



Christian perspectives on life in the military

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Worrying or waiting?

To say we live in an uncertain world is a gross understatement. We can take great comfort in knowing that our Lord and Savior has already achieved the victory for us.

Spiritual anchor points

Our environment provides a ripe opportunity to be salt and light in military society. Salt tastes saltiest on a saltless plate. The darker the room the brighter the light.

OCF Council elections start 1 Sept

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'I've never quit a marathon'

How cancer shaped Mike Moyles' testimony and focused his priorities



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Worry or waiting

Military life is challenging, but we have a Savior who has achieved victory

Excitement was in the air as assignments were falling at Maxwell AFB. Unlike the others who were quite nervous about their futures lying in the hands of the personnel gods, I was feeling rather confident. For months earlier I had the good fortune to meet the executive officer to the EUCOM J6 (an AF 2-star) and just knew that after meeting me I was a shoo-in for an opening on their staff.



**DAVID
WARNER**
Executive
Director

Having long awaited a chance to return to Germany, my birth country, the Warner clan was ecstatic. I had no doubt that my plan was the Lord's plan for our family and was at peace. Not so fast...I was shocked to learn that my No. 1 choice went to another...not to fear, for my second choice was also at EUCOM.

To my dismay, I learned that my crafty career manager had offered my name up to the folks at Mons, Belgium, the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE). My desires were now dashed. I was very confused and angry to discover that my fate too was in the hands of the "system."

Not one to take this sitting down, I quickly sought out the Lord...in my case, that would be Brig Gen Lance Lord, my former boss. As I made my way to see him, THE Lord caught hold of me and a true sense of peace came over me, telling me to sit down, I've got this! Turning around, I ran into General Lord and he informed me that he had just gotten off the phone with my future boss at SHAPE and had sung my praises about what a great fit I would be in my new position—so worrying wouldn't have done me any good anyway.

Lori and I quickly went to our knees and thanked the Lord for His provision. Paul's words to the Philippians in chapter 4, verses 6-7 rang true in our hearts:

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

Honestly, what we went through pales in comparison to what you endure every day. That said, we continued to cling to that verse. I was so quick to want to take control and take action—that's my nature. What I have learned, many times the hard way, is to go to prayer and wait upon the Lord.

In December of last year, this verse once again took up a prominent place in our hearts and prayer life. After months of deciphering an abnormal blood test, I received a fateful call on Christmas Eve. The caring pathologist who did not want me to go through Christmas without knowing the results of my bone marrow biopsy pronounced that I was only one in a million to be diagnosed

with a rare blood cancer: Waldenstrom Macroglobulinemia. I once again heard His voice saying, "Rest easy, I've got this!" I'm doing well and the prognosis is good, but suffice it to say we clung heavily to Paul's soothing words. We were also drawn to Matthew's words in 6:27 and Isaiah's words in 40:31:

"And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life?"

"But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint."

To say we live in an uncertain world is a gross understatement. Life in general is complicated. Life in the military is extremely difficult and challenging and carries with it an increasing amount of angst with the operations tempo, separations, threats to life and limb, and the increasing challenges from within our own nation. Through it all we can take great comfort in knowing that our Lord and Savior has already achieved the victory for us—He has won! We are called to wait upon Him rather than worrying!

In this issue of Command, we hear from CH(COL) Marc Gauthier, USA, who discusses the uncertainty that comes with ministering to an ever-changing culture. And you will read an account about Col Michael Moyles, USAF, a cancer survivor who continues to serve our nation despite the uncertainty brought on by health and physical challenges. In each account you will hear about unwavering courage and unfaltering faith in the face of difficulty.

You will also have the opportunity to once again participate in choosing the next Council class to lead OCF into the future. I solicit your prayers and participation as we discern the Lord's will for this amazing ministry.

I again want to thank you for your faithful support of OCF, for your prayers, and for your perseverance as you face uncertainty with grace, courage, steadfastness, and a deep desire to serve Him. May you be filled with His peace, forgoing worry for the unsurpassed knowledge that comes through a deep understanding of His will for your lives. May you grow in your faith as you wait upon the Lord! ✝



Spring Canyon photo

OCF Spring Canyon

Each year we partner with active duty and reserve chaplains during the OCF Chaplains Family Conference. This year's retreat focused on providing a place of restoration, recreation, and refreshment for them. It was a very impactful weekend—two couples and a daughter had life-changing experiences. CH(MG) Doug Carver, USA (Ret.), former Chief of Chaplains, centered his talks on 2 Peter 1:3-11. COL Arnie and Lois Ahnfeldt, USA (Ret.), helped coordinate the event. Danny Byram led us in worship.

Kim & Kari Ann Hawthorne // OCF Field Staff reps

OCF Maxwell-Gunter AFB

Hous & Tami Waring // OCF Field Staff reps

In Need of Constant Grace

Marriages continue to have their crisis points. We are all broken men and women who need God's constant grace to face the consequences of our sin. Students from the SOS class and the AWC class both shared deeply about their needs to have a friend walk and pray with them. We feel completely inadequate every time we're asked to meet with men and women in very tough situations. Please pray that any words from our mouths are sanctified for the work God intends for them to do.

Fellowship with international officers

God provided great fellowship with two international officers this year. Nii and Nana from Ghana were with us in Bible study nearly every week. Nii not only participated in studies, but he gladly led and facilitated every single time I asked. Fikereyesus "Love" Gizaw is our brother from Ethiopia, who was here without his family for AWC. Love joined in both the AWC Bible study and in our Friday night study, faithfully coming with his fellow student, CH(Col) Paul Sutter, USAF. International officers and families are eager to be in their home countries. Pray for their transition to new duties.

Puget Sound & Family Outreach OCF

Larry & Bobbie Simpson // OCF Field Staff reps

Art of Marriage

We teamed with Keith and Sharon Morgan of Cru Military Ministry and presented a marriage retreat at White Sulphur Springs. Over twenty-one couples from OCF's National Capital Region (NCR) participated in the weekend retreat. Bill Law and his team did a wonderful job promoting and coordinating the retreat. It was a great weekend and the Holy Spirit's presence was apparent. The follow-on discussions to the video-based material were rich and extended well beyond the

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conference room. Couples renewed their marriage vows at the conclusion of the event. Immediately following the retreat, we found ourselves engaged in and cultivating long-distance relationships from the retreat. The retreat also linked us with others PCSing to the Puget Sound region.

Send Them in Prayer

We had the privilege of praying for several military members and to “send them” as they PCSed to other locations. Fort Bragg, Kodiak, San Antonio, and Colorado Springs, to name a few, will be better for their gains. With the turnovers, regular weekly and monthly small groups continue, and with anticipation we look forward to welcoming new arrivals to the area.

Pensacola OCF

Chet & Michelle Arnold // OCF Field Staff repes

God is always at work!

