

# ***THE FORWARD EDGE OF FREEDOM***

January 18, 2012



**JESUS IS NOT A CONTRABAND!** I was in my office, and a Staff Sergeant came in with a checkout sheet for a Marine that was outside. I inquired why the Marine didn't come up to take care of his own paperwork and was informed that it was due to the fact he was in shackles inside a military van guarded by three Marines. The SSgt

asked if I wanted to speak to the Marine. I followed him down to the van. After climbing into the van, I told the Marine that I would speak to him as if we were all alone even though we were surrounded by guards. The guard said they would get out to give us privacy and just station themselves around the outside of the van. Once the guards exited, I began asking the Marine about what he had done. The things he was convicted of are not topics appropriate to write in this letter. I asked him if I could share with him the plan of salvation, and he could make his decision at the end of it. I quoted several verses, but the main ones we focused on were Romans 5:8&9. I emphasized the part in verse 9 how we can be justified by the blood of Jesus Christ. I explained that being justified does not mean, "I used to be a bad guy, and now I am trying to do better." Rather, it means that he could stand before God as if he had never sinned. I concluded with Romans 10:13 and offered him the opportunity to receive Christ as his Saviour. With much fervency, he prayed and received Jesus into his heart. I opened the van door and asked the guard if I could shake the prisoner's hand. The guard said, "As long as you don't give him a contraband." I replied, "I didn't give him a contraband; I only gave him Jesus." The guard responded, "Jesus is not a contraband."

On Christmas Sunday, we had our normal chapel service; my wife and children attended as well. Over 80 Marines and their families were in attendance. We were able to make the service special for those who could not go home for the holidays. We had special music, refreshments, and even a candlelight service to close out the evening. During the invitation, 8 people accepted Christ as their Lord and Saviour. One was a father of one of my Marines. Christmas doesn't get any better than that.

My wife gave me an awesome Christmas present—a ticket to Texas to visit my folks and go deer hunting down at the ranch. It had probably been sometime before I joined the Marine Corps while still in high school since I last got to go hunting. I was able to take some awesome pictures while driving around in the truck with my dad. Oh, and of course I got a nice buck to hang on my wall. It was an 11 point; the tines weren't extremely long but they were thick and heavy. I even got to bring the meat home for my family to enjoy.



Your Friend in the Fight for Truth,  
LCDR Richard H. Wiese, CHC, USN, FMF...and family

**Ps. 149:6 "LET THE HIGH PRAISES OF GOD BE IN THEIR MOUTH, AND A TWO-EDGED SWORD IN THEIR HAND."**

