

Christian perspectives on life in the military

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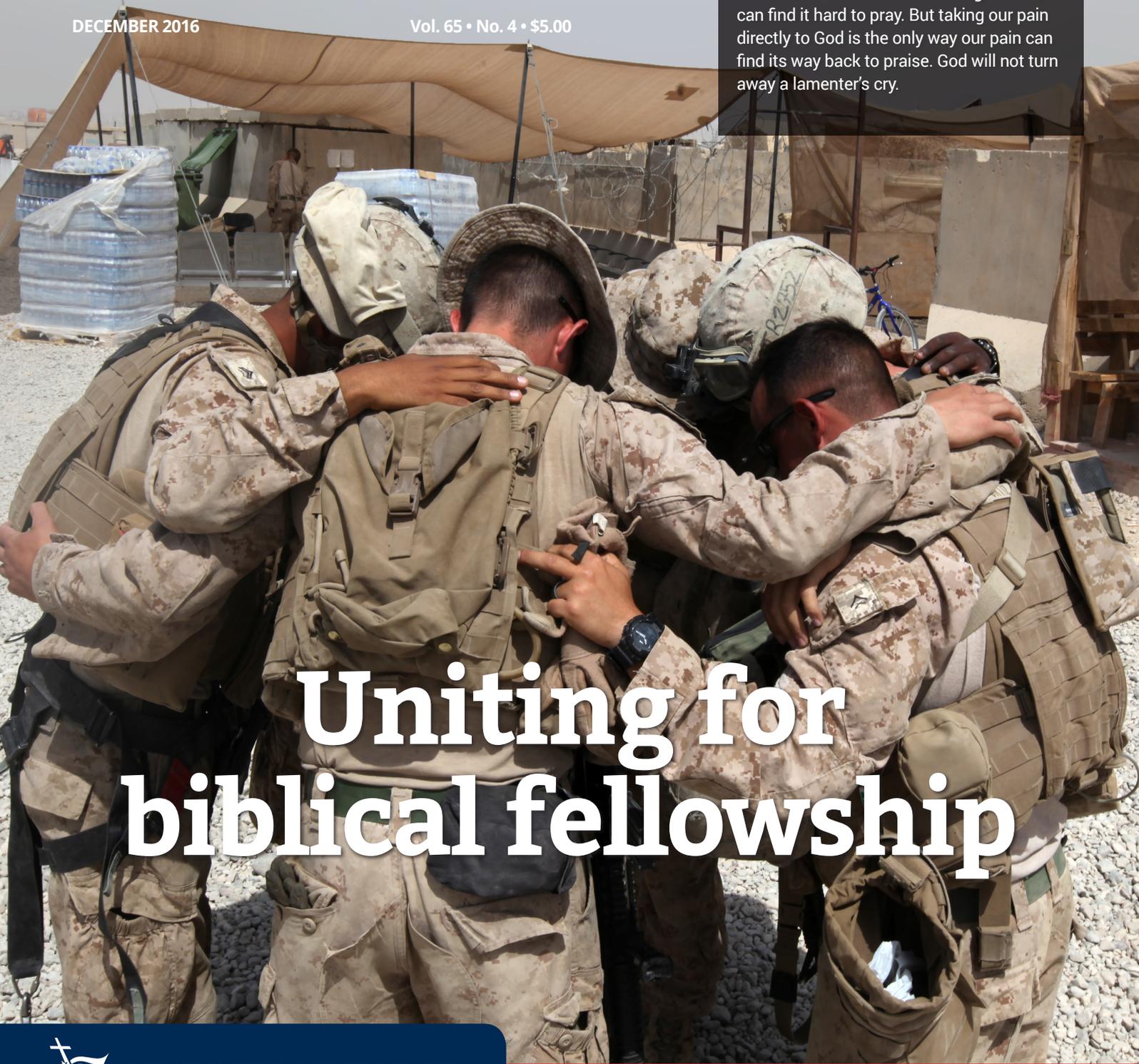
The 16,000-mile 'HousHold Adventure'
With each passing mile behind the Waring family, a pathway toward future ministry was being paved by connecting with and hearing the hearts of airmen and chaplains.