Monthly we invite the flight students over for what usually works out, for most of them, to be a couple hours of food, fellowship, a swim in the pool and yard games. Most leave by 2:30 p.m. to study for a flight school event on Monday. The lunch is a great opportunity for them to invite a friend who can get to know the group in a social setting and who might then be interested in joining an OCF Bible study. Each time, there is usually at least one person who hangs back for some in-depth discussion with one or both of us.

Ministry News

Reserve your spot at Aspentime Retreat

OCF’s Aspentime Retreat is a weekend getaway filled with opportunities for Christian fellowship and fun. Enjoy vibrant teaching and small group sessions against the backdrop of the mountains’ changing fall colors.

When: 16-18 September, 1900 Friday thru Sunday lunch

Topic: Maximizing Your Impact as a Christian by speaker CH(CPT) Jacob Snodgrass, USA

Guest Ambassador: COL Steve Shambach, USA (Ret.)

Meals: Saturday breakfast thru Sunday lunch

Rates:

Adults (13+) // \$180

Youth (5-12) // \$125

Children (0-4) // Free

Make a reservation: Call 719-395-2328 or e-mail reservations@springcanyon.org

More info:

springcanyon.org/aspentimeretreat

Spring Canyon launching Parent Youth Adventure

OCF’s Spring Canyon Conference Center launches a new outdoor program this fall geared toward parents and their youth, ages eight to thirteen. Parent Youth Adventure is a Christ-centered, three-day wilderness experience of outdoor activities and events tailored to relationally connect parents and their kids.

Open to moms, dads and their kids, the events are 2-4 September and 7-9 October; cost is \$290 per parent/youth team. Additional youth may participate for \$100

each. For more information, visit springcanyon.org/parent-youth-adventure

Sign up for an upcoming Transition workshop

By Colonel Bill Spencer, USAF (Ret.)

While on active duty, I remember referencing an Air Force instruction that described a typical career path for my particular specialty. Suggested times to attend intermediate and senior service schools were listed, as were desk assignments to command headquarters during waypoints along my career timeline. All of this was to insure that my expectations would match Air Force needs during the duration of my career.

But there wasn’t anything that outlined what’s next. Nor for the timing of the exit. And perhaps like me, you’ve wondered from the fifteen-year point on what that exit point would look like. When we approach uncertainty in our military organizations, talented people around us help us at least organize how to think about it.

What about our personal lives? Only a very few may know you well enough to come alongside you and help you through this looming, end-of-career decision process. Who’s assisting you with how to think about the inevitable transition decision? Our spouses may not share our experience with organizational uncertainty and, in fact, many are quite comfortable with the notion of steady employment and a paycheck.

If your vision for your approaching military career’s end is uncertain, try looking at your future through God’s eyes. OCF regularly hosts Transition Strategies Workshops through Caleb Challenge, a group of senior officers coming along-

Births

Isaac Barnes, born 18 June 2016, son of **LT Nate and Jennifer Barnes**, USCG, Ypsilanti, MI.

ENS Zach Wells and **ENS Kelsey Hickie**, USCG, were married 21 May 2016. Their home is Newport, RI.

Louise Hawthorne, 9 May 2016, wife of **Capt George Hawthorne**, USAF (Ret.), Sidney, IL; mother of **Col Kim Hawthorne**, USAF (Ret.), Buena Vista, CO.

Lori Sanderlin, 9 June 2016, wife of **Mike Sanderlin**, Buena Vista, CO; daughter-in-law of **LTC Sandy and Audie Sanderlin**, USA (Ret.), Highlands Ranch, CO.

Weddings

MAJ Mario Miglietta, USA, married **Victoria Vaganov** on 20 May 2016. Their home is Miami Beach, FL.

Taps

CPT Kevin Elliott, USA (Ret.), 19 May 2016, husband of **Alice Elliott**, New Bern, NC.

Col Radford L. Reavis, USAF (Ret.), 5 June 2016, husband of **Jean Reavis**, College Station, TX.

Sandra Wittmeier, 7 June 2016, wife of **MAJ Sean Wittmeier, USA**, Fort Leavenworth, KS.



Mark Ludovico photo

OCF White Sulphur Springs

We were so blessed to have witnessed Baruk's baptism. May this young man walk with his Savior all his days. "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change" (James 1:17).

Paul & Dawn Robyn // OCF Field Staff reps

side others as coaches to help prepare for approaching transition from the military. Caleb Challenge will be coming to OCF's Spring Canyon and White Sulphur Springs Conference Centers this fall to help attendees think through, discover, plan, and initiate what God has ahead for each.

Dates and information for upcoming workshops

21-23 October at White Sulphur Springs in Pennsylvania: whitesulphur-springs.org/agenda/transition-strategies-conference

11-13 November at Spring Canyon in Colorado: springcanyon.org/transition-strategies-conference

strategies-conference

Col Richard Toliver to be inducted into Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame

Col Richard Toliver, USAF (Ret.), a Tuskegee Airmen protégé whose *The Uncaged Eagle* autobiography chronicled his coming to faith in Jesus Christ and growing up in the pre-Civil-Rights-era South, will be inducted into the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame on 28 October.

The induction ceremony recognizes and honors Arizona veterans who have honorably served their country through

military service and who serve and inspire their fellow American citizens with civic deeds and accomplishments outside their military service, including Arizona Medal of Honor Recipients recognized for valor in action against enemy forces in war-time.

"I am truly humbled beyond words for such a blessing and honor," said Col Toliver. "My acceptance is an acknowledgment of all the folks that have helped me through the years. I am especially thankful for the privilege I've had for nearly sixty years to be inspired, mentored, and trained by the great Tuskegee Airmen of WWII!" ✈️



Julie Moyles photo

Mike Moyles holding daughter, Ellie, and running alongside wife, Angie. Mike was diagnosed with cancer in 1999.

‘Hope does not disappoint us’

How cancer shaped Mike Moyles’ testimony and focused his priorities

By **Karen Fliedner**, Managing Editor

There comes a pivotal moment in every marathon when a runner first resolves to finish. It’s a vow that is repeatedly renewed in the face of many obstacles—through waves of fatigue, blazing heat, and screaming self-doubt. Roadblock enough for any marathoner would be severe cramping, such as what seized Mike Moyles’ legs at mile nine of the 2008 Seattle Marathon.

Yet, that excruciating pain was far from the greatest challenge the Air Force colonel was fighting through that day. He was also running a race for his very life—a battle against an aggressive brain cancer called astrocytoma and the terminal diagnosis he received at age twenty-seven.

He hobbled seventeen more miles to complete the marathon that day.

“I’ve never quit a marathon,” said Mike, a three-time cancer survivor who ran the event despite having no forehead bone (awaiting surgery for an acrylic prosthetic). “And I decided at that race, ‘Not today.’ They’ll have to drag me off the course or haul me away in an ambulance.

