

New Assignment = New Mission Field

Ministering to the military community is challenging, to say the least. Military personnel juggles difficult schedules that can change at a moment's notice, and they and their families have to uproot and move every two years, on average. Many in the military have been hurt or neglected by churches. Some churches have simply tolerated them, so military families have become skeptical of churches that seek them.

But **Pillar Church of Woodlawn** in Alexandria, VA recognizes all of these challenges and believes that ministering well to our nation's service members and their families is a God-given and God-sized task. Pillar Woodlawn wants to utilize the well-worn paths of the military to spread the Gospel wherever the next move takes them—back to their home of record, to their next duty assignment, or even into deployment.

Our nation's military personnel consider it an honor and a privilege to serve and even die for their country. Unfortunately, many have never been shown how to live for something. Through biblical community, transformational teaching, and missional living, Pillar's military members consider, not just the Gospel's impact on them,

A GOD-GIVEN & GOD-SIZED TASK

but the sphere of influence God has entrusted to them.

Each year, Pillar Woodlawn experiences a great turnover in its church membership (30–40%). But they know that God doesn't want Pillar to measure success by its seating capacity. God's measure is their sending capacity. Pillar wants to see service members and their families saved, sanctified, and sent to be used by God to build His Kingdom.

To that end, the church recently held a “sending out” service, where four families were sent out to their next military assignments. These new assignments stretch from Texas to Guam. These four families go, not just to serve our country, but to take the Gospel to the military community. They understand what it means to live for something—for someone. ■