Christianity is a team sport

The power of Christian fellowship works as we serve one another in prayer, with a timely passage of Scripture, with a meal, with a listening ear and in many other ways.

When Christmas isn't happy

Often when we are in a lamenting season, we can find it hard to pray. But taking our pain directly to God is the only way our pain can find its way back to praise. God will not turn away a lamenter's cry.



Uniting for biblical fellowship



OFFICERS' CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
Building Christian leaders, families, fellowships...for a lifetime

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OCF Fellowships: Lighthouses in the storm

Standing amidst a wonderful gathering of OCF faithful on a beautiful September day, I was struck by the peaceful setting along the Hampton Roads Harbor. I was moved by the symbolism of the harbor as a peaceful place where weary sailors can seek refuge from storms and rough seas, and of lighthouses that guide sailors through the darkness past perilous rocks and lurching sand drifts. Speaking with my fellow OCFers, I reminded them that they represent lighthouses of refuge, guiding others into the safety of the harbor.



**DAVID
WARNER**

Executive
Director

Once in the harbor, the sailors busy themselves in the preparatory actions needed to get them ready to once again embark upon the high seas. OCF fellowships aren't nouns referring to a place, but rather verbs highlighting what takes place in and through Christian communities. They are relationships being forged in faith so that participants can go forth and make a difference and influence those with whom they serve!

Standing there that fall day in Virginia, I reflected on my personal journey. In 1987, Lori and I arrived at Maxwell AFB in Alabama, then quickly settled into our neighborhood and attended a local church. As a non-believer, it was the first church I had ever joined and so it was a new experience. I quickly found that I was very comfortable there because I was able to sit in the pew on Sundays, listen attentively and then go live my life as I had lived it prior to Sunday's sermon. Sound familiar to any of you? I was adrift in the storm and didn't know it.

Several months into my assignment the Lord sent some fellow captains who started an OCF group. A lighthouse was lit. I was drawn in and unbeknownst to me, was pulled from the storm into the safety of the Lord's harbor. This "fellowship" was different than the church we were attending. Instead of standing behind a pulpit with many theological degrees, these were my peers—my fellow officers and their families. They were like me, but yet different. In the safety of this harbor, I was taught the basics of studying Scripture, praying, and enjoying the love and support of fellow Christian leaders. While I enjoyed our group, I quickly caught on that I was being prepared to go back out into the storm.

"I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness" (John 12:46).

As I visit different parts of the country and interact with our amazing and committed members, we quickly enter the OCF confessional: "Forgive me executive director for I have sinned, I am not as involved in a fellowship as I should be." I quickly stop them and instead ask them about those at work and in their neighborhoods with whom they serve, their fellow airmen, sailors, soldiers, Marines and coastguardsmen and their families.

They pause briefly, then their eyes light up when they start sharing with me about the influence they're having in their lives.

Throughout this issue of *COMMAND*, you will hear different perspectives on the power of fellowship to come alongside one another in support as we each run the race Christ has set before us. You will read about Maxwell-Gunter OCF Field Staff rep couple Col Hous and Tami Waring, USAF (Ret.), whose sixteen-thousand-mile journey over forty-two U.S. states in 2013 was about building bridges of fellowship toward their active ministry today.

For Col Chet and Michelle Arnold, USMC (Ret.), their prayers to be active in outreach to the military were answered by God while they were partaking of the fellowship opportunities through summer camp at OCF's White Sulphur Springs Conference Center. Now ministering to the military community in Pensacola, the Arnolds share spiritual lessons learned from their active duty days that key on the importance of living in community—particularly Christian fellowship—in our faith walks.

Author and international speaker Esther Fleece writes of the personal losses people struggle with especially during the Christmas season as she recounts the death of a friend killed in Afghanistan in 2013. Lamenting is "an expression of grief that God meets us in," she writes. And it's in community with others mourning with you that grief "turns the corner towards praise."