Cancer may one day take my life. But not today.”

When he was diagnosed with cancer in 1999, Mike says he worked through the usual questions and doubt—why me? what did I do?—but it was the continued struggle through multiple rounds of chemo, radiation, and surgeries that caused him to take a deeper look at the testimony God was preparing him for and led him to ponder Romans 5:3, “...we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us.”

Although the cancer is in remission, his long-distance

race against the disease continues. For the rest of the Air Force colonel's life, because of the cancer's aggressive re-occurrences—without any symptoms ever indicating its sinister presence—he undergoes a full cancer screening every ninety days.

The OCF Council member's burgeoning medical charts are comprised of a trio of brain surgeries. Two reconstructive surgeries. A year of five days on/twenty-three days off chemotherapy. A third surgery—a radical lobectomy—and higher dose chemo. But with the cancer still growing despite the chemo, forty-two rounds of simultaneous high-dose chemo and radiation.

"BC, before cancer," the self-described "hopeless academic" had long-standing and lofty career ambitions: to be a computer scientist, an Air Force officer—a general specifically. "The most important thing to me was being promoted. I was very conceited, cocky. I would go over or around or through anyone or anything to get to that goal," says Mike, who holds seven engineering and science degrees. He now works as the chief of information technology at NORAD.

That self-centric mentality persisted until the very day he woke up thinking about his promotion to major—another rung on the ladder to the top—and went to bed processing a terminal cancer diagnosis. "That forces you to take a hard look at life, grow up, and completely re-examine your priorities," says Mike. "I wasn't just in the fight OF my life, I was in the fight FOR my life. And I had to change my thinking and priorities to prepare myself and my family for a lifelong battle."

Now, Mike awakens daily thinking of his key priorities. He starts by getting up at 4 a.m. to spend time with God in His Word. Then "anything to serve my family—doing dishes, folding laundry, fixing lunches." Finally, he's off for a run—logging forty to fifty miles weekly. Mike believes that beating cancer lies in addressing the priorities of faith, family, and fitness. "Faith is the spiritual element to us. Mental/emotional is family. Fitness is the physical. At age 43, I'm in the best shape of my life because I have to be."

The road warrior's fire becomes emotional tears of joy when speaking about his girls—wife, Angie, and their daughter, Ellie. Mike's terminal cancer diagnosis came ninety days after Angie accepted his marriage proposal. He offered her an out, "It was the last thing I wanted to do: burden this young woman with caring for a vegetable for the rest of her life. But she wouldn't have anything to do with backing out."

Why did Angie, whom Mike credits for his return to faith and rebaptism, stand by her acceptance of his proposal? "Because after four years of dating and knowing this is who God wants you to marry, you don't back out. Nothing would have made me leave him," she says.

"I would be dead without her," said Mike. Two of his three brain surgeries occurred on their first and fifth wedding anniversaries.

Although they knew the chemo and radiation treat-

Q&A with Angie Moyles

Mike credits you for his return to faith and rebaptism. What did you say or do that convinced this man of science?

I wasn't really anything I said or did. He asked me out—four times!—and I simply wouldn't date him because I knew he was not a committed Christian and didn't go to church. After being invited to church by his boss, he made some clear changes, and I decided to give him a chance. That first date turned into a second, he recommitted his life to Christ about a year later, and we were married about four years after our first date.

Compare the Mike of now with the Mike before cancer.

Cancer changed his perspective on life. What was important prior quickly took a back seat. Work, money, status, all that was important prior to his diagnosis. Afterwards, it was God, family and eventually fitness. He's always been determined and that has never changed.

>More Q&A: Read more online at ocfusa.org.

ments meant having no children of their own, Angie did become pregnant. However, their unborn baby tested for severe Down syndrome. A "genetic counselor" tried to discuss termination options with them. They walked out of the clinic and prepared for raising their Down syndrome daughter.

After Ellie was delivered by the same doctor who had diagnosed her previously, he met with Mike, telling him: "She doesn't have Down syndrome. I saw it a few weeks ago—this baby had it then. I can't explain it."

With tears rimming his eyes, Mike recounts his meeting with the doctor, "Ellie is my double miracle."

The runner's heart also races with anticipation for future ministry "in Colorado Springs where God has postured me." Mike has a Master's degree in theology, with a Christian apologetics emphasis, and deeply desires ministry to young Christians preparing to enter college. Citing Barna research of the nearly eighty percent dropout rate of Christians from their faith after college, Mike wants to drive down that number. "Most are rarely challenged to defend their faith, to articulate what they believe or why. It's hard for some Christians to hear, but there are actually some well-reasoned objections to the Christian faith."

And though Mike is "doing the only thing I ever wanted to do as a 'rocket scientist,'" he also can't wait to retire, "filling in the blanks of my life—traveling, teaching the Word, getting out the message that walking with God and cancer teaches you."

"My cancer has made me a better son, husband, father, brother and friend. I'm a better everything because of the cancer. I can't think of what I would be like now without having gone through it." ✚

More info and background on Mike Moyles

- clearthinkingchristian.com
- www.fightingthroughfitness.com



MSgt Dawn Price, USAF

To follow a certain God in an uncertain world requires spiritual anchor points

By Chaplain Colonel Marc S. Gauthier, United States Army

As our culture continues drifting further into a post-Christian neo-pagan worldview, Christ-followers may be tempted to spiritual panic attacks. Especially for those of us striving to integrate faith and biblical worldview into our military profession, how can we remain faithful to our call when policies and programs appear to oppose higher principles and priorities?

During anxious, despairing moments we must remind ourselves we live in a fallen world. We will always experience tension between what the Lord requires and what the world in its systems expects of us. Yet, we should also remember this eternal truth: God remains on the throne. History is “His story.” And in the end, Jesus triumphs over our morally upside-down world.

Our environment provides a tremendous opportunity to be salt and light in military society. Salt tastes saltiest on a saltless plate. The darker the room the brighter the light. We need anchor points to snap link us to our certain Lord in uncertain times: never forget you are called to serve like a Daniel, and you’re called to love and live like Jesus in a lost world.

You are—and will always be—called. Serving in the military reminds us of God’s sovereignty. Just as the Israelites in the wilderness stopped to set up camp and later rucked up and moved out via the pillar of smoke by day and the pillar of fire at night, that 8x11 piece of paper called orders to the next duty station also serves as sovereign God’s assignment to you. As a Christian you can know without a doubt that the assignment officer was acting as God’s mouthpiece when those orders were cut. God has already prepositioned the people you will live, work, and deploy with—a strategic placement as His ambassador—to make an impact, possibly beyond this life and military career.

Even if living out your calling is demanding and over-

Q&A with chaplains

COMMAND asked a trio of chaplains—LT Jon Uybo, CHC, USN; CH(MAJ) Todd Cheney, USA, and CH(COL) Marc Gauthier, USA—to share some insights and experiences of serving military men and women for Christ. [Read more at ocfusa.org](http://ocfusa.org).

