



## VBS Missions Spotlight: The Praetorian Project

The Praetorian Project has produced 5 short videos to help introduce kids and VBS leaders to this military community church planting ministry.

### Videos:

Find them online at: [www.praetorianproject.org/VBS](http://www.praetorianproject.org/VBS)

Over the course of 5 videos, kids will learn what the Praetorian Project is, what a church planter is, what's unique about military families, and what inspires people to give their lives to mission work for the sake of the Gospel.

### From our Executive Director:

Next in this document you'll find a letter from our Executive Director, Brian O'Day, where he highlights the importance of your partnership in the work of The Praetorian Project.

### Supplemental Questions:

Included below are informational pages to go along with each day's video. Each day includes:

- A written description of that day's video.
- Two discussion questions with example answers.
- Three ways to pray each day based on the video topic.
- A key Bible verse to learn related to the video topic.

Use these supplemental pages however best suits your church's needs!

### Thank you so much for supporting the Praetorian Project!

Jen Huntley  
Communications Director



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## Dear friends of the Praetorian Project,

My name is Brian O'Day. I am a veteran US Marine, one of the pastors of Pillar Church of Jacksonville (NC), and I have the privilege of serving as the Executive Director of the Praetorian Project.

Through this VBS video journey, you will meet just a few of our people and get to know a little bit about the work that we do. Your VBS children will learn that military families live a unique and transient lifestyle, face frequent relocations, deployments, and all the challenges that come with serving in the military. These realities create some obstacles but also great opportunities for Gospel impact. At the Praetorian Project, we believe God has uniquely positioned us to minister to this community through church planting that follows the patterns of military family movement. As Joshua and Brittany Brown will teach in their video: Movement is the Method!

Because of the faithful generosity of supporters like you, we've been able to:

- Plant and sustain churches across the United States and overseas that provide biblical teaching, authentic community, and ongoing discipleship in military communities.
- Train and send church planters, pastors, and lay leaders who are uniquely equipped to serve and shepherd military families.
- Offer support to military families as they move from one duty station to another, helping them stay connected to a healthy local church.
- Provide resources, counseling, and biblical guidance to service members and their families navigating the pressures of military life.
- Create connection and brotherhood for Praetorian Project pastors to support and encourage one another in ministry.

We cannot do this alone. Your involvement—whether through prayer, connection, or financial support—makes this mission possible. Here are a few ways you can support the Praetorian Project:

1. **Pray** – Pray for our pastors, church planters, and military families. Ask God to strengthen our churches, provide open doors for ministry, and raise up new leaders.
2. **Connect** – Stay in the loop with what God is doing by subscribing to our monthly email newsletter and following us on social media. Your encouragement and advocacy help spread the word!
  - *Newsletter Sign-up:* [eepurl.com/gz-XO9](http://eepurl.com/gz-XO9)
  - *Social Media:* The Praetorian Project on Facebook and YouTube
3. **Give** – Your financial support fuels leadership development, pastoral encouragement, strategic expansion, and more. Whether it's a one-time gift or ongoing monthly support, every dollar helps advance the mission.
  - *Give here:* [www.praetorianproject.org/give](http://www.praetorianproject.org/give)

We believe God is using the Praetorian Project to bring the good news of the Gospel to military service members around the globe. I invite you to join us in this work, and I thank you for your partnership in the Gospel. I would love to connect with someone from your church to hear how this process went at your VBS and get to know you better!

## For Christ and His Church,

Brian O'Day  
Executive Director



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## **Day 1: What is the Praetorian Project?**

### **Day 1 Video: Joshua and Brittany Brown**

In this video, we meet Joshua and Brittany Brown. Joshua is a church planter and pastor of Pillar Church of Topsail on the coast of North Carolina. Brittany asks Joshua various questions which help kids understand what the Praetorian Project is and how church planting in military communities is a great way to reach people with the gospel!

#### *What is the Praetorian Project and what makes it unique?*

They are a family of multiplying churches in military communities worldwide. The churches are autonomous but work together to multiply (plant new churches) in communities with high concentrations of active duty service members. They gather both military and civilians together into a church family. On any given day, members of Praetorian Project Churches are in dozens of nations throughout the world.