Many have been drawn in from the raging seas of their high ops tempo military lives into the safe harbors of OCF's Spring Canyon and White Sulphur Springs Conference Centers. The facilities at both places are powerful settings of supportive fellowship with other Christians. We pay tribute to the lighthouse life of Larry Banning, the first director at Spring Canyon, who went home to be with the Lord in August. It's not the numerous buildings he built at Spring Canyon that stand in tribute to his legacy, but his faithfulness as a kingdom builder for God—one soul at a time—through his conference center ministry work.

So I ask you, how's the light shining from your lighthouse? Can the lost and lonely find you shining the Light of Christ in the storm, the darkness, the fog? Are those within your harbor being equipped to return to the storm to shine their own light for Him? ✠



White Sulphur Springs photo

OCF White Sulphur Springs

Twice yearly our arms are lifted up by a devoted group of volunteers that come, work, serve and help us steward the WSS facilities and grounds. A tremendous amount of things were done during the fall work period, including construction projects, lots and lots of deep cleaning and landscaping, touch-up painting around Heritage House's exterior, and too many repairs, fixes, and mends to count.

Paul & Dawn Robyn // OCF Field Staff

OCF Fort Leavenworth

Tim & Kim Stiansen // OCF Field Staff

Marriage mentoring conference

OCF and the Fort Leavenworth Protestant Chapel Community sponsored a "Guard Your Heart" marriage conference in the fall. Forty-five military couples registered for the event. Dr. Gary Rosenberg, an award-winning author, radio host, and co-founder of the America's Family Coaches international ministry, taught on Friday and Saturday and gave the sermon at two Sunday morning services. He also led a training session for couples who will be serving as mentors in our new marriage mentoring ministry. It was a fantas-

tic weekend and we gained a powerful ministry partner in Gary and his ministry.

OCF Maxwell-Gunter AFB

Hous & Tami Waring // OCF Field Staff

Facebook Group spurs face-to-face meeting

I met 2LT Luke Grossman, USA, in OCF's new Facebook Group (facebook.com/groups/ocfusa). This led to an opportunity for Pensacola Region OCF field staff rep Chet Arnold and I to visit Fort Rucker in Alabama to engage with a number of young aviation leaders to talk about integrating faith and profession, supporting the chaplaincy, doing small group Bible study, and why there is an

Officers' Christian Fellowship body. They appreciated it enough that Tami and I have been invited back, this time to talk with a group from one of the local churches on similar topics.

OCF Puget Sound

Larry & Bobbie Simpson // OCF Field Staff

Blessed by new partnerships

Our excitement and gratitude are stoked as we saw God orchestrate several new partnering initiatives. To provide information on the weekly senior leaders' devotional, we were invited by the McChord Field wing chaplain to set up

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an OCF display table at a chapel sponsored wing leadership breakfast. We also collaborated with the Naval Station Everett chaplain to connect the monthly OCF lunch study to an initiative to have a weekly lunchtime Bible study. Now each month the garrison chaplain hosts three studies and OCF the fourth. This initiative consolidates publicity and makes the study available to more people.

OCF USCGA

Carl & Christy Crabtree // OCF Field Staff

Fantastic Labor Day retreat

The Labor Day retreat was amazing. Of course, the traditional capture-the-flag-on-the-water between the two islands continued. And David Rose was finally victorious in tipping over my kayak. We had almost double the cadets from the previous year—sixty. Good strong show-
Continued on Next Page ▶



USCGA OCF photo

Some 60 USCGA cadets attended the annual Labor Day retreat.

Births

Sarah Love Kutkiewicz, born 2 August 2016, daughter of **LT Karen and Todd Kutkiewicz, USCG**, Hingham, MA.

Jonathan Michael Toms, born 22 October 2016, son of **Maj Kate Veseth Toms, USAF**, and **Jonathan Toms**, Colorado Springs, CO.

Weddings

LTJG Jessica Van Horn, USCG, married **LTJG Michael Cooper, USCG**, on 13 August 2016. Their home is Morehead City, NC.

