Leadership

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Where Does My Duty Lie?

When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus (Acts 4:13).

Newly commissioned officers, I congratulate each of you on your double commissioning: as servant leaders in the world’s greatest military and as Christ’s ambassadors throughout your spheres of influence. I don’t need to speak to your first commission; you have been tested and proven. Let me speak briefly to your second, specifically as it applies to OCF.

Lt.Gen. Sir Frederick Morgan, planner of the Normandy invasion, once said that when starting any new enterprise, it is necessary to ask oneself three questions:

1. **To whom am I responsible?** Our ultimate authority as members of the church universal is Jesus Christ. However, even a volunteer ministry like OCF expects accountability: a) to our Statement of Faith, and b) to each other, in order to operate in an effective God-honoring way. “Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account” (Hebrews 13:17). No matter where you serve in the organization—group member, leader of a local fellowship, or installation coordinator—you are accountable to someone. Identify that person, get inside his or her mind, and serve wholeheartedly.

2. **For precisely what am I responsible?** When you joined OCF, you subscribed to the following Statement of Participation, “I understand the purpose of the OCF. As an expression of my commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ and to His work in the military society, I intend, by God’s grace, to participate actively and prayerfully in the ministry of OCF with my time, talents, spiritual gifts and financial resources.” In short, you agreed to help us in “Building Christian Leaders…Families…Fellowships.”

   ✓ **Individual members** set conditions, create opportunities, and live out God’s truths in the execution of their duties and relationships in the community—chapel programs, workplace fellowships, and other opportunities—in a manner that both exhibits the love of Christ and lifts the military to heightened excellence.

   ✓ **Local fellowships** equip, exhort, and encourage members to take initiative and seek opportunities to affect the larger military community for Christ.

   ✓ **The corporate OCF**—the Council, home office, field staff, and an army of volunteer local leaders—provides resourcing and networking. They also set the example of outreach within their own spheres of influence.

3. **What are the means at my disposal for discharging this responsibility?** Said another way, what benefits and help can I expect from OCF? Your very first benefit of membership is our world-wide link-up service. As long as you keep the OCF home office informed of your contact information and when/where you are moving, we will have leaders at your new installation seeking you out—even when deployed! In addition:

   ✓ **Our two conference centers** have traditionally been our premier equipping and sending venues. Visit early and take advantage of our great staff, extraordinary speakers, space for rest and reflection, and recreational opportunities in the great outdoors.

   ✓ **COMMAND magazine** and our **CONNECTED newsletter** will keep you aware of OCF activities world-wide and provide you with inspirational articles and lessons learned.

   ✓ **The OCF web page** ([www.ocfusa.org](http://www.ocfusa.org)) is your link to news, articles, downloadable Bible studies, answers to FAQs, leader development materials, an online bookstore, and more—including a link to our Facebook page.

   ✓ **A Leader Kit** will be sent to all new small group leaders to help you get started.

   ✓ **Individualized advice and training** is available from our OCF field staff and home office directors. I envy you who will remember this time as one of the finest in your career: because you are young, because you are entering your first leadership opportunity, and because you will know your service men and women better than their own mothers do—and you will love them just as much.

Best of luck and Godspeed. We who have gone before welcome you to the profession of arms.

R. Michael Tesdahl
Colonel, USA, Retired
Executive Director (Interim)
I challenge you to accept this spiritual commission:

“My response is to get down on my knees before the Father, this magnificent Father who parcels out all heaven and earth. I ask him to strengthen you by his Spirit—not a brute strength but a glorious inner strength—that Christ will live in you as you open the door and invite him in. And I ask him that with both feet planted firmly on love, you’ll be able to take in with all followers of Jesus the extravagant dimensions of Christ’s love. Reach out and experience the breadth! Test its length! Plumb the depths! Rise to the heights! Live full lives, full in the fullness of God…. In light of all this, here’s what I want you to do…. I want you to get out there and walk—better yet, run!—on the road God called you to travel. I don’t want any of you sitting around on your hands. I don’t want anyone strolling off, down some path that goes nowhere. And mark that you do this with humility and discipline—not in fits and starts, but steadily, pouring yourselves out for each other in acts of love, alert at noticing differences and quick at mending fences. You were all called to travel on the same road and in the same direction, so stay together, both outwardly and inwardly. You have one Master, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who rules over all, works through all, and is present in all. Everything you are and think and do is permeated with Oneness.”

—Ephesians 3:14-4:6 The Message

OCF Newly Commissioned Officers 2010

Belhaven University
* 2LT Nathan E. Ribelin, USA, MI BOLC, Fort Huachuca, AZ; Assistant S-2, 185th Theater Aviation BDE, Mississippi Army National Guard, Jackson, MS, Apr-10

Bob Jones University
* ENS Aaron D. Howell, USN, API, NAS Pensacola, FL, Nov-09; Primary Flight Training, NAS Whiting Field, FL

California Baptist University
2LT Jonathan Hutton, USA, OOB, Fort Lee, VA, Sep-10; Ordnance PL, Fort Benning, GA, Feb-11

Cedarville University
2ndLt Matthew Weeks, USAF, ASBC, Squadron Officer College, Maxwell AFB, AL

Daniel Webster College
2ndLt Chelsea A. Graf, USAF, Air Battle Manager, Tyndall AFB, FL, Jun-10

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
* 2ndLt Hunter D. Barnhill, USAF
* 2ndLt Paul C. Smythe, USAF
2ndLt Lauren E. Tyson, USAF, Intelligence School, Goodfellow AFB, TX, Oct-10

Jacksonville Baptist Theological Seminary/Liberty University
CH(1LT) Richard R. Hurst, USA, CH-BOLC, Fort Jackson, SC; Squadron Battalion Chaplain 6-6 Cav, 10th Mountain Div, Fort Drum, NY, Apr-10

Lewis University
2ndLt Matthew R. McGrath, USAF, Gold Bar Recruiter, Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago, IL, Jun-10; Combat Systems Operator Training, NAS Pensacola, FL

Louisiana State University
2LT James R. Duffy Jr., USA, AVOBC, CO D, 1st BN, 145 REG, Fort Rucker, AL, Feb-11

New Mexico Military Institute
2LT Keith W. Bunger, ARNG
Norwich University
2LT James W. Ramsay, USA

