



## Stories of Faith in Action

YOUR OFFERING AT WORK

### COMFORT IN PRAYER

**A**fter a long, exhausting day training with a group of U.S. Marine Corps Reserve members, Cris Frigm, pastor of Trinity Lutheran in Taneytown, Md., and a U.S. Navy Reserve chaplain, handed out prayer books and led night prayer in the field. Following worship, members turned in for the night, leaving not one prayer book behind.

**“Every time I train with the group, I try to lead a service out of the prayer book,” said Frigm. “Sometimes they take the books with them, and sometimes they don’t. This particular night, it seemed they really needed the time for worship. Not one book came back to me.”**

Now in his sixth year as a Navy Reserve chaplain, Frigm has developed a long relationship with a group of residents at Oakwood Lutheran Ministries in Wisconsin who, inspired by the Green Bay Packers, call themselves the Oakwood Packers. During the third Friday of each month, they pack boxes of prayer books and ship them to pastors like Frigm.

“My first deployment was to Camp Lemonnier in Djibouti, Africa. That was the first time I received the books,” he said. “They have been a great resource especially with the Marine Reservists because they don’t get a lot of support outside their drill weekend. It’s helpful for them to take that book with them and have that extra support.”

Ron Mach, a retired pastor and Oakwood resident of 14 years, said he has spent the past nine of those years volunteering with the packing group. “This opportunity for serving our sons and daughters in the military with food for the spirit as well as food for the body was the right mission for our Oakwood Packers,” said Mach. “We have a joyful sense of partnership with the ministry of Chaplain Frigm who provides pastoral care in the name of Christ and the ELCA.”

To date, the group has packed approximately 1,000 boxes to send to various ministries throughout the world, and they hope to continue their ministry long into the future.

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 God's work. Our hands.