2LT Tiffany Matthews, USA, married **2LT Trae Wolfe, USA**, on 25 June 2016. Their home is San Antonio, TX.

Taps

Deanna Bakke, 7 September 2016, wife of **Maj Karl Bakke, USAF (Ret.)**, St. Paul, MN.

Lawrence Banning, 14 August 2016, husband of **Kay Banning**, Buena Vista, CO.

Larry was a former director of OCF's Spring Canyon Conference Center. See page 18 for more info.

Nellie Boyd, 12 June 2016, wife of **LTC Art Boyd, USA (Ret.)**, Sweetwater, TN.

Robert Clemens, 6 June 2016, husband of **Mary Nell Clemens**, St. Paul, MN.

Lt Col Joe Cook, USAF (Ret.), 2 July 2016, husband of **Marilyn Cook**, North Little Rock, AR.

LTG Billy Thomas, USA (Ret.), 20 July 2016, husband of **Judith Thomas**, Richmond, TX.

Brig Gen William Worthington Jr., USAF (Ret.), 16 October 2016, husband of **Yvonne Worthington**, Central City, KY.

OCF Honor Fund

The OCF Honor Fund gift is a meaningful way to honor or

remember someone special in your life while also supporting the ministry of Officers' Christian Fellowship.

HONOR

Alan Leonard
By Mr. Canon Maggi

CAPT Gordon King, USN (Ret.)
By Mrs. Beatrice King

CDR Bryan Burt, USN (Ret.)
By 2ndLt Laura Stromback, USMC

CDR George H. Teuton, USCG (Ret.)
By Mr. Robert Carsey Jr.

CDT Andres Alejos, USA
By Ms. Barcia Alejos

Col Terry and Artha Stokka, USAF (Ret.)
By Maj Michelle Taylor, USAF, & Mr. Steve Taylor

Dr. Hal Winton
By Mr. James Carson

Dr. Martin C. Carlisle
By Ms. Reagan Mullin
By Mr. Luke Jones

Lt Col Steve Wade, USAF (Ret.)
By 2ndLt Mark Caldwell, USMC

Michelle Hoffman
Craig Bernard
Nicole Engelmann
Marc Bernard
By Col & Mrs. Emile Bernard, USMC (Ret.)

USMA Class of 1978
By COL & Mrs. Kim Kadesch, USA

Vietnam Air Force Officers
By Mr. C. Joe Sturz

MEMORIAL

Betsy Teuton
BY ENS Patrick C. Weaver, USCG
By Mr. Robert Carsey Jr.
By CAPT & Mrs. Jeffrey Westling, USCG
By ENS Justin Sherman, USCG
By LTJG Rachel Christensen, USCG
By CDT Jonathan Dillard, USCG

ing of 4/c and 3/c. The Holy Spirit moved mightily as we went into the bonfire portion. I encouraged those to share prayer requests and testimonies: the 4/c cadets needed to share and they felt accepted and loved in their new Christian community. Their acceptance in a Christian community was probably the most significant part of the retreat—open relationships that will help their spiritual growth process by getting real with one another. The chaplains we have are a good pair, and their focus was on God's love for you and loving others. Christy and I had good opportunities to get one-on-one mentoring as well as small groups. Four folks were baptized—one as a result of Christy's patient perseverance with one young lady over the last year who has made a new commitment to the Lord. Another young lady approached Christy and wanted to discuss more about baptism—and was baptized after everyone dispersed.

OCF Spring Canyon

Kim & Kari Ann Hawthorne // OCF Field Staff

Weekend retreat equips leaders to share the Gospel

For the second year, we partnered for a weekend retreat with Faith Rx'd, a ministry to CrossFit athletes. This ministry is led by Jim and Becky Conzelman. Jim is a retired Navy officer and OCF member, and Becky is a world-class CrossFitter. The retreat was a true blessing and had tremendous spiritual impact. Following the retreat, Becky wrote: "Thank you for all you did to partner with us and our IMPACT conference. You all did a wonderful job to accommodate our leaders. Mostly, I appreciate you getting on your knees to break the forces of darkness as God moved mountains in our leaders' hearts. Seventy-six people representing twenty-nine different chapters returned to their respective cities with a deeper intimacy with the Holy Spirit,

better equipped to share the Gospel with those worshipping the wrong god in our community." Faith Rx'd developed some videos during the last two years of Spring Canyon retreats. They do an awesome job of showing Spring Canyon and how we partner with a retreat group to provide a spiritually impactful retreat: [youtube.com/watch?v=Ftb3PWVr7Tg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ftb3PWVr7Tg)