Ohio State University
2LT Jared R. Kuntz, USA
2LT Christopher J. Lautner, USA

Samford University
2ndLt Jason Gossett, USAF, UPT, Laughlin AFB, TX, Aug-10

The Master’s Seminary
2dLt Scott M. Kennedy, USMC

Thomas Edison State College
* 2LT Laura Childs, ARNG, CM BOLC, Fort Leonard Wood 84th CH BN, Fort Leonard Wood MO, Apr-10; HHT 3-124 CAV (R&S), Wylie, TX

United States Air Force Academy
2ndLt Rebecca Burditt, USAF, Wright-Patterson AFB, OH, Aug-10
2ndLt Stephanie A. Davison, USAF, Vance AFB, OK, Aug-10
2ndLt Daniel G. Hurtt, USAF, SUHS, MD, Aug-10
2ndLt Austin Krohn, USAF, University of Maryland, Aug-10
2ndLt Victoria L. Lalich, USAF, Barksdale AFB, LA, Aug-10
2ndLt Anthony E. Lorenzini, USAF, Vance AFB, OK, Aug-10
2ndLt Hannah A. Marcelo, USAF, Keesler AFB, MS, Aug-10
2ndLt Issac J. Metroka, USAF, Keesler AFB, MS, Aug-10
2ndLt Daniel S. O’Keefe, USAF, Purdue University, IN, Aug-10
2ndLt Kyle H. Spitzer, USAF, NAS Whiting Field, FL, Aug-10
2ndLt Brian D. Thorn, USAF, Keesler AFB, MS, Aug-10
2ndLt David J. Urban, USAF, Laughlin AFB, TX, Aug-10
2ndLt Nicolas A. Wright, USAF, Vance AFB, OK, Aug-10

United States Coast Guard Academy
ENS George R. Cocks, USCG, CGC HOLLYHOCK, Port Huron, MI, Jun-10
**ENS Matthew S. Delahunty, USCG, Flight Training, Pensacola, FL, Aug-10
ENS Rachel E. Douglas, USCG, CGC WILLOW, Newport, RI, Jun-10
ENS Rebecca R. Gentile, USCG, CGC MIDGETT, Seattle, WA, Jun-10
ENS Michael J. Hennebery, USCG, CGC VIGOROUS, Cape May, NJ, Jun-10
ENS Stephen A. Hills, USCG, CGC VENTUROUS, St. Petersburg, FL, Jun-10
ENS Eric W. Johnson, USCG, CGC RESOLUTE, St. Petersburg, FL, Jun-10
ENS Daniel G. Langston, USCG, CGC VALIANT, Miami Beach, FL, Jun-10
ENS Rick W. Mozolic, USCG, CGC RUSH, Honolulu, HI, Jun-10
ENS Amy A. Olson, USCG, CGC NORTHLAND, Portsmouth, VA, Jun-10
ENS James A. Rader, USCG, CGC TAHOMA, Portsmouth, NH, Jul-10
ENS Levi S. Rusk, USCG, CGC STEADFAST, Warrenton, OR, Jul-10
ENS Adam J. Stanek, USCG, CGC ALERT, Warrenton, OR, Jul-10
ENS Rocky C. Ward, USCG, CGC ALEX HALEY, Kodiak, AK, Jul-10

United States Merchant Marine Academy
2ndLt Jeffrey T. Hathcote, USAF, AFSOC, Hurlburt Field AFB, FL

United States Military Academy
2LT Walter Arevalo, USA
2LT Casey R. Astrup, USA
2LT Benjamin C. Backsmeier, USA
2LT Michael T. Baker, USA
2LT Zachary Batcho, USA
2LT Phillip S. Baweja, USA
2LT James M. Beebe, USA
2LT Joshua C. Bowen, USA
2LT Jonathan Brege, USA
2LT Paul R. Caston, USA
2LT Wesleigh J. Cochrane, USA
2LT Kimberly R. Cowan, USA
2LT David B. Dean, USA
2LT Mary E. Erdman, USA
2LT Daniel J. Filcik, USA
2LT Elliot M. Gardner, USA, IN BOLC, Fort Benning, GA, Jul-10; PL, Fort Campbell, KY, 101st Airborne Division, Feb-11
2LT Nicholas B. Glenn, USA

United States Naval Academy
ENS Kevin B. Bell, USN
ENS Kevin Z. Campbell, USN, NPS, Charleston, SC, Sep-10
2dLt Charles R. Carafano, USMC, TBS, Quantico, VA
2dLt Kollette Valdez Carafano, USMC, TBS, Quantico, VA
ENS Timothy A. Cousins, USN, USS Donald Cook (DDG75), Norfolk, VA, Jun-10
2LT Derek S. Henricks, USA
2LT Monte B. Hoover, USA
2LT Benjamin Huffines, USA
2LT David E. Jacobson, USA, MI BOLC, Fort Huachuca, AZ, Jul-10; 224 MI BN, Hunter Army Airfield, GA, Jan-11
2LT Kristofer A. Kalbfleisch, USA
2LT Laura B. Kiernan, USA
2LT Adam W. Kowalski, USA
2LT Justin F. Langreck, USA
2LT Jonathan D. McCann, USA
2LT Christopher J. McCoole, USA
2LT Stephanie A. McKiernan, USA
2LT Ashley C. Morgan, USA
2LT Janell A. Murray, USA
2LT David Niblick, USA
2LT James W. Pahng, USA
2LT Daniel L. Parten, USA
2LT Matthew A. Powell, USA
2LT Gabrielle K. Quatse, USA
2LT Jeremie M. Regnier, USA
2LT Cameron L. Rohrer, USA
2LT Peter J. Rome, USA
2LT William J. Sack, USA
2LT Michael S. Seese, USA
2LT Robert H. Sherry, USA
2LT William K. Smith, USA
2LT Greggory Starr, USA
2LT David C. Swanson, USA
2LT Caroline A. Taft, USA
2LT Bryan J. Tauer, USA
2LT Nicolas R. Terech, USA
2LT Juan M. Trevino, USA
2LT Erica L. Triebenbach, USA
2LT Jonathan M. Turnbull, USA
2LT Jeffrey J. Vincent Jr., USA
2LT Benjamin R. Wise, USA
2LT Jackson Wittkamper, USA

