

“Lead Us, Lord!”

Direction, Vision and Provision by the Power of the Holy Spirit

(Exploring where we’ve been, where we are,
and where He is leading now)



Freedom Outreach International
(Ministry to the Military)
Prayer and Fasting Initiative 2018

Week II - THE VISION COMPASS – We Have to Know Where We Are DAY 8 – Jan. 14 – USA Fellowships – He Knows Where We Are



Read: Joshua 1:9

It was 2009. We had been hit with 3 natural disasters back at “home” in the USA while my husband was deployed to Iraq. He returned from deployment just to pack up and head to his new assignment in Washington DC ahead of the kids and me. We stayed in Kansas so that our daughter could graduate high school. It was Memorial Day weekend, and we were getting packed up to drive to DC, relieved that this new duty station would mark the end of 18 months apart.

It was Sunday and also happened to be our oldest son’s birthday so the kids and I decided not to go to the civilian church we had been attending but go to the Full Gospel service at the chapel on base. It was the first time I had worshipped in a military setting for over a year. After the music ended, a slim young woman walked up to the mic and began to pray for the safety of our troops, for the well-being of their families, for Heaven’s holy intervention in their lives. My heart couldn’t hold back -- the tears began to fall.

I had planned to take the kids out to a nice lunch out but realized we were cash-strapped after the repairs from the most recent tornado. I had sat in my car before the service, feeling quite alone, far from God (quite honestly), far from my husband, and far from “our normal” as a military family. I questioned in my heart, “Lord, do You even see where I am?”

After the service, the lady who had sat behind us in church walked up to me in the parking lot. She said, “I am here on TDY just for this week. I don’t know you or if you usually attend church here. I think I’m obeying God right now, so please don’t say anything. The Lord wants me to encourage you, to tell you to be strong, and to give you this.” She pressed a \$50 bill into my hand, and before I could even respond at all she said as she turned and walked away, “and also to tell you that He sees where you are.”

That day is the first thing I think of when someone begins arguing that military personnel do not need specialized Christian ministry and worship when they return stateside. I had

felt an overwhelming sense of belonging and understanding in that worship service that moved me to my core. There wasn't a single person there who didn't understand. It's an awesome and powerful dynamic that cannot be replicated any other way.

In Freedom Outreach, we are deliberately focusing on planting life-giving Christian fellowships in and near our military communities stateside. The creativity and passion of these leaders is astounding. For example, retired Navy Chaplain, John and Yvonne Wagner, hold a hospitality fellowship in their home for single sailors in the Virginia Beach area. Former Center Directors, Warren and Lisa Gaffney are reaching out to soldiers at Keesler AFB in Biloxi, MS. Another former Center Director, Charles and Travantha Miller, just held their first worship service on New Year's Eve in Fort Knox, KY. Others that are already going strong are: Herman and Doris Mitchell (who led our center in Hohenfels, Germany for many years) in Huntsville, AL; Charlie and Kathy Bryant in Augusta, GA; Ray and Connie Petit in Colorado Springs, CO; Wade and Tammy Miller near Fort Bragg, NC; Phil and Becky Burton in Eglin and Tyndall AFB's in Florida; Dan and June Barrera in San Antonio, TX, Joe and Tara Scriven who are sailing on the momentum from a powerful ministry in Osan, S. Korea to start a military fellowship in Oregon. We're also praying for Alex and Evelyn Morales who just departed from 20 years of receiving and leading ministry in Europe through FOI/MTTM, having directed our Stuttgart Center, as they begin serving in the Washington DC area.

Through the supernatural twists and turns of His will, He has landed overseas military ministers at stateside locations and whispered, "The mission isn't over." God knows exactly where we are and what we are meant to do while we're there.

Our Prayer: Lord, we come to You for our USA ministries – we need the power of the Holy Spirit to draw the military and veterans to You at each location. We are praying for those who have stepped out to serve You in these areas and ask for You to give them energy, strength, vision, and the people and resources to do every good thing that You've placed in their hearts. We ask You for more USA missionaries to the military, for new fellowships in 2018, and for a great revival among those who are ministering and being ministered in these fellowships!

It is so fitting that today we are praying together (through the Prayer Guide) for this very opportunity in Hawaii, at Schofield Barracks, MCAS Kanoeha, Hickham AFB and the huge military/DOD population on Oahu. Send laborers, open doors, grant us favor as we endeavor to glorify You and gather many sons and daughters to Your throne in the USA! In Your Mighty Name, Jesus, Amen.

Day 9 – January 15 – Church Planting – How Shall They Hear?