The Praetorian Project is committed to long term discipleship of highly transient people and advancing the gospel by multiplying churches.

#### *What is unique about military families?*

Military families are being moved around to new cities and countries all the time based on where the military wants to have the service member stationed. The churches that make up the Praetorian Project see that this movement can be used to strategically share the gospel and bring it to new places as families move from place to place. They can make a gospel impact wherever they go!

This also means Praetorian Project churches are in military communities, which helps military families find healthy church homes as they move from place to place.

### **How can you pray for churches in the Praetorian Project?**

1. Pray for the Praetorian Project churches to help young families who are learning to live life as a military family.
2. Pray for the pastors and leaders of the Praetorian Project churches as they try to grow a church while also having to say "goodbye" to families every couple of years due to duty station changes.
3. Pray for the military families that might be having a hard time with their service members being deployed and far from home.

## **Key Verse**

### **Philippians 1:12-13**

"Now I want you to know, brethren, that my circumstances have turned out for the greater progress of the gospel, so that my imprisonment in the cause of Christ has become well known throughout the whole Praetorian guard and to everyone else..." (NASB)

(The name "Praetorian Project" is inspired by Philippians 1:12-13)





## Day 2: Meet the Church Planters

### Day 2 Video: John Turner and Jerimiah Walker in Texas

In this video, we meet John Turner and Jerimiah Walker, two pastors who are starting a new church in Killeen, Texas as part of the Praetorian Project. John and Jerimiah share about God's call to all Christians to go and make disciples across the whole world, and how their plans to plant a church in a military community can also help the gospel reach the nations. They also express how it can be scary to do something new like this, but they trust that because Jesus said "I am with you always" they don't have to be afraid!

#### What is church planting?

Church planting means starting a brand-new church so more people can learn about Jesus and follow Him. A church plant is like a seed that's growing—a small beginning that grows into a strong church that can even help start more churches someday!

Sometimes there are places where not many people go to church or know about God. So, people who love Jesus go to those places to tell others about Him. They usually start small by meeting in a home or renting a space like a school gym, gathering each week to worship, learn, and grow together.

#### What can you do when you feel afraid to live for Jesus?

Jesus said that when we follow his command to "go therefore and make disciples of all nations" that he promises to be with us always. Pray for God's help to have courage, and remember that when Jesus calls you to be a part of the Great Commission, you are not alone! God wants more and more people all around the world to know about salvation in Jesus Christ and He can give us strength and power to live for Him.

### How can you pray for church planters?

1. Pray for church planting pastors to have wisdom, courage, and energy from God as they face many challenges—and that their faith is strengthened.
2. Pray that many people would hear about Jesus and the Gospel through the new church plants and that they would believe and be saved.
3. Pray for God to provide everything the church needs like money, volunteers, and a place to meet. And that God would send people to encourage the church planters.

## Key Verse

### Matthew 28:19-20

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." – Jesus

(Church planting is part of fulfilling Jesus' Great Commission in Matthew 28:19-20)







## Day 3: All About Military Families

### Day 3 Video: Brittany Brown and Her Daughter, Tatum

In this video, Brittany Brown is back, this time with her daughter, Tatum. When Tatum was growing up, her dad Joshua was in the Marines. Because of this, her family moved often and faced difficulties like deployments. Tatum shares how much it helped her to be a part of a Praetorian Project church (Pillar Church of Jacksonville) while growing up as a military kid.

#### What is it like to grow up in a military family?

As a child in a military family, you get to grow up while living in a lot of different places. You get to see different kinds of people, cultures, and nature as you live in these different places for a couple years each with your family. This can be fun, but it also can be difficult. Moving to a new place means saying goodbye to friends and a community you bonded with, and having to make new friends while getting used to your new community.

#### How can the Praetorian Project help kids in military families?

When military families are in a Praetorian Project church, there always are other military families in the church living their lives for Jesus alongside them. They are surrounded by other people who “get it”—who know what it is like to have a military family member deployed, or to have to pick up and move every 3 years. The kids can build relationships with other military kids who might share some of the same struggles they do and they can help each other.