U.S. Coast Guard photo

2dLt Kevin B. Bell, USN
ENS Kenneth C. Crager, USN, USS Farragut (DDG 99), Mayport, FL  
ENS Ellyn A. Creasey, USN, USS Stethem (DDG 63), Yokuska, Japan  
ENS Aaron D. Dixon, USN, EOD, DLI, Monterey, CA, Sep-10  
ENS Paul D. Eklund, USN, USS John L. Hall (FFG-32), Mayport, FL  
ENS Kristen J. Eriksen, USN, USS Port Royal (CG-73), Pearl Harbor, HI  
2dLt Peter J. Guidera, USMC, TBS, Quantico, VA, Jul-10  
ENS Jack R. Hatcher, USN, NPS, Charleston, SC, Aug-10  
ENS Andreas Hoffleitner, USN, Intel School, Damneck, VA, Jun-10  
2dLt John T. Huffstetler, USMC, TBS, Quantico, VA, Jul-10  
2dLt Chance A. Hughes, USMC, TBS, Quantico, VA  
ENS Ian J. Hunter, USN  
ENS Christina Lewis, USN, Jamaica Defense Force Airwing, Jamaica  
ENS LeighAnn M. Lewis, USN, FT, Pensacola, FL, Nov-10  
2dLt Nathan J. Mast, USMC, TBS, Quantico, VA  
2dLt Jason C. Murphy, USMC, TBS, Quantico, VA, Jun-10  
2dLt Janell G. Peske, USMC, TBS, Quantico, VA, Jul-10  
ENS Ryan W. Sawyer, USN, NMCB 4, NBVC Port Hueneme, CA, Nov-10  
2dLt Luke D. Scott, USMC, TBS, Quantico, VA, Dec-10  
ENS Stephanie N. Stamm, USN, USS Gettysburg (CG-64), Mayport, FL, Jul-10  
ENS Jake H. Webb, USN, NPS, Charleston, SC, Oct-10  
ENS Kailey Wyatt Webb, USN, USS San Antonio (LPD 17), Norfolk, VA, Jun-10  
ENS Jon K. Weissberg, USN  
ENS Shannon M. Yingling, USN, FT, Pensacola, FL, Sep-10

University of Alabama  
* 2LT John J. Orosz, USA

University of Arkansas  
2ndLt Jamie L. David, USAF  
2LT Joshua T. Motes, USA

University of Central Florida  
* 2LT Alysa Angel, USA, ANC, BOLC/OBC, A Company 187th, Fort Sam Houston, TX, Mar-10; Walter Reed Army MC, Washington, DC, Jun-10

University of Dubuque  
2LT Benjamin J. Christians, USAR

University of Idaho  
2ndLt Andrew R. Konopacky, USAF, UPT, 14th 14 OSS, Columbus AFB, MS, May-10

University of Massachusetts—Lowell  
2ndLt Shawn Morin, USAF, UABMT, Tyndall AFB, FL, Sept-10

University of Michigan  
ENS Carl E. Jones, USN, NAS Pensacola, FL, Apr-10

University of Minnesota  
2ndLt Jacob Stricherz, USAF, UPT, Columbus AFB, MS, Jun-10

University of South Florida  
2ndLt Brooke S. Begemann, USAF

University of Tennessee—Knoxville  
* ENS Zachary A. Cavitt, USN

University of Texas at San Antonio  
* 2ndLt Michael P. Gibb, USAF, HQ AF/A1P, Pentagon, Washington, DC  
* 2ndLt Robert D. Lefever, USAFR, ASBC, Maxwell AFB, AL, Jan-10; Eglin AFB, FL, Mar-10

Valdosta State University  
2ndLt Joshua A. Drawdy, USAF, ASBC, Maxwell AFB, AL, Sep-10; PT, NAS Whiting Field, FL, Nov-10

Virginia Military Institute  
2dLt Alex J. Beckstrander, USMC  
2ndLt Karsten G. Bloomstrom, USAF  
2LT Anson L. Bryant, USA  
2dLt Bingley B. Squire, USMC

Wheaton College  
2LT Stephen M. Young, USA, BOLC B, Medical OBC, Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio, TX, Jun-10; Medical School, USUHS, MD, Jul-10

Wichita State University  
* 2ndLt David Diaz II, USAF

Various Universities  
2LT Matthew Maurice, USA  
2LT David N. Prewitt, USA  
* 2ndLt Stephanie D. Scott, USAF  
2LT Patrick W. Sorensen, USA

Legend  
U.S. Air Force  
USUHS—Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences  
U.S. Army  
ANC—Army Nurse Corps  
AR—Armor  
AV—Aviation  
BDE—Brigade  
BN—Battalion  
BOLC—Basic Officer Leadership Course  
CH—Chaplain  
CM—Chemical  
IN—Infantry  
MI—Military Intelligence  
MP—Military Police  
OOBC—Ordnance Officer  
OBC—Officer Basic Course  
PL—Platoon Leader  
U.S. Coast Guard  
CGC—Coast Guard Cutter  
U.S. Marine Corps  
TBS—The Basic School  
U.S. Navy  
DLI—Defense Language Institute  
FT—Flight Training  
NAS—Naval Air Station  
NBVC—Naval Base Ventura County  
NPS—Nuclear Power School

*Late 2009 graduate  
**Class of 2010 Distinguished Graduate—first in class
Q: How do you strike a balance between being both an effective military officer and a bold witness for Christ?
A: The idea of balance between being an officer and a Christian hints at a bifurcation between the two. I do not believe that we should separate these. The Bible says to do all things as unto the Lord (Colossians 3:17).

This means that your work as a military officer should be an extension of your faith. The output of your duties, as such, should be the best possible. The quality of your work and expertise should be so good that it provides proof of your faith. To put it plainly, your credibility as a Christian is on the line if you are a substandard officer. Take pride in your work, walk your talk, and thereby bring glory to God.

Q: What are the must-have tools you suggest for keeping sharp as a military officer and as a Christian?
A: Every Christian officer needs a friend in the faith to hold him/her accountable, hear confession, offer prayer cover, and encourage us through the struggle. Even Moses couldn’t do it alone (Exodus 17:10-13). He had Aaron and Hur help him in the midst of a desperate battle against the Amalekites. We also need such support.