What are the most rewarding/most difficult aspects of your ministry?

Jon Uybo: The most rewarding is sitting down to talk with young Marines about what it looks like to follow Christ in their challenging and unique environment. I love how raw and real these conversations can be, and I always walk away feeling energized by what God is doing in their lives. The most difficult aspect is this job has no borders. My day heads off in unplanned directions every time I hear, “Hey, Chaps, do you have a second?” At home, whenever my cell phone rings (frequently), my kids’ first question is, “Daddy, do you have to go back to work?” It can be very tiring on me and my family. Every week I deal with combinations of suicide, divorce, domestic violence, depression, etc. Constantly empathizing with people who are going through these painful experiences within the context of 100 percent confidentiality is a very isolating feeling as a chaplain.

One of OCF’s spiritual pillars is “Supporting the Chaplaincy.” What are some ways OCF members can support their chaplains, even if their religious viewpoints differ greatly?

Todd Cheney: I would recommend to have awareness. What I mean is that the life and ministry of a chaplain is no different than a local church pastor. Chaplains are susceptible to loneliness, isolation, and hurtful criticism. And I encourage OCF members to seek out their chaplains and genuinely ask them how they’re doing and how you could pray for them. I have personally experienced this type of care for the “caregiver,” and it was tremendously encouraging.

Who ministers to you? How can OCF and its members help you personally?

Marc Gauthier: Pray for and with us. It is a tremendous blessing to know our military lay brothers and sisters have our back spiritually through prayer. Extend the offer of spiritual friendship to your chaplain. A retired brigadier general once said to me, “The two loneliest people in a unit are the commander and chaplain.” Being a spiritual battle buddy to your chaplain can be a huge encouragement.

whelming, remember God equips His called ones. As attributed to the great missionary Hudson Taylor, “Where God leads, He feeds; and where He guides, He provides.” Our responsibility is to find the cache points of God’s grace and resource ourselves for the demands of our calling.

Serve like a Daniel. As God’s people in the military struggle with policies running counter to a biblical worldview, it’s helpful to understand and practice the example of Daniel in the Old Testament, who lived in the morally corrupt, pagan society of Babylon, which had conquered and enslaved Israel. Daniel’s actions and reactions provide helpful Tactics Techniques and Procedures (TTPs) for living out our faith in the military.

Daniel had a clear sense of his lines in the sand. Remaining prayed-up and under the authority of God, he willingly assumed risk when confronted with the unexpected challenges of living in a godless society. Daniel stood faithfully for his God-centered convictions, yet communicated them in a humble, gentle spirit. God used the proximity of Daniel’s calling before the pagan king and his court and his spiritually courageous life to humble the king and manifest God’s greatness to Babylon.

We each must prayerfully determine our lines in the sand, based on our understanding of God’s Word and the conviction of the Holy Spirit. When faced with the choice of honoring God, are we willing to assume risk by doing what’s right? When the meeting engagement comes, remember all you have at that moment is what you have. A spiritually full magazine increases the likelihood of doing what is right and honoring to the Lord.

We must learn to live and love like Jesus in an uncertain world. We must love those we interface with whose lifestyles and worldviews are contrary to ours. When we encounter those broken by their sin or others’ sins, we must engage them with the love and mercy of Jesus. Sin is sin in God’s eyes. He does not grade on a curve. His solution for sinners separated from Him is Jesus Christ’s life, work, and resurrection. The same grace that brought us to Christ brings all who call upon His name, regardless of the manifestation of their lost lives and lifestyle choices.

In thinking about Jesus and who He drew to Himself, it was the untouchables of society. Those most sincerely lost wanted to be with Him—not the religious folks. Who would the “untouchables” of our day say they felt the most judged and rejected by? I’d say Christians, and the church in general. If we are called to live and love like Jesus there ought to be a magnetic quality to our faith which draws the lost and opens opportunity to communicate where our hope and salvation lies. When Jesus met the woman caught in the act of adultery, He extended grace to her while not compromising the truth of Scripture, “Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more” (John 8:11). Wouldn’t it be wonderful if those most lost would be as drawn to us as they are drawn to Jesus?

It’s said that discouragement is the occupational hazard of the Christian ministry. I would broaden that by substituting “life” for “ministry.” To remain inspired and encouraged we must strongly believe we follow a certain God in an uncertain world. Never doubt your calling to your unit, post, or ship by the Master Logistician who will supply all your needs. Maintain your strength in God for those Daniel-sized challenges coming your way by resting in His outcome. Live like Jesus, clothed in Him to live out that calling in a morally ambiguous, often haywire world. Practice these anchor points and you will remain snap linked into the Rock of Ages. 🙏

ABOUT MARC

Marc, who is moving from his Army’s Training and Doctrine Command post at Fort Eustis, VA, and is in a third term on OCF Council, will serve as garrison chaplain at Joint Base Lewis McCord, WA. Marc is a twenty-four-year Army chaplain with multiple deployments to Iraq, Afghanistan and Kuwait. He and his wife, Christa, have four children.

OCF Council elections open through 30 Sept.

OCF Council elections for the Class of 2018 start 1 September. Eligible OCF members are encouraged to vote in the election running through 30 September. Vote for as many as five candidates at <http://voting.ocfusa.org>. A voting FAQ can also be found at <http://voting.ocfusa.org/faq>. Members who cannot/prefer not to vote online can use the paper ballot found on the next page or contact Heidi Martin at the OCF home office: 800-424-1984 or heidi.martin@ocfusa.org. The following candidates are listed in alphabetical order of last name.

Col Amanda S. Birch, USAFR



Education: U.S. Air Force Academy, BS Mech Eng/ Eng Sciences/French, 1996; MIT, MS Mech Eng, 1998; Air University, Air Command & Staff College, 2008; Air War College, 2012; The Fletcher School of Law & Diplomacy at Tufts University, International

Relations, 2015

Present Assignment: Director, Civil-Military Training Policy; Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Manpower and Reserve Affairs (Pentagon)

Ministry Involvement: OCF member since 1998; current Council member; OCF Conference Center Task Force II; local/team leader, Cambridge, MA; Eglin/Hurlburt, FL; JB Andrews, MD; Seymour Johnson AFB, NC; Squadron Officer School and OTS Sunday School, Maxwell-Gunter AFB OCF; Sunday school facilitator, parish council, community soup kitchen board, CGO Bible study and mentoring leader

Personal Testimony: While searching for hope and healing following a hardship at USAFA, a friend, a chaplain, and a small group Bible study helped me see my spiritual need. I began to follow Christ as a second lieutenant.

