

9 June 2022

Dear Pastor and Praying Friends,

Memorial Day

Just a few days before Memorial Day, the United States Navy Casualty Office officially changed the status of 13 sailors who died from “unaccounted for” to “buried at sea.” The 13 sailors were among the almost 900 sailors who lost their lives on the USS Indianapolis when it sank in the Pacific Ocean after a Japanese torpedo struck it. It was the greatest loss of life on a single ship in the history of the U.S. Navy.

It is our prayer that on Memorial Day you took a moment to remember those who gave their lives serving our country. DeAnna was able to volunteer at a ceremony on base for Memorial Day. Let us never forget the sacrifice of so many.



Rota, Spain

At the end of April our town celebrated Feria for the first time in two years because of COVID. Feria is really nothing more than a local county fair. There are booths for food and drink and then rides for the children. Many people take off work or only work in the mornings during Feria. The ladies wear flamenco dresses, and the men dress up. Each nearby town has its own week of Feria.

Bethel Baptist Church

After our Easter morning service, I got home to an email that had been sent that morning. It was from a retired Navy man, Mark, and his wife Virtudes, asking if they could come to church. The reason they were asking permission was because Mark has a service dog, Jack, that goes with him everywhere. I responded and said they were more than welcome to come to church and Jack too! They have been attending faithfully ever since.

On Mother’s Day we honored our moms with a family picture and a gift. We are grateful to all the mothers who attend our services. One of the ladies had her mom here visiting with her.

We have had several visitors since our last letter. A couple of the single men who come faithfully invited three of their shipmates to visit the church. It is such a blessing to see these young men invite their peers to church! A couple visiting their son in the Navy also came for a couple of weeks, and a retired Air Force couple just visiting Rota stopped by. It is always exciting to have new people visit.



Recently four of our faithful attendees left for patrol duty. They will be gone for four months. As one of our service men told me on Sunday, “The ship can be a dark place many times for a Christian.” Please pray for them and their families while they are gone.

In Christ,

Michael Staley

Michael and DeAnna Staley