There are a lot of temptations to compromise your testimony. Your wing-man in the struggle will help you overcome these. For me, this faithful partner has been, and remains, my wife, Rebecca. She is my confidant, advisor, friend, and accountability partner in the fight. I could not have made it without her.

Q: What do you know now that you wish you had known when you were a newly commissioned officer?
A: We are serving in a culture increasingly unwelcoming to Christians, more than I ever would have dreamed when I was commissioned. Our model as to how to stand up under this pressure is Daniel, who lived in a hostile pagan society (Daniel 6:3-5). Despite this, he conducted himself with such integrity and honesty that he was blameless before his accusers. So, when his enemies advanced against him, the only indictment that they could bring against him was against his faith—his God.

Another lesson from Daniel is that despite the forces arraigned against him, he was open about his faith. Daniel was no coward, even though he knew that the cost could be high—even death. As modern day Daniels, we can’t be covert about our faith, and must not be ashamed of the name of Jesus. Using wisdom and discernment throughout our lives, we are told to be bold and courageous. Jesus has called us to take a stand in such a time as this. Laying low, and compromising are outside of our calling.

In taking a stand, you may pay a high price, but in the end, your trust and faith must be in Him. So, as Jesus said, be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves (Matthew 10:16) in these times of challenge.
Christian Leadership in the Military
by Barb Beyer, OCF Associate Editor

If you are both a Christian and a leader in the military, your very life is Christian leadership. What those around you observe in your life is Christian leadership. They should be seeing the core values of the military which reflect the biblical principles of integrity, excellence, honesty, selfless service, courage, loyalty, duty, and genuine humility. What others see in you—at least as far as they are concerned—defines Christian leadership.

If you are a newly commissioned officer, you will see in this issue of COMMAND a list of similar OCF members. You are not alone! Let OCF become an anchor for you. Wherever you are stationed, we can link you up with OCF members there. When you need rest and encouragement, we offer that in our conference centers in Pennsylvania and Colorado.

A Christian Officer’s Toolbox
by Lieutenant Commander Brian Haggerty, United States Navy

Here are several tools that a Christian officer can draw on while serving both our Lord and our country honorably.

1) Accountability: (Proverbs 27:17) Mentor others, and establish mutually supportive peer-to-peer relationships.

2) Let others know where you stand: (1 John 1:7) Let the people you work with know what you believe. It will encourage you to be accountable, and help them understand the basis for your decisions and behavior.

3) Provide alternate reading material: (1 Corinthians 10:13) Provide publications like COMMAND. Some people will choose to read what you provide over less wholesome resources.

4) Provide alternate activities: (Romans 14:13) Instead of simply avoiding activities that are offensive to you, providing positive alternatives will empower others to avoid temptation as well.

5) Pray: (Matthew 6:5, Acts 27:35) You do not need to be showy about praying, but do not shy away from it. It may encourage others to see you thanking God or seeking His guidance.

6) Be ready: (1 Peter 3:15) When people come to you with questions, it is not proselytizing if you answer them. Be prepared.

7) Support, host, or lead a Bible study: (Acts 2:42) There are many ways to help others share in fellowship. OCF can help you support, host, or lead a Bible study in your location.

8) Volunteer to be your unit’s lay leader: (2 Timothy 3:16) One of the explicitly sanctioned mechanisms to share your faith with others in the military is to fill the capacity of lay leader within your unit.

9) Participate in your chapel or church community: (1 Corinthians 12:28) Consider guest preaching, teaching Sunday school, ushering, serving on the chapel or church council, or coordinating various events.

Let us be a part of your maturation into the Christian leader that God wants you to become during your career.

If you are a seasoned officer, contemplate the tools and challenges presented here. They can help you integrate your faith and profession. Find encouragement in the bios and dreams of those nominated for the next OCF Council class. We think you will be inspired by how God is working in their lives.

Christian leadership. Your Christian leadership. Take a minute today to consider what those around you are seeing and how your life is defining Christian leadership for them.

Commentary

A Christian Officer’s Toolbox

Note: Read this complete article on our website at www.ocfusa.org.

LCDR Brian Haggerty is a neighborhood Bible study coordinator in Kansas. When he completes school there, he will be assigned as an Executive Officer of a submarine.
When discussing an individual service member’s right to free exercise of religion, it must be clearly understood that “free exercise of religion” means what it says—free exercise—and not what some attorney says it means or is willing to tolerate. Further, the right to free exercise of religion applies to all members of the Armed Forces—irrespective of their rank or station—because the First Amendment guarantees the right to free exercise to every American.

Subject to the demands of military service and the need to maintain good order and discipline, free exercise of religion for service members includes, but is not necessarily limited to, the following: the right to believe or not believe; the right to engage in corporate or individual worship; the right to study religious texts, both individually and with others; the right to fellowship with members of the same faith; the right to discuss and share basic truths of one’s faith, both with fellow adherents of that faith and with non-adherents as well; the right to teach one’s faith as truth; the right to observe religious holidays, feasts, ceremonies, etc.; the right to attend religious retreats and conferences; the right to invite others to participate in a religious activity associated with one’s faith, such as, a Bible study, a bar mitzvah, or a holiday celebration (like a Seder meal or a Christmas party or an Iftar celebration); the right to pass on one’s faith to one’s own children and other children placed for that purpose in one’s care (such as, in Sabbath School, Sunday School, catechism classes or in youth groups like Young Life or Club Beyond); and the right to participate in activities sponsored by local religious groups or para-church groups (like the Knights of Columbus, the B’nai B’rith, theNavigators, or Officers’ Christian Fellowship).

All Service Members May Participate in Local Religious Groups and/or Para-Church Groups on Their Free Time

Despite the herculean efforts made by commanders and military chaplains to provide for the free exercise needs of all service members and their families, there are times when their efforts fall short of the service members’ religious needs and desires. As such, when possible, service members often avail themselves of religious opportunities in nearby civilian communities and/or participate in para-church groups to meet their spiritual needs. Many religious groups in communities...
located near military installations offer outreach programs to service members and their families, most of whom are far away from extended families and friends. Such efforts are to be lauded and encouraged. There are a limited number of chaplains available at any military installation, and it is virtually impossible for them to meet the needs of each denomination or faith group represented by service members on that installation. Local and para-church groups help to fill that gap. Such groups may also fill the gap by providing a greater array of religious opportunities throughout the week than can normally be provided by chaplains, thus accommodating the often chaotic schedules that define service members’ lives. In many instances, without external help, chaplains would simply be unable to meet the spiritual needs of the men and women in uniform that constitute their respective flocks.