What is the biggest challenge you see currently facing OCF right now? We must coach, equip, and encourage a diverse group of Christ-following military leaders to be bold but shrewd in ministering to a military community that 1) embraces shifting concepts of community and belonging and 2) faces growing hostility toward Christ and His followers, even while desperate for the hope and healing that Christ alone provides. The corollary is sparking innovation to personally engage OCF affiliates from cadets to retirees to associate members while optimizing integration of OCF's mission and resources.

Nominated by: VADM Rick Breckenridge, USN; Col Scott Fisher, USAF; MAJ Dave Guida, USA; LTC Tom Schmidt, USA (Ret.); Tamara Waring, (separated USAF captain)

LTC Vaughn Eric Hathaway, USA



Education: University of Southern Mississippi, BS, 1994

Present Assignment: Instructor at the Command General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, KS

Ministry Involvement: OCF member since 2007; OCF Council member (and on

Finance Committee); Bible study leader, Fort Leavenworth, KS; North Camp MFO Sinai, Egypt; post coordinator, Fort Sill, OK

Personal Testimony: My father was saved as a U.S. Air Force airman and later became a pastor, passing on his faith and patriotism to all his children. I claim the earliest salvation of Christ as seen in Psalm 22:9-10. Throughout my life in two wars and three fronts and numerous deployments the Lord has been my rock and shield. I trust in Christ alone.

What is the biggest challenge you see currently facing OCF right now? The greatest challenge facing OCF is to continue our partnership with chaplains while boldly standing for Christ and the gospel in a military that becomes ever more antichristian. As soldiers and leaders we must learn to exemplify the virtues of Christ through action and deed so as to cause the lost around us to notice and encourage our fellow believers. We must not compromise our stance in all attempts to pass on our faith to the next generation of leaders.

Nominated by: COL Rich Goldsmith, USA (Ret.); LTC Kristopher Howell, USA; MAJ Benjamin Jordan, USA (Ret.); COL Jackie Kem, USA (Ret.); MAJ Mark Winton, USA

COL Robert (Rob) L. Jassey, USA (Ret.)



Education: Iowa State University, BS Math, 1981; Kansas State University, MS Industrial Engineering, 1992; Army War College, MS Strategy & Policy, 2001

Present Assignment: Director of Integrated Air & Missile Defense and Deputy Program

Director IBCS, Northrop Grumman Corporation

Ministry Involvement: OCF member since 1984; OCF local rep, Huntsville/Redstone AL, other places; taught Sunday school; church admin board; ADAA Board, homeschool board president; taught Financial Peace 3X/year for five years

Personal Testimony: I was a new lieutenant at Fort Bliss. Tami returned to her folks in Leavenworth before my graduation from OBC. I saw our marriage in trouble. I started to read a Bible one night and decided to give my life

to Christ. Little did I know, Tami was doing the same thing at the same time in Kansas.

What is the biggest challenge you see currently facing OCF right now? How can we remain a light in an ever darkening world? We must create leaders who can provide clarity while at the same time exhibit compassion for a hurting world. We have got to find ways to connect with Christians in the military on an individual basis, engage in their lives, and provide the courage to boldly live a Christ-centered life.

Nominated by: CAPT Chris Blake, USN (Ret.); COL Rich Goldsmith, USA (Ret.); 1LT Joseph Prininger, USA; LTC Tom Schmidt, USA (Ret.)

LT James A. Rader, USCG



Education: U.S. Coast Guard Academy, Naval Architecture & Marine Engineering degree, 2010

Present Assignment: Rotary Wing Aviator, USCG Air Station Houston, TX

Ministry Involvement: OCF member since 2006; local

leader, Houston, TX; OCF Bible study worship leader & coordinator, Pensacola, FL; assisted starting/hosting OCF group, Portsmouth, NH; USCGA OCF cadet president, worship leader; organize/lead prayer breakfasts, in cooperation with the chaplain; weekly Bible study leader for church's military members

Personal Testimony: I was raised in a Christian home and accepted Christ as my Savior at a young age. In my teen years, I felt called to ministry and eventually joined the CG. I am confident that God has placed me where I am to be His ambassador and to minister to fellow service members.

What is the biggest challenge you see currently facing OCF right now? Duty stations in areas without a strong military presence present a unique opportunity for a tight-knit family of military believers through OCF. Experience unfortunately has shown me that these locales have been lacking an OCF community. The remedy for any OCF member arriving there is to start a group! The challenge arises from the fact that awareness of OCF is not as high as it could be, which limits networking with other believers when arriving at a new duty station.

Nominated by: LT Nate Barnes, USCG; Maj James Groves, USAF (Ret.); LT Levi Rusch, USCG; CAPT Jamie Vandiver, USN (Ret.)

MAJ Stephen T. Schmidt, USA

Education: University of Idaho, BS and MS Family and Consumer Sciences, 1999 and 2001
Present Assignment: Executive Officer,

Department of the Army G3/5/7 (DAMO-AV), Pentagon

Ministry Involvement: OCF member since 2014;



National Capital Region area coordinator, Virginia; Bible study leader and area coordinator, Fort Leavenworth, KS

Personal Testimony: I attended church off and on throughout my life and was baptized in 2007, but

lacked a relationship or mentorship to deepen my relationship with Christ. However, after a challenging deployment to Afghanistan, I began to fully understand the sacrifice that Christ made for me and was born again, fully dedicating my life to my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

What is the biggest challenge you see currently facing OCF right now? Encouraging and equipping military officers to boldly stand for Christ and minister effectively in a military society that presents increasing challenges to open ministry. We must remain clear and focused on effective support to the chaplaincy and Scripture-centered programs that serve to equip military personnel with the full armor of God integrating faith and the military profession. Finally, we must continually strive to increase exposure across the military ensuring maximum opportunity to strengthen Christian military officers at every opportunity.

Nominated by: LTC James Cameron, USA; MAJ Dave Guida, USA; LTC Eric Hathaway, USA

COL Paul (Ric) Schumacher, USA



Education: Mercer University, BS Chemistry, 1991; Washington State University, MS Neuroscience, 2001

Present Assignment: OSD Policy, NCR

Ministry Involvement: OCF member since 2000; small group leader, West Point, NY

and Stuttgart, Germany; Council member, NCR; Sunday School teacher, Fort Belvoir Chapel

Personal Testimony: I grew up in a non-believing

household although my grandparents took me to church occasionally. It was not until I was a junior in college when I understood the real consequences of sin and my need for a Savior. I am forever thankful for the prayers and efforts of my grandparents, friends and the work of the Holy Spirit.

What is the biggest challenge you see currently facing OCF right now? I am excited and look forward to the future of OCF as we come to the end of the Capital Campaign and begin the implementation of our new strategic framework. Our challenge as we look to the future is to remain true to the gospel, OCF's Purpose and Vision, and our core values while being willing to step boldly into the future as we alter our approach and adjust to a changing society.

Nominated by: COL Rich Goldsmith, USA (Ret.); CDR Steve Hoffman, USN; CAPT Jamie Vandiver, USN (Ret.)

