

First Baptist Church

85 Main Street (at the corner of Elm and Main Streets), Hingham, MA 02043



Hello US Soldiers Supporter,

Following this letter is the **tenth** update in an ongoing series to keep you informed on news, needs, photos, and communications from our Point Leaders who work with the First Baptist Church's **Care Package** initiative.

This update is being sent via the US Postal Service since we do not have an email address for you. If you DO have an email address, could you supply it to us? Updates travel to you quicker and the color photos are FAR better.

We hope you will find this communication to be engaging, practical, stirring, and a tool to keep you informed.

Faithfully,

Joy Thomson
Coordinator
Care Package Program

LATEST NEWS for our **Soldiers Care.....**

Hello Supporters,

Here is the **tenth** update for the First Baptist Church's **Care Package** initiative for our US Soldiers serving overseas.

Faithfully,

Joy Thomson, Coordinator

Current Point Leaders

- ★ **Capt Gregory Hayes** in Afghanistan
- ★ **Spc Luis Barrera** in Korea
- ★ **1SG James Primo** in Afghanistan
- ★ **William Berberan** in Iraq 
- ★ **EOCA Daniel Clerkin** in Afghanistan 

Cumulative Stats

24 Point Leaders since 2005, some serving multiple times
\$19,155 raised from our Community since 2007
13,000 lbs of donations have been shipped since 2005

Safely Returned Point Leaders

- ★ **PFC Miguel Ordonez** in Iraq
- ★ **SSG Jason Henley** in Afghanistan

Current News:

Office memo: We are working on a Facebook page providing improved communications. We will keep you informed. We have also automated the processing of the Care Packages here in the office, producing labels and customs forms online and requesting USPO carrier pick-up right at our door. That is phenomenal for us but I know many of you will miss seeing Rev. Ludwig trundling down the street to the Hingham Square Post Office with his packages and a big smile.

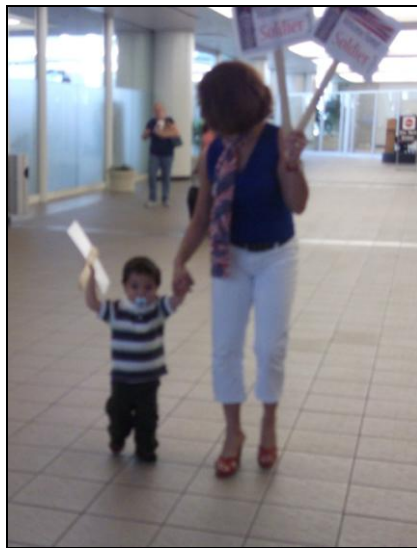
★ **William Berberan**, one of our new Point Leaders, wrote in his 4/24/11 email: *"Thank you so much for what you are doing. It will be greatly appreciated by the Marines in my unit. In response to your questions, our PX is not very good. It is a small tent and is usually sold out of anything we need.... Everything you send will be put to good use."*

★ **1PFC Miguel Ordonez's mother, Marisol**, wrote this email upon Miguel's safe return: *"I really want to extend our appreciation for what you did for Unit 319TC (Army). I do not know how these kids make it and I do not know what their needs are, but what I do know is that your generosity has been so appreciated that my heart goes out to you and your church. This has been very difficult for me to know that my son was out of the country not knowing where he was and what he was doing; for this too shall pass says the Lord and it did."*

I am so glad that churches like yours are still doing the work of the Lord when no one else can....Again thank you soooo much! Attached are some pictures of his arrival at the Orlando International Airport. We had a great time waiting and waiting and so happy when he got home. Many blessings to the church and community for your support and prayers. We love you all."



Miguel & Marisol



Bj and Marisol holding polls



Welcome home sign

★ **1PFC Miguel Ordonez's** last email on 1/10/11: "Hello, it's PFC Ordonez. It has been a while since I emailed but I wanted to say thank you...thank you to all those who helped out in helping soldiers overseas. The Care Packages are very helpful and they come in handy. My battle buddies here always ask how do I get so many Care Packages and I respond by telling them a church sends me around 3 to 4 boxes a month. Then I open the boxes and look inside and people ask is all that for you and I say no...you can take what you want. Before I even have a chance to take it to the normal spot where I leave the boxes, about 75% of the box is gone. Then I put the rest of the items at the usual spot and by the end of the week the rest of it is gone. The Hingham community has helped me and my battle buddies out so much and we all appreciate it."

★ **Spc Luis Barrera** Here is a photo of Luis at his 2010 Battalion Holiday party. We think it's important to visually connect with our soldiers.



We would like to cite an article that was in the *Hingham Journal*, authored by Keith Jermyn re contributing to veterans charities: "To the Editor:There are a number of private organizations raising money,

which divert a substantial portion of your contribution to defray fund raising overhead expense. Thus, in many cases, much less than half of your contribution finds its way to the cause which you intend to support."

We want to assure everyone that FBC's Care Package Outreach is staffed by volunteers only, and 100% of your money goes to benefit our Soldiers.

Creativity touches soldiers

Sheila Heaney and her husband, Bob, of Hingham have put creativity and soldier admiration to work to produce these beautiful packets of treats for our troops. Each cellophane bag contains the message, "You are in my thoughts and prayers," and surrounded with small snacks or candies. A bow and American Flag (toothpick) finishes it off.

**Big
Thank
You!**

to Sheila and Bob



Does this spark any ideas for you?

We are totally out of donations

Current Donation Requests:

Nuts, Little Debbie snacks, gum, hand sanitizer, protein bars, air fresheners, cans of fruit (small), nuts. All donations will be sent immediately.

For suggestions go to: http://www.firstbaptistchurchingham.org/html/items_list.html.



NOTES:

The First Baptist Church will pack and ship items for you. Donations may be brought to the FBC Office in the building to the right of the church. There will be a donation box on the porch. FBC is in Hingham Square on the corner of Elm and Main Street, 2 doors up from Loring Theater.

Our "Point Leaders" are soldiers who receive our Care Packages and always have a connection with Hingham. They distribute donated items to their unit, focusing on the greatest need.

For those who prefer to send a financial contribution toward postage instead of shopping for items, it will be gratefully accepted. Please make a check out to First Baptist Church Benevolence Account and note "Care Packages Postage" on the memo line. Mail to 85 Main Street, Hingham, MA 02043.



EACH ONE OF YOU IS APPRECIATED!