



Newsletter from the Navatos

Your Church Planters to the US Military

March – April 2026

Dear Pastor and Praying Friends,
1 Corinthians 3:6 I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase.

We recently informed our Baptist International Missions, Inc. (BIMI) Director, Bro. Baggett, of our need for a brief furlough. Elvie and I have been dealing with some ongoing medical conditions, nothing contagious. For example, both of us are managing chronic orthopedic issues. Elvie receives steroid injections in her right shoulder and I receive them in my left shoulder every six months. Praise God for His sustaining grace!

Before furlough, we rejoiced to see Anthony and Anna follow the Lord in believer's baptism. We are deeply grateful for BIMI Missionaries, Brother & Mrs. Ronn Johnson, who faithfully filled in at Freedom Baptist Church in Atsugi-Zama, Japan, during our absence.

Though we sought physical recovery during furlough, the Lord also refreshed our souls. Back in 1998 while I was on active duty in the United States Marines, our Pastor Dr. Maese and Bible Baptist Church in Yuma, Arizona, prayed over us and sent us out to share the Gospel to the Philippines to reach relatives and friends for Christ. We spent a month door-knocking, soul-winning, distributing tracts, and I preached in open-air meetings. Ninety-nine souls made professions of faith in thirty days! Only God knows who truly trusted Christ – we are called to be fruit bearers, not fruit inspectors.

During this furlough, we were amazed to meet some who had professed Christ in 1998. To God be the glory, several are faithfully attending a Bible-preaching church today! Elvie's sister Dolly, who trusted Christ in 1998, remains faithful. And many of her family members, friends, and neighbors now attend church as well. Hallelujah! While on furlough, we continued attending church, soul-winning, and distributing Gospel tracts. Elvie led her brother Artem and niece Jamaica to Christ, and I had the privilege of leading our nephew Joem to the Lord! Please pray for their growth, baptism, and faithful church attendance.

As we prepare to return to planting a church among the U.S. Military community, please pray for the spiritual, numerical, and the financial growth of Freedom Baptist Church. We remain on the field by God's grace, your prayers, and your faithful support. We are truly grateful. GOD bless you!

Your church planting missionaries to the US Military in Japan,

Ed & Elvie Navato

Bro. Ed and Elvie Navato



On furlough, Joem received Christ!



Dolly (middle) led to CHRIST in 1998, still in church today!



Sister Anna



Brother Anthony



On furlough attended church



Kamai Family visited FBC



Before furlough Sunday 25 Jan 2026



On furlough Art & Maica received Christ!



During our furlough the Johnsons filled in



1998 Missionstrip, some continue in church today!



Some, led to Christ in 1998, still in church!

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And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also. II Timothy 2:2

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