

Dear Church Families and Mission's Committees,

Beryl and I want to take this moment to say thank you for all you do to encourage us and all the missionaries each church is actively supporting. We've had an extremely busy travel schedule this year including two trips to the Carolinas and Georgia. The Lord particularly blessed the retreat we had requested prayer for Beryl at Ft. Huachuca in late February. Tomorrow, we begin a one week trip down to California to visit the ministries at Travis AFB (this is the ministry led by Sandy and Sue Nafziger. Sandy is the one who suffered two broken legs nearly two years ago. He has had six surgeries and lives with pain - nevertheless, their ministry has remained very strong) and 29 Palms Marine Base. We will meet with a chaplain at Vandenberg AFB to consider the possibility of establishing a work there. In advance, thank you for your prayers.

In closing, we wanted to forward this extremely encouraging report from Marine Lt. Matt Thompson who just returned to 29 Palms last week. What Matt reports is just too good to keep to ourselves. The power of what Matt writes is in our mind the result of his own integrity and commitment to place Christ first in his life and to pray for his fellow Marines. It has been our privilege to receive many of his emails over two deployments the past three years. May his report encourage you in many ways. Pray that Beryl and I might be blessed to meet him during our visit to 29 Palms next week.

One other request, please pray for me (Paul) as I prepare a message to be given at a Memorial Day gathering with Marines in Honolulu.

With gratefulness for your friendship and support,

The Metkos

TWENTYNINE PALMS MINISTRIES

5610 Mariposa Ave
29 Palms, CA 92277
760 367-7268
760 987 0939 cell

E-Mail porterrp@roadrunner.com

Cadence International, P O Box 1268. Englewood, CO 80150

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Family and Friends,

I finally made it home! After ten months the Thompson Family is reunited and I have finally met my new son, Matthan. We got back to Twenty nine Palms at about 0230 on Sunday, April 27th morning and back to the house at 0330. We were all pretty tired but we made it with up with the sun a couple hours later and back to church. We had Matthan dedicated at church this morning which made my first Sunday back even more special. It is so good to be back home. God is so good!

. The deployment was a big success where we:

- Logged over 400 combat patrols.
- Traveled over 50,000 miles of road stretching from Ramadi to Fallujah and the entire area of the Lake Habbaniyah region.
- Searched over 100,000 vehicles and over 10,000 personnel.
- Secured both Camp Taqaddum and West Camp Habbaniyah.
- Escorted over \$80,000 million dollars worth of Iraqi Dinar from Baghdad to Ramadi.
- Worked 24/7 for 310 days.
- Built a \$67,000 water treatment facility.
- Refurbished the power infrastructure of a small town for \$37,000
- Renovated and restored a school for approximately 100 children for \$20,000
- Made wonderful friends with local Iraqis.

- Brought ALL of our Marines and sailors home safely-Zero Casualties!

I want to thank everyone for all the support you have given our family during this deployment--the prayers, letters, time, and friendship made this difficult time a blessing for all of us. It is truly amazing how we can look back over the past 10 months and thank God for it--thank God for you!

From the Home front!,

Matt, Trish, Chloe, Calah, and Matthan

(Lt Matt Thompson, home from Iraq, and he and the family are heading for Ft Sill, OK, Army Artillery base.)

Thank you for your prayers for this mighty family for our Lord Jesus and their continued faithfulness in their callings and burden to glorify our Lord Jesus, Matt's loves to share the Gospel with all!.

Ralph & Wilma Porter, with you in the good fight of our Lord Jesus, II Timothy 4: 7, 8