

A MOBILE GOSPEL FOR THE MODERN WORLD

“They came, strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying, ‘Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.’”
-Acts 14.22

The first generation of believers saw an amazing growth of the gospel during their lifetimes. Think of it: from one church in Jerusalem (an outpost city on the eastern frontier of the empire) to churches spread all across the Roman world - several meeting in the city of Rome itself! All of this in one generation.

Over the past year I have spent much time in the book of Acts, learning from the Lord Jesus about how he is building his church (Mt 16.18). One of the patterns I have picked up on is *every disciple functioning*. The apostles serve as central figures in the book of Acts, but think about some of the vital “background” players, folks like Priscilla and Aquila, Lydia, Cornelius, the Ephesian elders - and many more! Though they only garner a few verses each, they were key players in the early church as local leaders.

Another pattern is *the mobile gospel*. The apostles were mobile pioneers, planting the body of Christ in new places and then moving on, then coming back through on visits and encouraging



Men and women from all three of the Northwest military fellowships gathered in early October for a weekend conference

the believers to continue in the faith. This is a pattern we are committed to in our own work for the gospel.

We have been in the Northwest now for a little over four years. During that time, we have seen three communities of faith planted among the military here: at Ft Lewis (Army), at Bremerton Naval Base, and at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island. There is leadership in place in all three areas and it is time for us to move on.

Next summer our family will be relocating to San Diego, home to over

85,000 Naval personnel and their families. Our mission will be to plant the gospel and launch new fellowships within the military community there. We also hope to expand beyond the military

and into the San Diego area itself. With a population of 1.5 million and a very diverse culture, we see great opportunity for the gospel in and from this city. I will also continue to periodically travel and encourage the disciples in places we have already been, following a model found in the Scripture.

More details to come in the months ahead. For now, please pray for us! The next year will be full. We love you all.

In Jesus,

Andrew

PRAYER

- Praise God for the new believers we are seeing come to Jesus in the Navy. The kingdom is growing!
- Luke 10.2 - that the Lord of the harvest would send out laborers throughout the Navy and from the Navy to the nations
- For Josh and the team on the aircraft carrier USS Stennis. The Lord is at work while they are underway!
- For a new generation of spiritual leaders in the military (Jeremiah 3.15)
- For our All Navy Retreat this coming February 18-20, 2012

To support our mission:

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SAN DIEGO NAVY consists of six major installations with a total population of about 85,000 Sailors. There is also a significant number of Coast Guardsmen and Marines assigned to schools and commands in San Diego. Sixty-three ships and submarines



currently call San Diego their home port. It is also home to all West Coast Navy helicopter squadrons and Navy Special Warfare Command. The number of ships based in San Diego is expected to grow to 72 by 2015.

Two current prayer emphases are that God will grow us in our passion and effectiveness in reaching the lost and that he will enable us to make contact with key men and women onboard the ships homeported in San Diego. We have been praying especially that God would do this on the five largest crewed ships.

Finally, we are praying for thriving fellowships on all bases in the San Diego area. We would also like to develop a focus on military couples/families and ethnic communities. Our "big dream" is to see God raise up 272 laborers and to see missionaries being raised up to reach San Diego, other Navy bases and the ends of the earth.

- Source: Dave Yumen, San Diego Navy Navigator

A LIFE WELL LIVED

James Stroud was born on December 11, 1951 in Hickman County, a rural farming community in southwestern Kentucky that borders the Mississippi river. In the early years of his life he grew up in a farmhouse that lacked most of the amenities we take for granted today: electricity, central heating, running water. After his parents' divorce, 8 year old "Jimmy" moved with his mother and two brothers to St Louis. Times were tough. The boys lived with their mother in a small rented government project tenement. Dad later described these as the worst years of his life. He had gone from being a poor boy in the country surrounded by family to a poor boy in a city surrounded by strangers. After two years, he and his brothers returned to Kentucky to live with his father and a new step-mother. Life took on a steady rhythm until his father developed can-

cer. After a two year battle, his father died. Dad was 16. He moved back to Hickman where he and his brothers lived with relatives. There, he met the love of his life, Susie Gale. The high school sweethearts would marry three years later. Over the next

forty years, they would raise five children and see the birth of eleven grandchildren.

Jim and Sue became followers of Jesus early in their marriage. He served for ten years in the Navy, then in 1979 he got out and moved his family back to southwest Kentucky.

There, with several friends, they began a small church - Logos Christian Fellowship.

Jim lived the next thirty years focused on the two great commitments of his life: his God and his family.

My father passed away in April after his own battle with cancer, but his powerfully legacy lives on in the lives of his earthly family and the family of believers. I once told my father that there was no man on earth whose son I would rather be. I feel that way more today than ever.

"Ground yourself in the Word of God, son. You'll never regret it." I have tried to live by those words these past 18 years, Pops. With God's help, I will continue to live by them. We miss you dearly. See you soon!

Your son, Andrew