LT Benjamin L. Scripture, USN



Education: USNA, BS Systems Engineering, 2008

Present Assignment: API instructor

Ministry Involvement: OCF member since 2008; regular attendee, occasional music/study leader, OCF Pensacola (North); deacon, worship team

Personal Testimony: I was raised in a Christian home and accepted Christ at a young age. I continued to grow through discipleship at church and Christian camps. During my time at the Naval Academy, Flight School, and in the fleet, OCF and similar Bible studies were essential to my sustainment and growth in my walk with the Lord.

What is the biggest challenge you see currently facing OCF right now? In our current climate of ever-increasing resistance to Christian ideals and teaching, OCF must continue to strengthen its efforts support and equip believers in the military to stand courageously and shine Christ's light in an ever-darkening world. The enemy is not resting, neither can we. OCF must strive both to empower and embolden our present leaders,

and to raise up a new generation of brave men and women to serve Jesus while they serve our nation and beyond.

Nominated by: Col Chet Arnold, USMC (Ret.); LCDR Matt McDermott, USN; CAPT Jamie Vandiver, USN (Ret.)

Maj Timothy L. Tormey, USMC



Education: USNA, Mechanical Engineering degree, 1999; Marine Corps Command and Staff College, 2011, Master in Military Studies

Present Assignment: Joint Warfighting Instructor, Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell-Gunter AFB, AL

Ministry Involvement: OCF member since 1999; assist Hous Waring with SOS/OTS Bible studies, Maxwell-Gunter AFB, AL; OCF home Bible study leader; host/led OCF study; Pensacola OCF participant; co-led Bible study, USS Makin Island; Bible study co-leader, Young Meadows Presbyterian Church, Montgomery, AL

Personal Testimony: I grew up in a Christian home but really took ownership of my faith in high school. Young Life and Campaigner's fed me and surrounded me with other believers, including my now wife. Then I was mentored by spiritual giants like Bob Underhill and Tom Hemingway. Through the years my service to God has been overshadowed by intimacy with God.

What is the biggest challenge you see currently facing OCF right now? OCF does discipleship well but the challenge comes in the hand off. Eventually, a PCS/deployment dissolves the discipleship and accountability. Who are the OCF representatives at the next duty station? Is there an OCF member or a Paul that can connect with young Timothy? We need to link the two before they leave and ensure someone is available to welcome them. Initially they are a resource that connects them with the local area and OCF body—ideally they continue discipling.

Nominated by: Maj Sarah Kaiser, USAF; Lt Col Ryan Mihata, USAF; Lt Col Thomas Ira Savoie, USAF; Col Houston Waring, USAF (Ret.)

Cast a paper ballot for OCF Council

If you'd prefer to cast a paper ballot instead of voting online, select your candidates by placing a mark in the box next to their name, cut out just this ballot portion, and submit your ballot in the donations envelope provided inside this issue of COMMAND. Remember: You may select up to 5 candidates. Please also include your name and OCF member number.

YOUR FULL NAME	OCF MEMBER NUMBER	CONTACT (PHONE OR EMAIL)
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I select the following candidates for OCF Council (you may select up to 5):

Col Amanda S. Birch, USAFR

LTC Vaughn Eric Hathaway, USA

COL Robert (Rob) L. Jassey, USA (Ret.)

LT James A. Rader, USCG

MAJ Stephen T. Schmidt, USA

COL Paul (Ric) Schumacher, USA

LT Benjamin L. Scripture, USN

Maj Timothy L. Tormey, USMC



Fort Leonard Wood OCF photo



Ssg Gary Miles, USA, photo



Fort Gordon OCF photo

Fort Leonard Wood—Missouri

TOP: Kickoff conference – An OCF small group fellowship was revived earlier this year at Fort Leonard Wood. (Fourth and third from left) LTC Mike Helton, USA, and LTC Tom Schmidt, USA (Ret.), spoke at the event, where attendees saw a how-to presentation of OCF neighborhood Bible studies and were encouraged to lead a group.

CJOC Task Force Commandos Bible Study—Afghanistan

ABOVE LEFT: During their nine-month deployment to Kandahar Airfield, these Task Force Commandos met for Bible study.

Feasting on the meaty substance from the Book of Romans, they also munched on cookies sent to (third from left) CH(MAJ) Todd Cheney, USA, that were “provided by my awesome wife, Kristin, and daughter Paige.”

Fort Gordon—Georgia

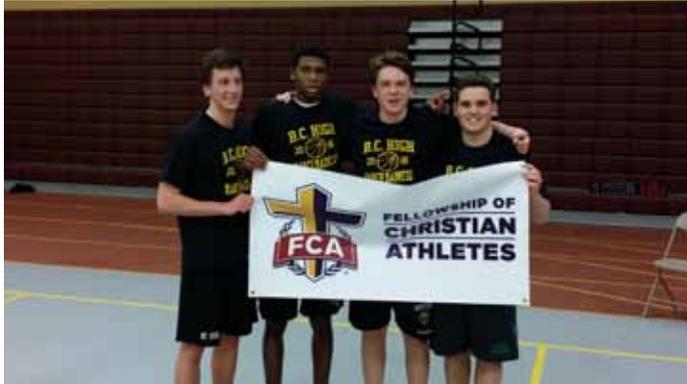
ABOVE RIGHT: MAJ Ric Becker, USA, (second from right) hosted a ministry revival brunch earlier this year at Fort Gordon to “build on the currently small ministry, initiate weekly leader meetings, and provide for the continuity of leaders” after the Becker family’s PCS to MD. Other plans included a post-wide BBQ and inviting others into the OCF ministry at Fort Gordon.



New Hampshire OCF photo



Langley OCF photo



Jack Travers photo

New Hampshire OCF

TOP: A wonderful time of fellowship—CDR Peter Burdett, USN (Ret.), reports on the maiden launch of an “OCF seacoast-area Bible study” led by COL Hunt Kerrigan, ARNG (Ret.) and wife, Maj Stephanie Kerrigan, ANG. The event “was inspired by memories of socials held in Virginia Beach during the 70s, provided by the leadership of Earle and Marilyn Rogers.” CDR Burdett added that the group “is looking forward to adding others to the study—and another ice cream opportunity!”

Langley AFB—Virginia

ABOVE LEFT: Ambassadors to the Armed Forces—Several Cambodian and Vietnamese officers attending an international mari-

time officers course in Virginia were special guests of the Langley AFB OCF group. The Langley group illustrates one of OCF’s core competencies: small groups with opportunity for “fellowship, prayer, and mutual encouragement of military believers.”

FCA fundraiser for OCF

ABOVE RIGHT: The boys were awesome—For the second consecutive year, a Fellowship of Christian Athletes club in Massachusetts sponsored a three-on-three basketball tourney with the proceeds given to OCF for its ministry purposes. Boston College High School’s FCA raised \$876 for OCF, which was selected by the club’s sponsor because of OCF’s top four-star Charity Navigator rating and its Christian focus and outreach to the military.



