

CALVARY CHAPEL CHRISTIAN SCHOOL



As Americans, showing support for the military is an honor and a necessity, Calvary Chapel Christian School of Downey has risen to the challenge of making our military feel loved and is an excellent example for the community.

“Operation Cookie” has been going strong since its creation in 2005. The middle school students, led by girl’s physical Education teacher Susan Zamora and her husband Gregg Zamora, bring decorated bags of homemade baked goods to marine base Camp Pendleton and hand them out at a Sunday night church service once a month.

As the marines walk into Bolton Hall, they are met with trays of cookies as well as the bags made by the students. Once the cookies are distributed, the students walk around and talk with the marines.

An on-base chaplain and a group called the Navigators lead the church service. The purpose being to reach out to the young marines in the School of Infantry through prayer, worship, encouragement, and the gospel of Jesus Christ. On occasion, the students of Calvary are able to lead in worship. Gregg Zamora, a high school teacher at Calvary, often speaks at the service.

In addition to Operation Cookie, Calvary has an ongoing letter – writing campaign to those military personnel who have been deployed. They send weekly packages to two of the school’s own alumni who are currently in Afghanistan. The school has even dedicated a wall in one of its hallways to the military. Susan Zamora said the growth in the ministry is exciting.

“In 2004 we went to a one day outreach at Pendleton on the beach, after serving 800 marines we were hooked. We started Operation Cookie the year after. We have really made a name for ourselves. People know there is a need in the military and they come here to help.” Zamora said the students love to get involved, “We always have a waiting list for the Camp Pendleton trip. The kids always want to go back.