Read: Romans 10:14-15

I won't tell you his name. He's a humble brother and would be embarrassed. But, our longtime friend was stationed at a remote military base overseas. After coming from a vibrant FOI fellowship at his last assignment, he found there was no Spirit-filled church in the area. He faithfully attended chapel services but was feeling spiritually dry and desperate for fellowship and worship. So, he did something about it.



Asking the chaplain for permission, he started a Pentecostal prayer service at the chapel. He worshipped, he paced, he interceded, he wept, he rejoiced, he proclaimed ... and most nights, it was just him and Jesus that showed up. For two years, our brother carried on, inviting others, encouraging himself in the Lord and encouraging the chaplain, but never having the crowd he had hoped to draw. Yet, I know the Lord saw those nights as nothing less than a tremendous success!

I smile when I think of it, though I'm sure he didn't ever stop to realize, but this is the very impetus that started what is now Freedom Outreach International. I'm sure, this side of heaven, he will never know the true spiritual impact of those solitary nights of prayer. But we know this, our God honors the faithful.

It's that same determination that says, "If no one else is going to do it, I will!" that we see regularly in FOI/MTTM. It's that dedication and ingenuity that we need more of! May we keep seeking God for laborers and encouraging those who are saying, "I will go," until we have new ministry centers planted at every overseas military community.

Our Prayer: Lord, we are seeking You for energy, provision and breakthrough at our young church plants. We pray for growth and for a profound spiritual impact. We cover these young ministry seedlings with our prayers and ask for supernatural protection over those who are stepping out to plant new fellowships.

We pray especially for Greg and Dana Smith today, as they have just planted the church at Velburg, Germany. They are specifically praying for anointing and for open doors to reach the lost in that military training community. We join with them in asking and in expectation for the great and mighty things in Your hand that You are performing at this time. Draw, reach, save, heal and deliver in Jesus' Name! We glorify You for Your work in Greg and Dana and in the new church in Velburg, in the Name above all Names –Jesus Christ -- Amen.

Day 10 – January 16 – Family Matters

Read: Isaiah 59:21

I had one of the most touching letters this year. It was a simple note from a mom whose teenagers had been in camp with us for several years. She'd been struggling to help her son find Christ during their European tour and had often felt overwhelmed and alone. We'd been praying for the family since meeting them three years ago but we seemed to be at an impasse with ministering to her son also. They PCS'd to S. Korea and she signed her kids up for camp. On the first night, her son walked in and saw the Jacob's Generation core team from Europe. He just smiled and shook his head. "I can't get rid of you people!" The second night of camp, he wept at the altar and was gloriously saved. His mom wrote, "Who is this young man who has come back from camp singing songs about Jesus in his room?"



The past 2 years, FOI/MTTM has put a specific emphasis on the military family and intentionally focused on ministry to parents as well as their kids. At every conference for two years, we have offered a family ministry segment such as "Building Military Family Resilience," or "The Spirit-Empowered Family." The feedback has echoed back what the Lord has been saying, that it's important to reach the children and youth, but it's of even greater importance to reach families.

The statistics show that military families with two parents in the home have greater risk factors than civilian kids with only one parent. This is because military kids lose their entire social and spiritual support system every few years – new school, new coaches, and new church (even if they end up attending a church). We simply must pray for our military families and prayerfully continue (and expand) supports to them!

I think about the young man who found Christ at an altar at the Far East Camp last year and think, this is what it's all about! Jesus never gives up so we can't give up either!

Our Prayer: Oh God, how we need Your Spirit in our families! We pray for them now that, this very moment and day, there would be revival and breakthrough for our military families. Encourage parents who are seeking to raise their children in You. Help them to get connected to a church and to disciple their children in their homes. Heal marriages and break off the attacks and schemes of the evil one. For those who have yet to know You, we pray for an awakening in our military families, that they would come to the realization of Who You Are and call out to You. May this be a year of harvest for our military families around the world!

We also lift up Andrew and Rhonda Provazek in Sigonella, Sicily, Italy. Guide them in this new year and give them fresh, innovative, intentional outreach strategies; divine connections as they pass the baton in the coming months to new leaders as some PCS.

Day 11 – January 17 – Crossing Cultural Borders – We Are One

Read: Galatians 3:28



Fellowship at the Sembach AFB Chapel early 1959

Pastor Robert Orr



The past year has highlighted wounds that still remain between races in the USA.

The media attention has drawn some reconcile and others, unfortunately, widen the rift.

