



Chaplain Christopher Wagner LTJG, USN

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It is humbling and exciting to write to you regarding these last few months. As of August, I began my active duty career as a Navy Chaplain by attending Officer Development School (ODS) at Newport, Rhode Island. Upon completion of ODS, I underwent training for two months at Navy Chaplaincy School Basic Leadership Course (BLC) Class 23030, also located at Naval Station Newport, RI. There we learned the expectations and responsibilities of being a Navy Chaplain, which can be summed up by four core pillars of Navy Chaplaincy: **Provide, Facilitate, Care, and Advise**. I would like to take this time to explain what these mean in relation to my ministry as a chaplain:

Provide: Through the endorsement of Foundations Baptist Fellowship International (FBFI), the Navy has commissioned me as a Baptist Chaplain. In other words, the Navy expects me to provide divine (religious) services to those of my faith background. If I run a service in a chapel on a base, or with Sailors at sea, or with Marines in the field, it will be a Baptist service. My religious counseling will always be grounded in Scripture and in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Facilitate: For the Sailors, Marines, and Coastguardsmen who are not of my faith tradition, I am responsible to defend their First Amendment right to practice their faith just as I would expect others to defend that same right for myself. That may mean pointing a Jewish Sailor to the nearest synagogue, or ordering prayer beads for Catholic Marines. Never will I be responsible or legally permitted to compromise my faith tradition as articulated by



Merry Christmas & Happy New Year
from the Wagners!



Navy Chaplaincy School Class Photo

my endorser, who holds me responsible to my sending church (Anchor Baptist Church, Millersville, MD).

Care: Regardless of anyone's religious or non-religious affiliation, I am called to care for all by ensuring that they are spiritually prepared to fight our nation's wars (More on this in the next letter!).

Advise: Provide professional insight to Navy and Marine Corps leadership in matters pertaining to the spiritual wellness and toughness of those under their command.

Praises:

- God faithfully brought the family and me through three months of training while separated, all while allowing us to relocate to Texas without any delays or issues!
- Upon reporting to Navy Information Operations Command (NIOC) Texas in San Antonio, I felt immediately confident in the leadership's support for their chaplain.

Prayer Request:

- The coming year will be a trying time mentally and spiritually for our command, but one which could lead to significant improvement to the overall culture and the well-being of individuals.



BLC visiting a Coast Guard vessel at Naval Station Newport, RI

May the Lord Richly Bless You,
LTJG Christopher Wagner
Command Chaplain
Navy Information Operations Command Texas