### How can you pray for military families?

1. Pray for military families to find a solid Christ-centered community around them when they move to a new place.
2. That God would bring comfort and peace to military families who may be separated for a time due to deployment.
3. That people in military families that don't know Jesus would hear about the gospel and be saved through the witness of Christians in the military.

## Key Verse

### Hebrews 10:24-25

And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

(The Church meets together to encourage one another's faith like in Hebrews 10:24-25)



## Day 4: Missionaries Share The Gospel Around The World

### Day 4 Video: Johnathan Orr In Thailand

In this video, Johnathan Orr recalls his time as a Marine stationed in Washington, DC. While living there, he joined a Praetorian Project church, Pillar Church of Washington DC. His faith grew strong while participating as a member of that church, and when his time in the Marine Corps came to an end, Johnathan answered the call to go and be a missionary in Thailand. Now he lives in Thailand and preaches the gospel to people who have never heard the name of Christ before.

#### How does being part of a healthy church help people become missionaries?

In a healthy church you learn more about God and the Bible while people encourage you and help you grow. And as you follow Jesus with other church members, you get to practice serving, sharing, and loving others—just like a missionary would do.

When a missionary starts out as a member of a strong and healthy church, it's like they have a great coach who is conditioning them at practice before a big game. The church helps them get ready so they can go out and tell others about Jesus with truth and love! And the church will continue to cheer the missionary on and support them.

#### Why do people go to far away countries as missionaries?

Jesus told His followers to “go and make disciples of all nations,” so missionaries go to share His love, help people, and teach them how to follow Him. There are many people in many places who have never heard of Jesus because no one has ever shared the gospel with them. Even though it can be hard to leave their homes and families, they go because they love God and want others to know how much He loves them too.

People in the military can be missionaries too! They might move to a new country because of their job with the military, but God can use them to be a light for Jesus wherever they go.

### How can you pray for missionaries?

1. Pray for them to have boldness by the power of the Holy Spirit to clearly share the gospel and for God to open doors to gospel conversations.
2. Missionaries often live in challenging places. Pray for their health, emotional strength, and protection.
3. Pray for many people to believe in Jesus, grow in faith, and go on to share the gospel with others.

### Key Verse

#### Acts 1:8

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

(Through the Spirit, missionaries share about Jesus to the nations according to Acts 1:8)



## Day 5: A Different Kind of Missionary

### Day 5 Video: Brian O'Day Wrap-Up

In this video, Brian O'Day, the Executive Director of the Praetorian Project, recaps with the viewers about the different stories they heard throughout the past week of how the Praetorian Project is reaching military families with the gospel and inspiring service members to become pastors and missionaries. Then he asks an important question: What about you? He lists different ways people can serve others, such as joining the military and sharing the gospel there, supporting a friend or family member who joins the military, or supporting and praying for the Praetorian Project.

#### What are the similarities between Christian service members and missionaries?

Someone who has joined the military often has to make many sacrifices, such as leaving their family for a deployment, or moving their whole family to new cities every few years. They can meet many people from many cultural backgrounds all throughout their time of service. Similarly, a missionary often sacrifices living a comfortable life in order to move to a place where people may not have heard about Jesus so that they can share the gospel with them. A Christian in the military has an opportunity to share the gospel as they are moved from place to place as part of their military service—they can make it their goal to share Jesus with many people.

#### How can you support Christians in the military?

You can pray for them, send them letters or cards, and let them know that you support them. If you see a parade with military service members or a military commercial on TV, you can remember to pray for the Praetorian Project and pray for more healthy church plants to grow in military communities. Pray for them to share about the good news of Jesus with the people around them.

### How can you pray for the Praetorian Project?

1. Pray for the Praetorian Project to reach more military communities by planting more healthy churches.
2. Pray for God to call more pastors to lead new churches and connect with the Praetorian Project.
3. Pray for God to provide all the financial resources needed for the Praetorian Project and its family of churches.

## Key Verse

### Psalm 96:3

Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples!

(Everyone can be a missionary and declare the gospel to those around them.)