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But, in the Body of Christ, we can only have one response – equality and healing. In the archives of FOI/MTTM, I noticed photos dating back to the 1950's and 1960's, not many years after segregation in the Armed Forces was abolished and right smack in the middle of the Civil Rights Movement. Many churches in the USA are striving to cultivate the diversity and multiculturalism that FOI fellowships have enjoyed since the founding of the ministry. In Okinawa, Japan, Pastor Cris Reyno is Uruguayan and his wife, Mieko, is Okinawan. Their services are translated from English into both Spanish and Japanese. In Baumholder, Germany, Pastor Harry Rodriguez is spectacularly gifted to be able to translate his own messages simultaneously from English to Spanish and German! When the Body of Christ comes together, crossing racial and cultural boundaries with the love of God, the very stresses and challenges that could tear military personnel apart becomes that which knits them together. May we continue to seek the Lord for unity in the Body of Christ and continue to appreciate and demonstrate it in our own ministries.

Our Prayer: Lord, we pray that FOI/MTTM ministries will be a places of healing and reconciliation. Help us to be an example to a world divided of what unity in Christ means. Bring the Body of FOI closer together than ever and destroy the divisions that would keep believers apart. Let us be the light of the world that You have called us to be!

We lift up Steve and Rebecca Colburn today and the center in Aviano, Italy. We pray with them for the Holy Spirit to help them reach the lost and for a breakthrough in the visa process, that they will be successful in getting the paperwork approved for them to live and pastor in Italy.

Day 12 – January 18 – Training, Equipping and Sending

Read: 2 Timothy 2:15 & Matthew 4:18-22

If you've ever spent time around FOI/MTTM alum, you will hear one reoccurring theme from those who have been used greatly in ministry. They will relay stories of starting out and stepping in an area of ministry, "just to fill a need," "only until someone 'qualified' comes along." We laugh as we think about how the Lord calls the willing and immerses them into literal on-the-job training! Then, ten or twenty years later, they look back and marvel at the adventure they've had following the Lord on wonderful and unlikely paths of ministry!



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We shouldn't be surprised. Jesus called out to some fishermen, "Follow me," and they straightway left their nets and followed Him. They stepped out with radical obedience, without question, because they knew the One who called them was faithful to teach and empower them to fulfill this calling and that there was no greater purpose on the earth.

Throughout the years, FOI/MTTM has been a vessel used by the Lord to call, train, equip and send lay leaders and ministers out into the harvest. In the past 2 years, FOI/MTTM has had 16 individuals complete the Ministerial Internship Program (MIP) and 20 individuals achieve ministerial licensure (which is a challenging process) through the Church of God. Each has his or her own story of hearing the call to ministry in FOI and most are now actively involved in our ministry centers worldwide.

Many more are hearing the words, "Follow Me," today. These are the evangelists, missionaries, church planters, prayer warriors, worship leaders, children and youth pastors who, torch in hand, are becoming the visionaries for this generation. Let us seek the Lord together for those who are just now hearing the call and will move forward in dynamic ministry to the military, today, and in the generations to come!

*Our Prayer: Oh Lord, You **are** sending laborers as You promised and as we have asked! You are awakening people today, even some as they read this and pray these words, to a lifetime of ministry. Father, we ask for Your blessing over our discipleship programs in our local centers and collectively, over our MIP and training programs, over the leadership development of our current Center Directors and their key laity. But, we also acknowledge that the harvest is immense, plentiful, and widespread across the globe. We are asking You to stir hearts and to call Your people to help in this great and vital work and quicken Your people to a holy life of service. In the Name of Jesus Christ – amen!*

We lift up our German missionaries, Rod and Stefanie Nyman and the church in Heilbronn, Germany. We bless their work in that community and ask for favor with the landlord and spiritual breakthrough, as well as anointing to reach the community and local football team.

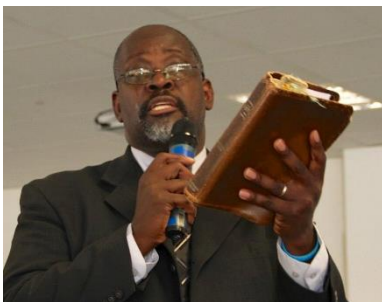
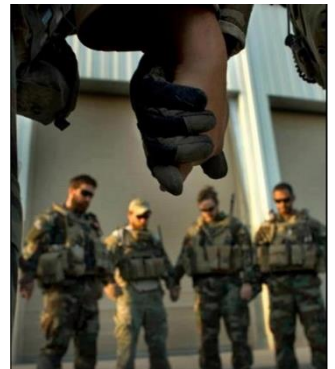
Day 13 – January 19 – Singles – and You Will Acknowledge the Lord

Read: Hosea 2:19-20 & Isaiah 54:5

He was running from the Lord. His mama said she'd fast and pray until he came back to Christ. He left for his first overseas assignment thinking he'd surely be the cause of his mother starving herself into sickness or death. But, his mind was made up – as a big, menacing man, formerly a high-ranking gang member, no one was going to get away with that “Jesus talk” around him.