Fort Leonard Wood OCF photo

Fort Leonard Wood OCF—Missouri

ABOVE: Supporting the Chaplaincy—The leaders of the Fort Leonard Wood OCF linked up with the garrison chaplain and other chaplains to support their ministry efforts of a new soldier service at the chapel. Several soldiers from two engineer battalions—one commanded by FLW OCF leader LTC Mike Helton (right of center)—were baptized. LTC Helton stepped up to lead the revival of the Fort Leonard Wood OCF earlier this year, which has since enjoyed a kick-off event, Bible studies and discipleship luncheons.

Redstone OCF—Alabama

LEFT: Longtime participant and leader—Fred Niedermeyer (right), pictured with OCF Council member, COL Rich Goldsmith, USA (Ret.), gave a message of encouragement to the Redstone Arsenal Chapel men’s group earlier this summer. The Redstone OCF fellowship, possibly the longest continuously operating OCF group, was started in the 1960s by the late COL Morris Pettit, USA (Ret.). Fred and his wife, Barbara—who led a women’s Bible study at the chapel for more than forty years— are moving to Florida.



Redstone OCF photo

Send us your #MinistryInAction group photo

For consideration in *COMMAND* magazine or OCF Facebook, send your high-resolution photo to Managing Editor Karen Fliedner: karen.fliedner@ocfusa.org.



Summer programs wrap up at OCF conference centers

Another summer is in the books at OCF's Spring Canyon and White Sulphur Springs conference centers. Here are a few photos from each location. Be sure to visit the Facebook pages for Spring Canyon, Rocky Mountain High, Father Teen Adventure, White Sulphur Springs, and Allegheny Outback! to see even more photos from this summer's events. And if you attended one of our conference center events this summer, thank you! We hope you were truly blessed and refreshed.



WHAT IS THE OCF HONOR FUND?

Veterans Day is just weeks away. Honor the memory of a loved one or friend, or celebrate a special occasion by making a donation to the OCF Honor Fund. Your gift will help the ministry of OCF in its work to encourage military men, women, and families around the world. When we receive your contribution in honor of another person, we will send a letter to that person or their family letting them know your gift was given in their honor. We will also print the name of your loved one or friend in a future issue of COMMAND.

WHO IS THE HERO YOU HONOR?

Use the enclosed envelope to make a donation, or visit our website where you can use the Hero Wall to tell us about the hero in your life—what makes them special to you?

www.ocfusa.org/honor-fund

HONOR

Alan Leonard

By Mr. Canon Maggi

Avery Evans

By MAJ & Mrs. Todd T. Evans, USA (Ret.)

Ben Jordan

By LTC & Mrs. Eric E. Hungerford, USA (Ret.)

CDR Bryan Burt, USN (Ret.)

By ENS Kyle T. Waldorf, USN

CDT Andrew Mayerchak, USAF

By Mr. Martin Mayerchak

CDT Meagen Witham, USCG

By Mr. Donald Witham

Col Larry Simpson, USAF (Ret.)

By COL & Mrs. Robert C. Webster, USA (Ret.)

Col Chester A. Arnold Jr, USMC (Ret.)

By LT Rocky C. Ward, USCG

Dr. Martin C. Carlisle

By Ms. Reagan A. Mullin

By Mr. Luke T. Jones

LtCol Terry and Artha Stokka, USA (Ret.)

By Maj Michelle L. Taylor, USAF & Mr. Steve

Taylor

USMA Class of 1978

By COL & Mrs. Kim R. Kadesch, USA

MEMORIAL**Roberta F. Henderson**

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1LT Jonathan Shine, USA

By COL William J. Burke, USAR (Ret.)

Andrew Baer

By Mrs. Helena M. Gerard

By Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Loehring

By Mr. Harry Lowcock

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By Mr. & Mrs. William McClean

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By Ms. Mariel Rodgers

By Anonymous

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By Mr. Michael Dean

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By Ms. Amaryllis V. Rice

By Ms. Nancy L. Slack

By Mr. John A. Williamson

By Lt Col Clifton G. Hertel, USAF (Ret.) & Mrs.

Joanne Hagadorn

By Mr. Richard Barry

By Mr. & Mrs. Paul E. Wilhelm

By MajGen & Mrs. Melvin G. Spiese, USMC

(Ret.)

By Mr. & Mrs. Tom Wilhelm

Betsy Teuton

By ENS Justin Sherman, USCG

By LT & Mrs. Nathan D. Barnes, USCG

By LTJG Rachel L. Christensen, USCG

By Mr. & Mrs. Charles J. Dierker

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(Ret.)

By Anonymous

By Capt & Mrs. Gareth P. Hughes, USMC

By Maj & Mrs. L. M. Croy Jr, USMC (Ret.)

By LtCol & Mrs. A. J. Diehl, USMC (Ret.)

By Capt Carly E. Schwarzenberg, USMC & Mr.

Andres Schwarzenberg

By LtCol & Mrs. Robert H. Harter, USMC (Ret.)

By LtCol J. R. Muhlig Jr, USMC (Ret.)

By LtCol Stephen Santa Ana, USMCR (Ret.) &

LtCol Megan G. Santa Ana, USMCR (Ret.)

By Capt & Mrs. Lars D. Anderson, USMC

By Col & Mrs. Lawrence S. Loch, USMC (Ret.)

By Capt & Mrs. Nathan J. Mast, USMC

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By Col & Mrs. Philip J. Exner, USMC (Ret.)

By 1stLt Shannon M. Groff, USMC & 1stLt

Jonathan A. Groff, USMC

By Maj & Mrs. Edward V. Davis Jr, USMC (Ret.)

By MajGen & Mrs. Melvin G. Spiese, USMC

(Ret.)

By LtCol & Mrs. George S. Whitbeck, USMC

(Ret.)

By LCDR Justin L. Middlebrook, USN & LCDR

Danica L. Middlebrook, USNR

CAPT Harry R. Miller, CHC, USN (Ret.)

By Colonel & Mrs. John R. Black

Capt Mark R. McDowell, USAF

By Capt Christopher D. Peterson, USAF

CAPT Michael Dallam, USN (Ret.)

By CAPT & Mrs. Paul D. Ims Jr, USN (Ret.)

COL Billy F. Miller, USA (Ret.)

By CH(COL) & Mrs. Robert R. Covington Jr,

USA (Ret.)

COL Eric G. Kail, USA (Ret.)

By Mrs. Gigi Kail

Col Radford Lee Reavis, USAF (Ret.)

By Mr. & Mrs. Dan VandeVanter

By R. Frances Domenico, Rev. Trust, DOT

By COL & Mrs. Travis H. Small Jr, USA (Ret.)

By LTC & Mrs. Fredrick H. Niedermeyer, USA

(Ret.)

