



# MISSIONARIES TO THE US MILITARY

*Bill & Heather  
Lavender*



Dear Pastor:

Thank you for your interest in our mission field of the U.S. Military. We are Bill and Heather Lavender, missionaries to the U.S. military serving with Baptist International Missions, Inc., (BIMI). Our sending church is the China Lake Baptist Church in Ridgecrest, California. Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ has called us to reach our nation's servicemembers and their families with the gospel of Jesus Christ, disciple them in their new faith, and integrate them into the fellowship of the local church.

There is a spiritual crisis among our servicemembers and veterans. 22 servicemembers and veterans commit suicide every day. Many servicemembers and veterans suffer the spiritual and emotional scars of combat through Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Equally, the families of our servicemembers suffer the anguish of long periods of separation, uncertainty, marital stress, and other family-related concerns unique to the military culture. Our government's response is to recommend Yoga, Transcendental Meditation, Psychological counseling and other secular coping mechanisms to assuage the anguish of their minds and hearts. We know the only solution for their spiritual emptiness is the life-changing gospel of Jesus Christ.

As BIMI Missionaries to the Military, we are currently planting the Liberty Baptist Church in El Paso, Texas outside of Fort Bliss, Texas. Liberty Baptist Church seeks to reach the U.S. military, Federal Employees, Government Contractors, and others associated with Fort Bliss.

Fort Bliss is home to the U.S. Army's 1<sup>st</sup> Armored Division with over 80,000 assigned active duty servicemembers and their families as well as an additional 30,000 supporting personnel such as Federal Employees and Government Contractors.

Included in this packet you will find our testimonies, calling, ministry experience, references, and our ministry goals. We want to thank you for taking the time to consider helping us fulfill the call God has on our lives in fulfilling the great commission.

If you would be interested in learning more about missions to the military to which God has called us, we would love to come and share our burden with you and your church. You can reach us by email at [lavenderwh2@msn.com](mailto:lavenderwh2@msn.com) or by smartphone at (915) 545-3956.

In Christ;

William H. Lavender, II