

MILITARY MINISTRY

The purpose of military ministry is to:

- Bring awareness to our congregation of the military personnel and their families.
- Acknowledge military personal for their service.
- To honor those who have served or are currently serving in the military.
- Pray for military personal and provide care and assistance as needed.

We as a church family realized what a huge ministry is before us regarding military men/women who are serving during this time of war and the family members who are left behind. Our community and surrounding area has many deployed men/women who are not regular military personnel – they are members of the National Guard or Reserves. They leave behind jobs and sometimes stressful family situations. We realized there is a great ministry awaiting us and we took a step in faith to help as we are able. It is important as a church to recognize and honor those who have sacrificed so we may enjoy our freedoms – especially to worship freely without persecution. Most of our members are veterans of the military or have had a family member deployed so we do know the sacrifices and heartaches involved.

Military Ministry was introduced at church March 25, 2006. Since then we have become more organized; gathered names/address, realizing needs of family members of deployed soldiers, sent out care packages almost monthly to deployed soldiers, answered correspondence from soldiers/families. We pray for our soldiers, after we pack our boxes to send, we pray for each and every receiving soldier – for safety and the knowledge of God's presence and blessing. We have fixed a furnace, installed a car Starter done minor home repairs and car repairs and helped fund the Returning Veterans Parade this past summer. As a committee, members have attended soldier send-offs, welcome home parties, assisted with serving at FRG fund raisers, attended and assisted at Military Funerals in the area.

During the 2006 Annual Night of Music program offerings our church received over \$24,000 for the Military Ministry. We distributed this money to many local organizations and a couple of State wide organizations. It also made us aware of the wonderful support in the community and surrounding area for our military men/women.

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