

# Bill & Dianne

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Sperry

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## *Good morning,*

Summer is here in the Valley of the Sun, and boy is it hot! How hot is it, you may ask? It's so hot that during a recent "Burger Burn," at Luke AFB, a stack of napkins in a stainless-steel bowl caught fire. One of the chaplain assistants, SSgt. Lopez, acted quickly by dumping them on the ground and stomping out the flames. By the way, if you would like to test your endurance for heat, try grilling burgers on a flaming grill in the sun with temps at 107 degrees. I think I lasted about 40 minutes before I had to hand that task off to someone else. Whew!

We hosted a dinner for ten of our local supporters/potential volunteers and one Airmen couple, Jeremy and Ashley Meyers, on June 27. After dinner, we gathered in the living

room and I spent some time expressing the overall focus, organizational framework, and details about what a ministry evening looks like. Jeremy was a part of our ministry during our 16 months at Osan AB S. Korea, and he added into the conversation what impact the ministry had on him. At the close of the evening, many people expressed great interest in being an active part of our ministry here.

During the summer months to follow we will be inviting individuals, couples, and families into our home for dinner. It is our intent to get to know them personally and to cast the vision of this ministry. Then this fall, likely the first part of September, Lord willing, we will launch our in-home ministry.



For the present, we are coordinating and volunteering at the Chaplain Corp ministry called Spiritual Maintenance Center (SMC). The men and women that work on the aircraft and get them ready to fly are called Maintainers, thus the name. The SMC is a good-sized room in one of the maintenance buildings that is stocked with water, Gatorade, coffee, and snacks. As volunteers we keep the fridges stocked, clean serving surfaces, bake cookies, make popcorn, and look for opportunities to engage the airmen in conversation. In those conversations, we strive to be discerning of where they are spiritually so that we can speak God's love into their lives. It is a fine line we tread so as not to be accused of proselytizing, but we ask God for discernment to look beneath the surface as we have the opportunity to engage in conversations.

Please know how grateful Dianne and I are for each of you that are part of our support team. We thank God for your faithful prayers for us as we love and care for the men and women at Luke AFB. Chaplain Hess (Wing Commander) has expressed that there has been an increase in suicide interventions at Luke recently. Please pray that our merciful God will work in the hearts and minds of those who are struggling with the chaos of this day in which we live—that instead of turning to suicide they will be drawn to the precious gift of eternal life in Jesus Christ.

Please pray that we would be perceptive of those who are struggling and in despair so that we can offer God's great love for them.

We are also so very thankful for each financial investment made into this kingdom work. We know God is wonderfully at work multiplying those gifts so that they are more than enough for our every need. As we serve here at Luke, we are continuing our effort to increase our support team. We would love to hear from you if you would like to know more about being partners with us. Travel is difficult now, but with today's technology we can meet face-to-face using ZOOM, MS Teams, Skype, or other video platforms. So, please don't hesitate to let us know if you would like to meet with us. For that matter, if you are already one of our partners and would like to say hello "in person" let us know that as well.

If you're like us, you are ready for things to get back to normal. It doesn't look like that is going to be anytime soon. So, stay safe and healthy!

Blessings,  
*Bill and Dianne*



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