Free Exercise Requires Tolerance Among Religious Believers and Between Believers and Non-Believers

All of the Armed Services have both entry-level schooling for enlisted service members and for officers as well as follow-on schooling as officers and enlisted service members increase in rank and assume greater responsibilities. Part of a Service’s team-building process is noting our differences (including religious differences) and encouraging service members of all ranks to respect and tolerate those differences. Service members can and must be taught that commanders are responsible to develop and implement moral and religious programs to meet their free exercise needs; that military chaplains assist commanders in their responsibilities and traditionally offer prayers at various military ceremonies (such as, at change of command ceremonies) to solemnize such events; that, due to the heterogeneous nature of religious beliefs in the United States, they are apt to hear prayers said from various religious perspectives; and that such prayers are evidence of the religious tolerance that our country has been able to achieve over time, not that our government, DoD, or the Armed Forces favor a certain faith group or belief.

It is not a difficult concept to understand that our government “does not endorse or support … speech that it merely permits on a nondiscriminatory basis.” 1 Similarly, our colleagues in uniform reflect differing religious faiths, including no faith, and such differences reflect our tolerant society.

It is a given that the majority religious faith in the United States (and, hence, in the Armed Forces) is the Christian faith, in all its myriad forms. As such, it is the Christian message that will—simply by virtue of the sheer numbers of its adherents—be foremost among the religious sentiments publicly expressed in the military.

That does not mean that the military is favoring the Christian faith merely because it is so visible.

In sum, nothing in the Constitution requires that Americans shed their religious beliefs and heritage once they don a military uniform.

Editorial Note: The purpose of this series of articles is to discuss the rights guaranteed to, and enjoyed by, members of the Armed Forces of the United States under the Constitution and laws of the United States with respect to free exercise of religion and free expression of religious sentiments. This fourth article addresses the specific rights of individual military service members. Subsequent articles will address the rights and responsibilities of military commanders and chaplains. The extensive footnotes in this series of articles are integral to the author’s intent and research, and are therefore included in their entirety.

Robert Weston Ash is an assistant professor of law at Regent University School of Law in Virginia, from which he received his Juris Doctor degree. He is also the senior litigation counsel for national security law at the American Center for Law and Justice (ACLJ). Robert served twenty-two years active duty in the military after graduating from West Point.

(Footnotes)

1 One must nonetheless keep in mind that senior officers and NCOs/POs must take special care not to force their religious or philosophical views on their subordinates.

2 The United States Armed Forces operate 24 hours per day, every day of the year. As such, service members will be assigned to duties at odd hours and times throughout the year. When those times conflict with regularly scheduled Chapel worship times or other religious activities, those on duty will be required to forego attending such religious activities in order to carry out their military duties. Affected service members may, of course, request an accommodation, but the granting of such an accommodation will ultimately depend on mission requirements.

3 Good order and discipline are essential components of an effective military unit. William A. Cohen, Secrets of Special Ops Leadership: Dare the Impossible, Achieve the Extraordinary 98 (2005) (quoting George Washington as saying, “Nothing is more harmful to the service than the neglect of discipline; for that discipline, more than numbers, gives one army superiority over another.”). Yet, admittedly, the phrase is somewhat vague. When attempting to maintain good order and discipline, commanders and leaders at all levels must ensure that religious service members are not singled out for special detriment, especially if those complaining about a religious activity or expression of a religious sentiment are persons especially sensitive—or even hostile—to religion or a religious message. See, e.g., Americans United for Separation of Church & State v. City of Grand Rapids, 980 F.2d 1538, 1553 (6th Cir. 1992) (noting the existence of persons who see religious endorsement, “even though a reasonable person, and any minimally informed person, knows that no endorsement is intended”).

4 Mergens, 496 U.S. at 250.
It’s election time! This year’s OCF Council election starts 1 August and runs through 15 September. We will conduct the OCF Council ballot voting electronically again this year. Please be certain we have your current e-mail address so that we can send you an invitation to vote.

You can compare nominees using either this issue of COMMAND or by viewing expanded biographical information on the website. You may vote for as many as five candidates. For those who cannot or prefer not to vote electronically, a hard copy ballot can be requested by calling Shana Adler at the OCF home office via (800) 424-1984.

More information is also available at www.ocfusa.org through the VOTE NOW button.

**Nominees for OCF Council Class of 2013**

**MG James A. Coggin, USA (Ret.)**

**Education:** U.S. Military Academy 1974, Georgia Institute of Technology 1983  
**Present duty assignment:** Vice President/General Manager, General Dynamics Information Technology, Fairfax, VA  
**Current ministry involvement:** OCF Council President, 2009-Present  
**Personal testimony:** Based upon the guidance and influence of my Christian mother, I came to know Jesus Christ as my personal Lord and Savior as a teenager. That formative faith provided me with the Christian world view that I have lived with and has sustained me my entire life.  
**Challenges within OCF:** The most important issue facing OCF today is to position and enable our ministry to reach out to, touch, and connect with the millennial generation members of the U.S. military officer corps. I would address this challenge directly and aggressively through alignment of our OCF 2012-2016 Strategic Plan with that imperative.

**LCDR Josh E. Dittmar, USN**

**Education:** U.S. Naval Academy 1994, BS Ocean Engineering; Air Force Institute of Technology 2006, M.S. Aero Engineering  
**Present duty assignment:** Operational Test and Evaluation Squadron ONE (VX-1) in Patuxent River, MD  
**Current/Past ministry involvement:** OCF local leader, OCF Council member, involved with Hope to Orphans  
**Personal testimony:** Despite a strong Christian foundation, and accepting Christ as Savior, I decided that I would run my own life according to my way in college. I made myself miserable, then I recommitted my life to Christ, and was discipled through the Navigators.  
**Challenges within OCF:** Discipling the next generation of believers. The current Anchor Points conferences provide a good start, but intentional discipling of the next generation of leaders one-on-one is key.

