

Gary & Karen Craft

Veteran Missionaries to the US Military

August 2020

Dear Co-laborers in Christ,

Thank you for your prayers and support during these challenging times we live in. God has been faithful!

RETURN

We arrived in Germany on July 1st and were required to self-quarantine for 14 days. We continued having zoom services during the month of July as it was the first month that travel was permitted within Europe and many of our people took advantage of that freedom.

WELCOME BACK

On August 2nd, after eighteen weeks of zoom services, we held our first live Sunday service. There are still many restrictions that limit us. Our people really enjoyed being together and fellowshiped together outside in the open air for an hour afterwards.

GRADUATION

On July 29th, Gary's younger sister, Debbie Dennis, went home to Heaven. She and her husband had been in ministry in Texas for many years. Her memorial service was held on August 3rd in Bastrop, Texas. All four of us siblings were able to be together at the end of June and say our farewell to her until heaven. Her last words to me that day were; "I will see you in heaven".

On July 31st, Karen's mom, Marilyn Van Dyne met her Saviour after a severe brain bleed resulting from a fall. Though her death was sudden, we are so thankful that she did not suffer. Forty-six family members gathered in California to give a beautiful tribute to a special lady. Karen's parents pastored 2 churches in Iowa and Indiana for 50 years, were missionaries to Australia for 5 years and most recently were fill in missionaries for military ministries for 5 years in Italy, Germany and Japan.

We are thankful that, though we sorrow, we sorrow not even as others who have no hope. (1 Thessalonians 4:13). Truly, for our family, "Heaven's sounding sweeter all the time".

Gary's mom age 92, also was diagnosed in late June with accelerated dementia. Apparently this comes on quickly and in the advanced stage. This has come as a shock to our family as she has enjoyed good health and a sharp mind all her life and now most days she lives in her own world and most of the time does not even recognize her kids.

LOOKING AHEAD

We return to Germany on August 24th. We understand that the Germans are now requiring mandatory COVID 19 testing at the Frankfurt Airport for everyone entering the country. Hopefully that will allow us to not have to self quarantine for 14 days. That would allow us to return immediately to live services with our people. We are thankful for our dear friends, missionaries Tom and Sandy Hastings who have filled in for services these 3 Sundays we have been stateside.

We do covet your prayers as we return and continue to endeavor to reach military families with the gospel.

Yours for military souls,



Gary and Karen Craft