By Mr. Zachary H. Barrett

By Mrs. Betty S. Burnham

COL Ronald C. Baldwin, USA (Ret.)

By Ms. Stephanie J. Bond

By Mr. John W. Witters

By Mr. & Mrs. Ted H. Brown

By Mr. Larry N. Wiley

CPT Kevin M. Elliott, USA (Ret.)

By Mrs. Alice Elliott

CW4 Ralph Thompson

By Maj & Mrs. Neil A. Slattery, USAF (Ret.)

D.R. James

Milton Pyron

T.M. Byrd

Dorothy Medlin

Judge Charles Plunkett

By CAPT & Mrs. O. W. Camp Jr, USNR (Ret.)

Dr. Richard Kasper

By Mr. & Mrs. Henry Klehn Jr

Elizabeth Durham

By Mr. Patrick Murphy

Helen Crist

By LTC & Mrs. Adam A. Crist, USA (Ret.)

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By Ms. Barbara Bradshaw

Lt Col Guy Pulliam, USAF

By Mrs. Patricia J. Miller

LtCol Marvin D. Gardner, USMC (Ret.)

By Mrs. Amy Gardner

Maj Ronald P. Johnson, USMC (Ret.)

By Mrs. Earline K. Johnson

Paul H. Springfield

By COL & Mrs. G. Scott Taylor, USA

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By Mr. & Mrs. William C. Heyniger

By Ms. Lynne M. Koenig

By Ms. Barbara L. Atkinson

By Ms. Louise H. Kizima

Rachel Wade

By Ms. Thelma J. Elgersma



White Sulphur Springs photo

Participants in the EXSEL Discipleship Program. EXSEL is now in its second year at White Sulphur Springs.

EXSEL teaches vocation, service, leadership

By OCF Communications Department

Now in its second year, the EXSEL (experience, service, leadership) discipleship program at OCF's White Sulphur Springs Conference Center is a yearlong, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for young men and women ages 18-24. Consider the value of your son or daughter discovering God's direction for their lives through an exciting, immersive community experience. In EXSEL they'll learn and practice a vocational skill, earn academic credits, and focus on Christian spiritual disciplines while serving others. WSS director Paul Robyn answered a few questions about changes for the second season, now underway.

What's new for EXSEL in 2016-2017?

The biggest change is that we now have Lt Col Jim and Claudia Marrs, USAF (Ret.), on the ministry team full time to run the program. Based on lessons learned from evaluating last year's resources and interviewing interns and staff, some elements will remain with some new materials introduced. Despite the adjustments, the focus of everything done in EXSEL is to help the interns grow as disciples of Christ and servant leaders. With His grace, the great work accomplished last year will be refined and magnified.

What are some of the successes you had with the first EXSEL class?

Just going from initial concept to launching EXSEL (mid-2014 to mid-2015) was a major praise! It's like building an airplane while in flight. The major successes: seeing the interns grow in faith and understanding. Providing more hands and feet to serve and minister—a blessing to our ministry. Especially with weekend retreats we could provide a full quality children's program for groups with the interns here.

What were some of the things you saw the Lord do in the interns' lives?

It was truly exciting to be part of what the Lord did in their lives. Each intern grew in faith and understanding of the Lord. We saw the Lord working in the hearts of several, who were facing challenging family circumstances at home, to repent of their sins and be able to extend forgiveness. Two interns both came here thinking they were Christians and upon realizing they weren't, gave their hearts to Jesus. It was a joy to look back over the year to remember where each intern was when they arrived at EXSEL.

What has been one of the more unexpected outcomes?

Realizing the power of this type of environment for discipleship. In today's world—

even if you're extremely purposeful about discipleship—at best, you only get snippets of time while trying to balance work, family, and school, etc. EXSEL is completely immersive. The interns live, work, serve, eat, and learn with us as parts of the WSS family. It is impossible to be part of this program for an entire year, and keep a mask on. Masks come off as we live life together. And when that happens, the Lord uses it to change hearts and mold us into Christ-likeness.

Why should parents encourage their young adults to apply for EXSEL?

Even with the best possible home and educational environments during childhood, it's likely that young adults have been negatively impacted by a culture that's increasingly abandoning biblical values. Experience is another reason. Many young adults move from high school to college and to the workforce without gaining any real life or work experience. By the time they leave EXSEL they'll have actual work experience to put on a resume, including project management, marketing, facilities, maintenance and food service. 🙌

ON THE WEB

For more information about EXSEL, go to: whitesulphursprings.org/exsel

COMMAND®

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 3784 S. Inca Street, Englewood, CO 80110
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 karen.fliedner@ocfusa.org.

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Major Todd Cheney
 UNITED STATES ARMY, CHAPLAIN

Came to OCF: In 2012, while I was assigned to the United States Military Academy.

Involvement in OCF: My wife, Kristin, and I facilitated a plebe Bible study through the Gospel of John at West Point's OCF. It was life changing ministry watching cadets learn about Jesus and the Gospel. I believe I learned more from the cadets than they learned from me!

Why OCF for me: I love OCF because it provides a time during the middle of the week to worship, to connect with other believers, and to study the Scriptures with others. And because OCF attracts military personnel, there is a mutual commitment to be fed truth and to graciously hold one another accountable to growing in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.

What's on my iPod: Switchfoot! I appreciate the group's focus on human

brokenness and the need for God's redemption and grace.

What's on my bucket list: A reformation study tour of Germany, England, and Scotland. I love reading church history. My favorite period is English Puritanism.

Most memorable/exotic places visited: Kristin and I vacationed in Greece for her 40th birthday. The island of Mykonos was breathtaking!

Best advice given you: Learn to listen to your wife. That concise marital advice has paid huge dividends over twenty-two years of marriage.

Life Bible verse: "Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him" (James 1:12).

Come 'home' for the holidays

Spend Christmas at Spring Canyon and White Sulphur Springs!

Join family and friends at an OCF conference center this Christmas or New Year's holiday. Experience the many wonderful opportunities for a special holiday celebration at both Spring Canyon and White Sulphur Springs, where you will be strengthened in our common faith in Jesus Christ.

> [Get more information and register at springcanyon.org](http://springcanyon.org) or whitesulphursprings.org

WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS WINTER RETREATS

WR 1, 16-21 Dec: CDR Norman Brown,
CHC, USN (Ret.)

WR 2, 21-26 Dec: CH(COL) Chip Huey,
USA

WR 3, 26-30 Dec: CH(LTC) Dave
Bowlus, USA

WR 4, 30 Dec-2 Jan: Col Hous Waring,
USAF (Ret.)

SPRING CANYON WINTER SPORTS RETREATS

WSR 1, 19-26 Dec: LTC Tom Schmidt,
USA (Ret.)

WSR 2, 27 Dec-3 Jan: Brig Gen David
Warner, USAF (Ret.)