hospital to have a tumor removed from her colon. My mother and Kim's parents are all saved by God's grace for which we are grateful. Please pray with us during this difficult time of trying to provide good care to our loved ones. We know God's grace is sufficient and His strength is made perfect in weakness.

Kim and I are so very grateful for all your prayers and support. As Paul stated through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit: "But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. I Cor. 15:57

Mike Farris Missionary to the Military

Sending Church:

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Send support to: Mike Farris c/o All Points Baptist Mission

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A ministry of Calvary Baptist Church – New Philadelphia, OH