



The Killeen/Fort Hood Project

Presbyterian Church in America

RECRUITING AND PREPARING

PEOPLE for

WORLDWIDE KINGDOM SERVICE

THE CHALLENGE

Located midway between Dallas and San Antonio, the greater Killeen area has a population of over 100,000 and is adjacent to Fort Hood, called “the largest military installation in the Free World” in Cold War days. Fort Hood is the only post in the USA that is home to two Army divisions and will soon accept 12,000 more soldiers as our country reduces the number stationed overseas. The current war has touched nearly every aspect of life in this multiethnic, multicultural community. Deployments to and from Iraq and Afghanistan have accentuated the challenges and burdens military families face even in peacetime; associated civilian municipalities feel the impact as well.

Civilian and military people alike are looking for a solid anchor to halt their sense of being swept away in a tide of over-committed lives, strained or broken relationships, and the empty philosophy of secularism—that tells them to depend on human strength and hard work while also joining in the fads of an entertainment-crazy culture. Wartime deployments that separate struggling parents who want the best for their children add to the feeling of hopelessness.

The only remedy is the anchor of the Lord—the gospel of Jesus Christ can bring peace in chaos, repair relationships and replace a philosophy of vanity with the unshakable truth of Scripture. And faith placed in the God who works in and through families produces disciples of Christ who reach out to others in the community.



Children of military personnel reciting the Pledge of Allegiance during a September 11th memorial ceremony. Photo courtesy of U.S. Department of Defense website:
www.defenselink.mil/warning/warn-dl.html.

THE MISSION

Our mission is to plant a church that is a part of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA), a denomination with roots in classic biblical Christianity, beginning with Bible studies in the Killeen area followed by public worship and outreach developed in phases to the military and Hispanic communities. This church joins a Korean church as the only representatives of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA) in the area. Other PCA churches are 50 miles away—north (Waco) and south (Austin).



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THE CALL

God has uniquely prepared and equipped church planters Lou and Shirley Best for the Killeen/Fort Hood Project. Retiring from the Army in 2001 after more than 31 years of service, including six years in the Army Reserve, Lou enrolled in the Master of Divinity program at Covenant Theological Seminary in St. Louis. They felt God's call to plant a church near a military installation and successfully completed church planter assessment and training of the Presbyterian Church in America. Lou graduated in May, 2004 and completed all ordination requirements in November of the same year. Shirley brings a lifetime of experience leading women's Bible studies and mentoring younger women.

The Bests know firsthand what military life is like. They have moved around the world, have experienced separation due to deployments, including the Gulf War in 1990-91 as part of the 1st Cavalry Division, and have felt the trauma of leaving family, friends and a church home at every move.

Lou and Shirley want to attract civilian and retired military members who share their vision for preparing people as Christian ambassadors of the gospel to all parts of their community and the world. Service in several Spanish-speaking countries and their ability to speak Spanish have made outreach to the fastest-growing population in the United States a priority.

Their children reflect this Kingdom perspective as Philip serves as a Marine, and Deborah attends Taylor University to prepare for possible missionary service after graduation.



THE GOALS

The goals for the Killeen/Fort Hood church plant include:

- Serving as a conduit for the transforming power of the gospel of Jesus Christ
- Organizing a congregation with a zeal for mission outreach to the military
- Extending the hand of fellowship and ministry to the diverse communities in and around Fort Hood
- Developing and empowering Christians for Kingdom service worldwide
- Becoming a missional church that sends missionaries and serves as a catalyst for future church plants in the Killeen area.



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PRAYER SUPPORT

The Bests welcome prayer support as the essential ingredient for the Killeen/Fort Hood church plant project to succeed. If you would pray regularly for this effort, would you please let them know by writing to the address below or by e-mail (preferred method)?

DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Since the Killeen/Fort Hood church plant project is starting without a core group, all financial support must initially come from outside sources. Financial supporters have already contributed 98.5% toward the support goal of \$300,000 and the Bests are "on the ground" in Texas. They welcome any gifts to bring them the remaining \$4,500 to reach the 100% level. Please note that your pledge and giving can extend over three years as you prayerfully consider joining as a partner in this challenging work. 100% of gifts and pledges go to the designated project and are tax deductible.

Gifts and pledges should be designated for the Killeen/Fort Hood Project and sent to:
Mission to North America
1700 North Brown Rd., Suite 101
Lawrenceville, GA 30043-8122



Army color guard. Photo courtesy of U. S. Department of Defense website: www.defenselink.mil.

The North Texas Presbytery and the Southwest Church Planting Network, both based in Dallas, are providing oversight, planning, coaching and financial support for the Killeen/Fort Hood project. The PCA's Mission to North America provides financial management and accountability.



The Bests are at the following address:
Lou and Shirley Best
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