

December 2008

Acts 26:18 To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.

After being in the Navy for over 20 years I know what it is like not living near family and spending holidays alone. The military life can be a very lonely life and sailors can get themselves into a lot of trouble while trying to find ways not to be alone. Even sailors who call themselves Christians may do things out of character just to fit in with their peers so they do not feel alone. Therefore, this year, as we have in years past, opened our home to those who would like to spend Thanksgiving with us. We had 22 people in our home on Thanksgiving Day. Nate, one of the sailors from our church, invited Cody, a sailor who works with him, to the Thanksgiving feast. My wife, Lou Anne, along with our daughter's Meghan and Nicole cooked a fantastic meal and all who attend were well fed. After dessert, we sat and talked about the Navy and different duty stations we have all been at. As the conversation turned to the spiritual I asked Cody if he knew where he would go when he died. Cody said he didn't know but wanted to go to Heaven. It got very quiet in the room. Nate and Scott, who were sitting with us, both prayed for Cody as I opened the Bible and went through the scripture. I could see Cody's eyes widen and the conviction that came over him as he realized that if he were to die he would go to Hell. I explained that he must repent and put total faith and trust in Jesus Christ and Him alone. Cody said he wanted to be saved. He bowed his head in prayer and asked Jesus to save him. Cody said that it seemed as if a heavy load was lifted off him. Everyone in the house rejoiced with Cody our new brother in Christ. Cody came to church Sunday and got up and told the church that he was saved on Thanksgiving Day and that he now knew he was going to Heaven. I asked Cody Sunday afternoon if he would be to church next Sunday. He said, "Pastor I will be there on Saturday to go out with you to tell people about Jesus". Nate has taken the great responsibility of discipling Cody. There truly is much to be thankful for.

Please continue to pray for Lou Anne. Her hysterectomy is postponed until Dec. 17th. She will have a 30 day recover period. Please pray for wisdom for her doctors and a speedy recovery for Lou Anne.

Recently, one of the ladies in our church, Jona had to have part of her thyroid removed. After taking out a part of her thyroid and doing a biopsy, the doctor found it to be cancerous and removed the rest of the thyroid along with surrounding tissue. In January Jona must return for further tests and treatment. Please pray for Jona and her family as they go through this difficult time.

We also have sailors who are now on deployment and others away for additional training. Please pray for their families as they are away during the Christmas season. Continue to pray for our church and the military folks we serve here in the Mayport area.

To every church that posts our prayer letter and to every person that reads it, we appreciate and are grateful to all who pray for us and support us. We know that we could not be here, nor would there be a Freedom Independent Baptist Church in the Mayport area ministering to the military and their families without both prayers and financial support from churches and individuals like you. There have been many souls saved at Freedom Independent Baptist Church this year. For that I thank the Lord Jesus Christ. May you all have a very blessed Christmas and a New Year with a vision to reach the lost with the Gospel.

In Christ,

Brother Chris War and Family