

September 2008

1 Timothy 1:2 Unto Timothy, my own son in the faith: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord.

August was a very exciting month for our church. A sailor that was saved at our church named Jeremy started a Bible study on the USS Gettysburg. The Commanding Officer of the USS Gettysburg has given Jeremy the official duty as lay leader of the ship. About 3 weeks ago Jeremy, along with his family came up during the invitation and made public that God has called him to preach and has called them to full time, Christian service. Jeremy has already started preparing for the ministry by working on a Bible correspondence course. We, as a church, are excited to see what God has in store for Jeremy and his family. Please pray for them as they prepare for the ministry.

Two weeks ago we had a visitor at church named Jamie, a sailor who has only been in the Navy for about six months. Jamie is now stationed on his first ship in Mayport and was looking for a church. Jamie grew up Catholic but started going to a Baptist church a few months ago while attending a Navy school in Indiana. Jamie seemed to pay very close attention to the sermon at our church that morning. After the service I asked him if he was sure he would go to Heaven when he died. He said no. I asked him if he would like to see what the Bible says about how a person can know for sure that when they die they would go to Heaven. Jamie said yes. As we searched the scriptures Jamie realized his lost condition. Jamie prayed that day and put his total trust and faith in Jesus alone and was born again. We invited Jamie to have dinner with us at our house. On the way to my house I explained about baptism he said he needed to be baptized also. Before dinner I looked out the window and could see my neighbor's pool next door and that it was empty. My first thought was, "Wow, a huge Baptismal". I asked Jamie if he was ready to be baptized. He said yes. We both went down into the water and there was added to the church that day such as should be saved. **If anyone has extra baptismal robes in good condition we could sure use them** (all sizes). Please pray for Jamie. He is a new Christian and his ship will be deploying for 6 months on October 6.

While soul winning, we met a lady named Rachel. I asked Rachel if she were 100% sure if she died that she would go to Heaven. She said no. That same day Rachel prayed and received Christ as her Saviour. Rachel's husband Marvin is in the Navy and was out to sea at that time, so the next week, on Saturday, we stopped again to talk with Marvin. Marvin has been in the Navy for eighteen years and has been a Southern Baptist all his life. When I asked Marvin what a person would have to do to go to Heaven his answer was long but boiled down to his good works. He was sure because of the way he had lived and what he has done he would go to Heaven. I asked him if he would like to see what God says in His word about what a person has to do to go to Heaven. He said yes and seemed very interested to know. When Marvin saw what God's word said I saw the shock on his face. After that he told me he was not on his way to Heaven but would go to Hell. We went through the scriptures and Marvin turned from trusting himself to trusting Christ alone. Marvin and Rachel and two of their three sons came to church the next day. Their son Marvin Jr., sixteen years old, sat intently and listened to the sermon. After the service I asked him if he would go to Heaven he said he didn't know but would like to know. Marvin Jr. seemed to be very interested in hearing the gospel. As we talked about sin and salvation he realized he would go to Hell and needed to trust and receive Christ as his Saviour. He did not hesitate that morning but prayed, trusting Jesus and received Him as his Saviour.

God continues to do a great work here in the Mayport area. Please pray for those who were recently saved that they would be faithful to church and for the faithfulness our members. Pray that God will continue to use Freedom Independent Baptist Church to reach many sailors and their families for Christ.

In Christ,
Brother Chris War and Family