**CH(Capt) Daniel W. Forman, USAF**

**Education:** Eastern Nazarene College 1987, Asbury Theological Seminary, Nazarene Theological Seminary  
**Present duty assignment:** Clinical Pastoral Education Resident at Wilford Hall Medical Center, Lackland AFB, TX. June 2010 PCS to Vance AFB, OK  
**Current/Past ministry involvement:** Chaplain, local OCF group member, pulpit supply for the Nazarene church, youth ministry, and church boards  
**Personal testimony:** I accepted the Lord as my Savior when I was seven years old, then in a deeper way when I was thirteen. I have followed the Lord since then.  
**Challenges within OCF:** To support Christian chaplains as they navigate the waters of pluralistic ministry and as the current ops tempo will get worse as the USAF is cutting 30% of its chaplain corps. Continued fund-raising and financial management of new OCF centers in PA and CO.

Save this issue of COMMAND. To vote, you will need your OCF member number (your voting ID) and zip code (your voting password) from the mailing label.
Important! Save this issue of COMMAND. To vote, you will need your OCF member number (your voting ID) and zip code (your voting password) from the mailing label.

**LTJG Andrew P. Halvorson, USCG**

**Education:** U.S. Coast Guard Academy 2003; Duke University 2010, MBA  
**Present duty assignment:** Instructor of Leadership Studies at U.S. Coast Guard Academy  
**Current/Past ministry involvement:** Leadership role in OCF cadet ministry at USCGA, Water Missions International board member  
**Personal testimony:** I was fortunate to gain knowledge of Christianity from my parents and I accepted Christ at a young age. The teaching of Christ really took root during my junior and senior years of high school—through active involvement in Young Life and Fellowship of Christian Athletes. God’s grace is the defining theme of my life.  
**Challenges within OCF:** The multifaceted challenge of equipping officers to serve Christ in a constantly changing wartime environment continues to be the largest issue facing OCF. Conference centers play a uniquely important role in addressing this challenge.

**MAJ Vaughn Eric Hathaway, USA**

**Education:** University of Southern Mississippi 1994, BA in Criminal Justice  
**Present duty assignment:** Fort Sill, OK, 1-4 FA BN XO  
**Current/Past ministry involvement:** chapel involvement, OCF Bible study at Fort Leavenworth, Anchor Points June 2009, OCF post coordinator at Fort Sill  
**Personal testimony:** I was raised in a Christian home and realized my need for Christ from childhood. I strive to live and serve Him more every day.  
**Challenges within OCF:** The main challenge is to continuously strive to advance the kingdom of Christ. I would address this by encouraging Christian leaders to boldly live out their faith in the military.

**Col Kim D. Hawthorne, USAF**

**Education:** U.S. Air Force Academy 1986, BS in Engineering Mechanics; Liberty University 1992, MA in Religion; Air War College 2005, Master of Strategic Studies  
**Present duty assignment:** Chief, Future Concepts and Capabilities Division, NORAD and USNORTHCOM/J58  
**Current/Past ministry involvement:** chapel Bible study leader, OCF Council member, Spring Canyon Advisory Committee, OCF local leader and area coordinator  
**Personal testimony:** I became a Christian during my sophomore year in high school through the influence of coaches and students in the local Fellowship of Christian Athletes. I was greatly strengthened by the OCF cadet ministry at USAFA and have matured in my faith through fellowship with believers in all aspects of OCF.  
**Challenges within OCF:** It’s critical to minister to the needs of our present and potential members and their families. The effectiveness of OCF depends upon the quality of our members’ personal walk with Jesus Christ. We should focus on engaging and enabling local leaders, keeping members involved, and creating an environment for people to catch the OCF vision. An excellent means to do this is through our conference centers.

**MAJ John A. Hoyman, USAR**

**Education:** Wheaton College 1992, Mathematics degree; 2006 Christian Formation and Ministry degree  
**Present duty assignment:** Deputy Training Division Chief/Instructional Course Manager, Army Reserve Readiness Training Center, Fort McCoy, WI  
**Current/Past ministry involvement:** OCF Council member, Midwest ROTC Retreat Coordinator, Program Director at White Sulphur Springs  
**Personal testimony:** After accepting the Lord at age seven, I grew through the influence and example of my parents, youth pastor, and the staff at White Sulphur Springs. WSS was influential as a spiritual home in my teenage and young adult years, and still has a great impact.  
**Challenges within OCF:** We need to grow our efforts to train, disciple, encourage, and embolden our local leaders to minister to the deep spiritual needs of an expeditionary military. It is through the personal investment in lives that the current generation passes to the next its passion for the Lord.
More information about OCF Council elections can be found on our website

**LTC David W. Major, USA**  
**Education:** Northern KY University 1987, BS in Biology; Central Michigan University 1999, MSA in Human Resources and Health Administration  
**Present duty assignment:** Infantry officer served in all levels of command up to Division  
**Current/Past ministry involvement:** Boy Scout Merit Badge counselor, lead numerous Bible studies at unit and place of work  
**Personal testimony:** Born in a Christian family and continuously developed a relationship with Christ  
**Challenges within OCF:** I feel that OCF members always should be ready and equipped to provide spiritual guidance and teaching whenever it is necessary. When they get to a unit the first thing one needs to discern is the spiritual readiness of the command. If there is a gap, OCF members should try to fill it with leading or participating in organizational Bible studies or prayer sessions.

**LtCol Scott R. Nowlin, USAF**  
**Education:** U.S. Air Force Academy 1992, Aeronautical Engineering; UT Austin 1993, MS Aerospace Engineering; Oxford University 2010, DPhil Engineering Science  
**Present duty assignment:** Director of Systems Engineering & Assistant Professor of Aeronautics, U.S. Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, CO  
**Current/Past ministry involvement:** OCF Council member (treasurer), Spring Council Advisory Council member, Chapel Protestant Advisory Council  
**Personal testimony:** I was baptized as an infant and born again at age ten. God truly opened my eyes and heart through the USAFA OCF cadet ministry, Spring Canyon family programs, and OCF and BSF Bible studies early in my career. OCF-motivated accountability partners, Bible studies, and deployment resources during several years of family separations have been especially meaningful.  
**Challenges within OCF:** As a council member, I will prayerfully continue to manage and apply the resources He provides OCF to build up our small groups, encourage chapel support, and allow members—especially those who’ve never attended—to experience a time apart at an OCF conference center.

