

May 6, 2011

ABIDING IN CHRIST



Skip holds his cap bottom row center, with Buzzy at his side

Veteran Navigators Skip and Buzzy Gray rocked our world at the annual Southwest Discipleship Conference at Huachuca Oaks Retreat Center, April 15-17. More than 70 attended from Air Force bases like D-M and Luke in Arizona, Kirtland in New Mexico, and Fort Bliss in west Texas.

Skip asked, “What does it mean to abide in Christ?” We weren't challenged so much by a definition, but by a picture of a life being shaped through its union with Christ. Though Skip

came to us in his 80s, his message was as vibrant and alive as the new growth of spring. See if this description doesn't fit *you* to a “t”: Those in Christ continue to grow. They remain *teachable*. Those walking with Christ are also *transparent*, vulnerable, honest. They are not hiding, covering or posturing. And finally, those abiding in Jesus display the strength of *tenderness*. These qualities keep a man devoted to God's agenda and the legitimate needs of others. As Skip put it, “*Machismo*” is just another word for “*insecure*.”

We thank God for the immense privilege of being involved in the lives of these dear servicemen and women fighting our nations battles and standing in its defense.

For more upcoming events visit: www.navigators.org/us/staff/breen

SERIOUS ABOUT CHANGE

Preparing for each holiday is a busy time as we work to make our home a warm and relaxing place for the kind of family Jesus spoke of when told his mother and brothers were “*waiting outside*.” Jesus' earthly family was no doubt important to him, but He used such opportunities to help people understand that human will and God's will are on two completely different planes.

Easter Fellowship brought 30 (mostly active duty airmen and their depend-



Hebrews 10:24-25 in action

ents) into our home. A number of our couples came together under one roof for the first time. One young man was prompted to commit to joining us for weekly Bible study—completely out of the blue. And just a few weeks earlier, movie passes had brought out two airmen who became a part of this same group the very next evening.

In the book of Hebrews, the Spirit of God gives a standing order our airmen do their best to carry out: “*Let us ...not give up meeting together ...but let us encourage one another — and all the more as you see the Day approaching*.” Such are the movers and shakers in the Kingdom of God.



Conversations abound after the Easter meal.