2013—a year of commemoration!
Remember. One of the highlights of this 70th anniversary celebration was a series of six regional Capstone Forums, where ministry leadership and other stakeholders gathered to recall all that the Lord has done through 70 years of key events and personalities. One of those giant personalities was our first General Secretary, Cleo Buxton. In the late 1950s Cleo gathered young men for mentoring and discipling in the context of physically demanding Boundary Waters canoe trips. A highlight of our 2013 capital campaign was the Grand Portage Adventure, a reenactment of Cleo's model. Spring Canyon and eventually White Sulphur Springs were born of Cleo's vision.

The exercise of biblical leadership describes what Christian officers do. The integration of faith and profession is the sine qua non, the absolutely essential ingredient, in how they do it. We teach military leaders how to combine religious and professional aspects of their lives into one harmonious and integral whole, to meet their military obligations in a manner wholly consistent with their Christian value system. People determine what they think about God by what they see in his followers, so it emboldens us to live out our faith in ways that honor him with our lifestyle, our words, our social awareness our relationships and the strength of our commitments.

Leadership involves organizing ourselves for the work. We continue to evaluate and improve our ministry to the vast ROTC community; our strategic partnership with Cru Military’s Valor movement continues to bear good fruit. We also renewed our commitment of reaching newly minted officers at our education centers as they begin their race as they serve Christ in uniform. Toward that end, we commissioned a new couple at Maxwell AFB, and expanded our ministry to NAS Pensacola by hiring a new couple to operate, full-time, its regional ministry, still anchored on Pensacola but also responsible for equipping and supervising small group and installation leaders from the Florida panhandle into Mississippi.

Leadership includes stewardship, a commitment to aligning the ministry to a cause, binding ourselves to courses of action that will fulfill our Purpose and project our Vision. An example is Conference Center Task Force 2. Whereas CCTF1 in 2000 validated the need to recapitalize our aging conference center facilities and precipitated the ongoing OCF Growing and Building Campaign, this second effort analyzed the effectiveness and efficiency with which our centers operate, precipitating industry-standard business metrics, refinement of staffing plans and first steps in program realignments for a stronger outreach to younger members and their families.

Thank you for teaming with us in “Building Christian leaders, families, fellowships...for a lifetime.”

The body of OCF carries the hope of Jesus Christ into the military society through its members, programs, and small groups in innumerable ways.

Conference Centers: Spring Canyon in Buena Vista, CO, and White Sulphur Springs in Manns Choice, PA, served approximately 5,000-6,000 guests in 2013. These centers are two of OCF’s primary training grounds, for those who live, work and minister in the military society.

Academies & ROTC: OCF has staff couples located near each of the four military academies, where they embolden the Cadets and Midshipmen to know what it is to be a Christ follower through biblical leader development, Bible Study, discipleship, conferences, retreats and mission trips. While all open their homes for training, counsel and hospitality, OCF owns properties near the U.S. Military Academy and U.S. Naval Academy, allowing an extraordinary level of hospitality to Cadets, Midshipmen and their families. OCF currently hosts five ROTC regional retreat conferences each year, with plans to expand into the Northwest.

Field Ministries: OCF has staff couples assigned to regional centers who interact with and give guidance to the volunteer lay leaders in the United States and in other countries, forge relationships with local churches and provide support to the Chaplaincy. Staff couples help these leaders engage in their faith with those around them by establishing a variety of programs in the area—from small group fellowships and training conferences, to making contacts within the area and supporting chaplains and pastors. In addition, OCF sponsors Spiritually Smart Family conferences to assist with service separations, conflict resolution, staying close while apart, parenting tips, re-integration following deployment and much more.

OFFICERS’ CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
2013 ANNUAL REPORT
FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT
Melvin G. Spiese, Major General, USMC (Ret.)

As we celebrated the 70th anniversary of
our founding in 1943, we used every possible
venue to remember our roots and our stories.
Your Council is both sustaining our legacy
and projecting it into the future. Significant
changes in our military society and culture
create opportunities for military Christians.

While adjusting to the needs and mores of a
changing military environment and culture, OCF will hold fast
to ageless truths and remain true to our ministry distinctive.

I am committed to ensuring OCF meets the needs of our
members as Christian leaders serving as officers in our Armed
Forces in this new environment.

OCF's historical niche among military ministries, our
mission to equip and encourage within local small group
fellowships and reinforcement through large group conference
center experiences, requires review and expansion in the 21st
century. In 2013 we began construction of a new strategy for
center experiences, requires review and expansion in the 21st
century. In 2013 we began construction of a new strategy for

conference centers. The 2013 highlights of that effort were both
dedication of Veterans Memorial Lodge and ground breaking
for Fort Shine Lodge, both at Spring Canyon in Buena Vista,
Co. These two lodges together, with half of their rooms fully
ADA compliant, will double the ministry capacity of this
venue to remember our roots and our stories.

We continue the work of recapitalizing our conference
centers. The 2013 highlights of that effort were both
dedication of Veterans Memorial Lodge and ground breaking
for Fort Shine Lodge, both at Spring Canyon in Buena Vista,
Co. These two lodges together, with half of their rooms fully
ADA compliant, will double the ministry capacity of this
conference center and, importantly, better serve our wounded
warriors and others with physical disabilities.

Financially, your Fellowship ended the year poised for
success in 2014. OCF continues to hold both Charity Navigator
and GuideStar highest ratings for sound fiscal management
and goal setting.

Similarly, the Fellowship extended its record with another
“clean” independent annual audit.

Thank you for your service to Him, to our country, and to
this Fellowship. I am honored to serve you as your President.
May God bless and keep you in the very center of His grace.

M. Mixon, USA; Lt Col Scott R. Nowlin, USAF; LTC Jonathan A. Shine,
CDR Stephen L. Hoffman, USN; COL Laurence D. Hawthorne, USAF; COL Anthony D. Gray, USA; LCDR Andrew P. Halvorson, USCG; Col Kim Daniel W. Forman, USAF; COL Richard H. Goldsmith, USA (Ret.); MAJ James A. Coggin, USA (Ret.); Col Scott C. Fisher, USAF; CH(Maj) 1LT Alysa Angel, USA; RADM Richard P. Breckenridge, USN; MG Melvin G. Spiese, USMC (Ret).