

# The Kirschenbaum's

## CRU Military Ministry

**Oct 2026**

**Ministry News**



Ladies from Bible Study Group on a "field trip"



I have been meeting with several groups of ladies for Bible study, a mix of Air Force and Navy women. One Friday a couple of us did a little "field trip" to my friend's house, where she taught us how to do canning/preserving. She has a giant garden and had tons of okra and yellow squash, so she spent a few hours describing the process of canning fresh vegetables from a garden. We had a great time together learning a new skill, exploring her beautiful property, and got to meet her big fat donkey. It was great to take a break from our regular routine. We laughed a lot that day and learned some new things about each other that day!

A few people have asked me what it's been like to serve and volunteer as the Ombudsman for the Navy's SCW-1 unit at Tinker AFB. It has been such a rewarding experience, opening doors to meet and connect with so many military families, build relationships with military leaders on base, and grow in ways I never expected. It has stretched me in my faith, challenged me as a person, and given me opportunities to learn, serve, and make a difference in the lives of others. A service member at Tinker showed me this poem, so I thought I'd share it with you… (on next page)

**I Am An Ombudsman**

By Gayle Brinkley

I am not a crutch, But I can support you
I am not a counselor, But I know one
I am not a taxi driver, But I can steer you in the right direction
I am not a rescuer, But I can help save lives
I am not a babysitter, But I can refer you to a caregiver
I am not gossiper, But I am a great listener
I am not an enabler, But I can provide tools to empower you
I am not a master of anything, But I know many experts who understand your need
I am not a Recreation or Health Specialist, But I am concerned about your Morale, Welfare & Health
I am not a busybody as I've been called, But I am an Official Command Representative
I am a Navy Family Ombudsman, And I am of service to You
The Navy Family...

## An encouraging encounter for my husband (Chaplain at Tinker AFB)

Being in ministry, some days you can wonder, "Am I really making a difference?" One day, when Brian was getting gas on Tinker Air Force Base, a civilian contract worker approached him and said "Hey Chaps!" (his nickname for Chaplain). He was a former sailor that was in the Air Wing when we were stationed in Japan in 2012. Brian didn't recognize him, he had a full beard and mustache and looked completely different. He said to Brian, "One day when I was talking to you, you gave me my first Bible. I kept that Bible and started reading it, and now my life has completely changed as a result. I'm walking with God, have my own family…thank you for giving me that Bible". I love how God weaved their paths to cross again, and that Brian saw the spiritual fruit from an interaction with a sailor from 14 years ago.

**Prayer Requests:**

-Military marriages- always a prayer request! (so much spiritual battle)
-Many from Tinker are getting deployed, pray for these families
For the gals I meet with: pray that these ladies would grow in their relationship with God, be firm in their identity in Christ, and remain strong in their faith amidst their struggles

Thank you for your prayers and partnership in ministering to military members and their families!

In Christ,

Gigi


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