He arrived at the 141st Signal Battalion in Ansbach, Germany that August of 1977 and met his new roommates – a black man, a white man and a Mexican – and all of them were Pentecostal Christians! Looking for something to do, his roommates said, “Come to the Center.” (He thought they meant the Recreation Center.) He arrived to see a bunch of other singles eating, playing games – just laughing and having fun. Everything was good until they walked into another part of the building that was set up with chairs, instruments, and a pulpit, then he realized, “Oh no – this is a **church!**”

He was determined to sit respectfully but to tune out every word. Yet, something gripped his heart. How did these three men of such different races and backgrounds truly love each other? Before the evening was over, tears were streaming down his face. The Holy Spirit overwhelmed him and he was gloriously saved on the third day of his mother's fast!



Michael Richardson (known to us as, “Big Rev”) is just one of many young singles who found the Lord through the ministry to the military (now, FOI). His story reminds and challenges us to emphasize ministry to singles and help become family to those who are alone and far from home. Regardless of rank, gender, background or duty assignment, our single men and women need relevant ministry and the care of the Body of Christ!

Our Prayer: Father, we are grateful for the FOI centers worldwide that are reaching the singles and those on unaccompanied tours. Thank You for the Provazek's outreach to singles in Sicily, Italy and the churches in Korea that are reaching geo-bachelors. We are asking for a special anointing and divine strategy to create and sustain life-giving singles ministries. We pray against isolation, depression and suicide in the Name of Jesus Christ and we release the hope, joy and purpose of the gospel to each one of our singles in the military. Make us a soul-winning ministry like never before.

Our pastors at Camp Casey, Korea, are the today's focus in the prayer guide. We lift up Mario & Joyce Lopez and pray for God's help to reach the military & local nationals; for the members' deeper passion, hunger for God and burden to reach the unsaved and more laborers to help in the work.

Day 14 – January 20 – Connecting Strategically – The Body



Read: all of Romans 12

In 2017, the Lord opened up new opportunities and initiatives to connect ministry centers for collaboration. In the Far East, Pastor Bong Tiru (Clarkview Christian Center, Philippines) has been training our Center Directors in his evangelism and discipleship program over the past two years. This led to a project in the Far East where the Directors in Korea came together to experience “IGNITE!” – a weekend of worship, preaching, evangelism and encounter with the Lord. From that, they have embarked on a group effort, a “pilot project” essentially, to employ the program together and tailor it for military communities.

In the USA, Freedom Outreach was awarded a national grant (through the Calvin Institute of Worship) for a multi-site prayer and worship project called, “Connecting in Worship.” USA Centers and Partner Churches from El Paso, TX, Huntsville, AL and Fayetteville, NC have joined on a year-long journey (until June 2018) and brought their three congregations together for simultaneous study, worship, and prayer. Each site will host an event that the leaders from other sites attend.

These are more than just programs. This is the Body of Christ within FOI that is coming together to support and help one another. Each center brings its own unique attributes and input. But, the most remarkable outcome has been the unity that has developed. Our lenses have been widened to see more than our own situations, geographic areas, and ministries. We see a bigger picture, a bigger Body, and a strength and diversity together that we could never achieve alone!

Our Prayer: Father, we praise You for the unity You are building in FOI/MTTM and we ask You for more! We bless these projects and pray for an outpouring of Your Holy Spirit upon those participating. We pray for unity in and among FOI centers, our leadership and Board of Directors, and with all the FOI/MTTM alumni and friends around the world. You prayed that we would be one, as You and the Father are One. Lord, make us one in You, that the Body would be healthy and complete, strong and fruitful, with You as the Head!

Today, we lift up the ministry at Vicenza, Italy and the Colburn family as they seek their missionary visas. We thank You for the team that has led during the transition and we ask for Your help as they seek to reach more military and local nationals. In Jesus' Name.



Leaders of the Connecting in Worship Project -- multi-ethnic, male and female, representing 3 states and 2 nations, praying together at the National Warrior Connection Conference, Nov. 2017 – Louisville, KY.