**Maj Bruce D. Page, USAF**  
**Education:** Davidson College 1994, BS in Mathematics; Regent University School of Law 2002, J.D.; JAG School 2007, LL.M.  
**Present duty assignment:** Associate General Counsel, Operations and Readiness, Defense Logistics Agency, Fort Belvoir, VA  
**Current/Past ministry involvement:** OCF group leader, chapel involvement  
**Personal testimony:** I was raised in a Bible-believing church and was active in Christian fellowship during college. My story is one of increasing awareness of the majesty and goodness of God.  
**Challenges within OCF:** The challenge for OCF is to minister within the context of Christ’s church (universal), rather than competing with it. Still, military life is so unique, it seems to be the rare church that ministers deeply to service members and their families. OCF will succeed to the extent we love military families and equip them to serve and build Christ’s church wherever the Lord sends them.

**COL Bruce D. Parker, USA**  
**Education:** Seattle University 1984, History degree; Chapman University 1997, Organizational Leadership degree  
**Present duty assignment:** Student, U.S. Army War College, then Commander 198th Infantry Training Brigade, Fort Benning, GA  
**Current/Past ministry involvement:** OCF area coordinator and local Bible study leader  
**Personal testimony:** I was raised in a non-church attending family and came to know Christ as a freshman in college. My wife and I committed our lives to Christ upon the birth of our first daughter and He has been the rock for us through many deployments, separations, and tough times serving a nation at war as a Christian leader in uniform. We believe that our service while in uniform is where God has placed us to minister.  
**Challenges within OCF:** I think the most important issue facing OCF has been and remains the ops tempo of the military and its effect on the OCF body, our families, and the discipling of our junior leaders. We can see the consequence of persistent conflict in the reduced participation of our OCF groups at installations and local Bible study groups. The best way to address this problem is by building relationships, mentoring junior officers, promoting/encouraging local Bible study groups, family events, and marriage seminars/retreats.
More information about OCF Council elections can be found on our website at www.ocfusa.org through the VOTE NOW button.

Nominated by: LTC Robert Borcherding, USA; CPT David Bowles, USA; LTC John Cross, USA

**LTC Todd A. Plotner, USA**

*Education:* U.S. Military Academy 1993, BS Mechanical Engineering; University of California Berkeley 2001, MS Civil Engineering

*Present duty assignment:* Chief of Plans and Operations, Operations Group, National Training Center

*Current/Past ministry involvement:* OCF local coordinator, group leader/host, Fort Riley, KS, Chapel Council

*Personal testimony:* Although not Christians at the time, my parents enrolled me in a local Christian school, seeking only a good education. We found much more—my family and I came to Christ through that school and church! God later used OCF brothers at West Point to disciple me as a Christian military leader.

*Challenges within OCF:* OCF must seek to “reset and regenerate” service members and families exhausted by nearly a decade of war. As the Capital Campaign has focused resources to rebuild our infrastructure, we can allow God—through OCF and ministry partners—to rebuild and renew His people. This calls us to partner closely with like-minded military ministries; support and encourage chaplains; train and exhort young Christian leaders; and above all—pray.

Nominated by: CDR Brent Breining, USN; CDR Kenneth Canete, USN; CDR Thomas Thompson, USN (Ret.)

**CDR Thomas L. Robertson, USNR**

*Education:* U.S. Naval Academy 1989, BS Honors History; Georgetown University 1990, MA National Security and Strategic Planning

*Present duty assignment:* Associate Chair, History Department, U.S. Naval Academy

*Current/Past ministry involvement:* OCF Bible study leader

*Personal testimony:* I grew up in a Christian home and accepted the sacrifice our Savior made for me when I was five years old. As I continued my journey with Jesus, I more fully recognized my absolute dependence on Him in every area of my life.

*Challenges within OCF:* The ministry must ensure it is in a position to adapt to a rapidly changing world while continuing to teach Christian officers how to live out and share their faith. The leadership should actively seek input from the officers on the front lines of the ministry, guide the financial stability of the ministry, adhere to sound biblical stewardship principles, and continually seek the wisdom of the Lord.

Nominated by: MG Clay Buckingham, USA (Ret.); MAJ Bryan Groves, USA; MAJ John Hoyman, USAR

**MAJ Jonathan A. Shine, USA**

*Education:* Princeton University 1998, BA Politics; Georgetown University 2006, MPA

*Present duty assignment:* Student, USMC Command and Staff College, Quantico, VA

*Current/Past ministry involvement:* OCF Council member and Bible study leader

*Personal testimony:* I was raised in a Christian family and considered OCF to be my “home church” growing up. I accepted Jesus as my personal Savior when I was six years old. In college, I was challenged through the example of several friends and campus ministry staff who demonstrated what a personal relationship with Jesus really looked like.

*Challenges within OCF:* I am concerned that we have lost much of the “personal touch” that has characterized OCF for decades. We need to re-establish a connection with members that demonstrates a genuine concern for their well-being combined with an understanding of today’s pressures (OPTEMPO, hostility towards Christianity, etc.).

Nominated by: LCDR Nicholas Fiore, USN; LT Christopher Kenney, USN; CAPT Michael Patterson, USN (Ret.)

**CAPT James L. Vandiver, USN**

*Education:* U.S. Naval Academy 1985, BS Aerospace Engineering; Naval Post Graduate School 1992, MS Aeronautical Engineering

*Present duty assignment:* Commander, Training Air Wing Five

*Current/Past ministry involvement:* OCF Council member and area coordinator

*Personal testimony:* I grew up moral and I would pray but never ask God for forgiveness because I wasn’t sure I wouldn’t do it again. I wanted to fix the problem first. In high school I was invited to a Bible church and realized God was a very personal God through Jesus Christ. I started following Jesus and never looked back.

*Challenges within OCF:* We need to train our officers to put on the full armor of God and after doing everything, to stand. We must be trained in truth and how to engage our culture with the hope of this truth. Courses like the Truth Project are invaluable.

Nominated by: LTC Robert Borcherding, USA; CPT David Bowles, USA; LTC John Cross, USA
Challenges within OCF: We are losing, failing to retain, or neglecting to affiliate so many Christian military leaders because of our inability to intentionally partner with the local church. The accomplishment of the mission, vision, and purpose of OCF is not possible without saints wholly committed to the bedrock of the ministry—our small groups. To accomplish this a partnership model should be defined, established, and instituted whereby our membership engage their local churches for the purposes of sponsoring an OCF/military-care small group.

Challenges within OCF: In my experience, many locations have vibrant OCF groups while others lack an OCF identity. I believe we can

Challenges within OCF: The challenge is to equip biblically grounded leaders to impact military society in the face of combat operations, incessant deployments, a religiously hostile populace, and increasingly religiously hostile commands. My focus is on the weekly studies...they are the heart of the ministry. As go the local studies, so goes OCF.

Challenges within OCF: Continued higher operations tempo and general pace of life challenge OCF ministry. While, in many cases, fellowship at deployed locations is strong, in-garrison ministries at operational units struggle. Consequently, military families are isolated from one another. We must renew our efforts in training lay members in leadership through local fellowships, conference centers, and continually focusing on discipleship of our replacements.

Challenges within OCF: In my experience, many locations have vibrant OCF groups while others lack an OCF identity. I believe we can do better with regard to bringing OCF service members together and creating stronger local networks. One idea is to focus resources on developing “discipleship breakfast” types of routine gatherings that service members attend before work or during the lunch hour to develop relationships, edify the body, and glorify the Lord.

More information is also available at www.ocfusa.org through the VOTE NOW button.
**What Is “Real” Ministry?**

by Dave Rowland  
OCF Director of Resource Development

When I hear about “real” ministry, I tend to think of someone leading a person to Christ. But what does God consider ministry?

Let’s start with a definition. Looking up *ministry* you’ll find about ten meanings, most of which have nothing to do with Christian ministry. One of the last definitions is “to give service, care, or aid.” From a secular standpoint, that’s as good as it gets. Zondervan doesn’t list “ministry” in my Bible dictionary, but it does define *minister* as “originally a servant.” There is also the connotation of one acting as the agent of another.

We can conclude then that Christian ministry is serving others on God’s behalf. Literally hundreds of Bible verses encourage us to serve, like Luke 22:27 where Jesus says, “For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who is at the table? But I am among you as one who serves.”

The church and para-church ministries like OCF have been raised up by God to build up the body of Christ to be “ministers,” as we read in Ephesians 4:11-12, “It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up.” Also, Ephesians 2:10, “For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”

Let’s connect the dots. Are you a minister? You bet. When you share Christ, that’s ministry. When you pray with someone, that’s ministry. But when you contribute financially to OCF, that’s also ministry. Could that be another reason there are so many Bible verses about how we are to steward money and possessions? Isn’t our stewardship also ministry?

So don’t think that when someone says they’re doing “real” ministry that you’re not. You may not get paid for your ministry work, but you do have a ministry. That’s why we value our OCF donors so highly. You are ministering—right along with our lay leaders and staff. Your sharing actually benefits three at one time—it blesses someone receiving help through OCF, it’s a way of worshipping God, and it helps you grow to be more like Jesus, our generous Savior. Now that’s real ministry!

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**Births**

- Nathaniel Oleh Berrios, born 18 December 2009, son of Capt David and Sonia Berrios, USAF, Monument, CO
- Elizabeth Joy Bosetti, born 25 March 2010 daughter of LTC Timothy and Christiann Bosetti, USN, Fort Lewis, WA
- Petra Irene Carlson, born 31 Oct 2009, daughter of CDR Andrew Carlson, USN, and Capt Heidi Carlson, USAF, Stuttgart, Germany
- Ethan Michael Hoffman, born 17 March 2010, son of CDR Stephen and Molly Hoffman, USN, McLean, VA
- Karris Rebecca Hoyman, born 19 April 2010, daughter of MAJ John and Lois Hoyman, Warrens, WI
- Seth Austin McConnell, born March 2010, son of IstLt John and Emily McConnell, USMC, Jacksonville, NC

**Weddings**

- 1LT Nathaniel Bastian, USA, married Hyeyon Yi, 16 May 2010. Their home is Daleville, AL.
- LTJG Dorothy Van Duyne, USN, married Peter Hughes, 14 February 2010. Their home is Flint, MI.
- ENS Jake H. Webb, USN, married ENS Kailey Wyatt, USN, 29 May 2010. Their home is Norfolk, VA.
- 2ndLt Matthew T. Weeks, USAF, married Amy Greenfield, 30 April 2010. Their home is Racine, WI.
- 2LT Stephen M. Young, USA, married Emily Purinton, 29 May 2010. Their home is Boxborough, MA.

OCF Council Confirms Calling of New Director

by Lieutenant Colonel Scott Nowlin, United States Air Force

Spring Canyon, Colorado Conference Center—Surrounded by blue skies and brilliant snows, fourteen members of your OCF Council met in April at Spring Canyon Conference Center. We came together to reflect on the blessings and challenges that you, the membership, are experiencing in your families, fellowships, and workplaces as you seek to minister effectively in the military society during this time of war.

We prayerfully considered how the ministry should move forward to better equip and encourage you—a man or woman of authority, influence, and responsibility whose biblical service and leadership provides unique opportunities to affect the military community and its members. Wherever you’re serving, we thank God for you and your desire to see God glorified through OCF!

We spent this time together steeped in prayer and centered around two key verses. First, in the context of Proverbs 29:18—seeking a Spirit-led vision for OCF—a Pray-Discover-Obey process set the right council “head and heart conditions” for praying over dozens of specific local leader and member needs, making careful deliberations on the draft OCF Strategy for 2012-2016, receiving encouraging reports on the financial health of the ministry, and seeing exciting progress in the Growing and Building Campaign.

Second, in the context of Acts 13:3—confirming the calling of, laying hands on, and sending out harvesters into fields ripe for harvest—your council joyfully recognized the calling from the Lord that BGen David Warner, USAF (Ret.), and his wife, Lori, have answered to serve as OCF’s next executive director couple. We give special thanks to the search committee that has labored for a year seeking God’s will, traveling to interview candidates, and meeting in prayer. Please lift up Dave and Lori in prayer as they transition from one position of servant leadership to another under God’s grace and protection.

Your OCF Council and staff are here to serve you with ears that are quick to listen and knees that are ready to hit the floor in prayer alongside you as we labor to glorify God by uniting Christian officers for biblical fellowship and outreach.

We thankfully acknowledge your support of OCF’s purpose and vision through your prayers, and your finances. Praise God!