OCF Pensacola

Chet & Michelle Arnold // OCF Field Staff

One-on-one discipleship is crucial

It's during one-on-one discipleship when the rubber meets the road, when deeper issues with our flight students surface. In 1 Corinthians 4:1-5 Paul makes some seemingly surprising statements: He doesn't care what others think of him—even what he thinks about himself—and

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Capt Elizabeth "Betsy" Kealey, USMC

By Good News Foundation
By Mr. & Mrs. Charles Thompson

Andrew Baer

By Mr. & Mrs. Michael Andersen
By Anonymous
By COL & Mrs. Robert Baer, USA
By LTC & Mrs. Michael Bigelow, USA (Ret.)
By CDR Thomas Franck, USNR
By Ms. Erica Gade
By Col & Mrs. John Kruse Jr., USMC (Ret.)
By Lt Col John McNamara, MC, USAF (Ret.)
By LTC & Mrs. Douglas Perritt Jr., USA
By COL & Mrs. Patrick Sullivan, USA
By LtCol & Mrs. George Whitbeck, USMC (Ret.)
By Lt Col Clifton Hertel, USAF (Ret.) & Mrs. Joanne Hagadorn

Capt Mark McDowell, USAF

By Capt Christopher Peterson, USAF

CAPT Michael Dallam, USN (Ret.)

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

CDR Robert & Gladys Hawley, USN (Ret.)

By Mr. & Mrs. Calvin Bedford

COL Dick Kail, USA (Ret.)

By LTC & Mrs. Ellery Calkin Jr., USA (Ret.)

COL Dick Kail, USA (Ret.) and COL Eric Kail, USA (Ret.)

By Mrs. Brenda Kail

Deanna Bakke

By Ms. Denise Lallier-Pray
By Capt Amy Nordquist, ANG & Mr. Andy Nordquist
By Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Bartlett
By Mr. & Mrs. Bob Erickson
By Mr. Rich Gerczak
By Mr. & Mrs. Mel Guthmiller
By Mr. & Mrs. Gene Hunder
By Ms. Sandy Jorgenson
By Ms. Marie Robinson
By Mr. & Mrs. Ted Schulz
By Maj Karlton Bakke, USAF (Ret.)
By Mr. & Mrs. Steve Battisto
By Mr. & Mrs. James Baxter

By Mr. & Mrs. Kelley Dutcher
By Mr. & Mrs. William Kendle
By Mr. & Mrs. Gregory Mach
By Mr. Walton Mahlum
By Mr. & Mrs. Rick Shand
By Mr. & Mrs. Sheldon Sorensen
By Maj & Mrs. Peter Swanson, USAFR
By Mr. & Mrs. Gregory Wammer
By Mr. & Mrs. Brad Yopp
By Mr. & Mrs. Fred Zimmerman
By Mr. & Mrs. Arnold M. Bakke
By Mr. & Mrs. David H. Wammer

Geraldine Satterfield

By CH(MAJ) Steven Satterfield, ARNG

Lori Sanderlin

By Mrs. Carol Gustavson
By Mrs. Marian Barnes
By CAPT & Mrs. David Drake, DC, USN (Ret.)

Louise Hawthorne

By Ms. Helen Engelbrecht
By Ms. Winona Saathoff

LT Roy E. Seaman, USN

By Mr. & Mrs. Delbert Elliott

MAJ William Hecker III

By COL & Mrs. William Hecker Jr., USA (Ret.)

Mr. Larry Banning

By Mrs. Marian Barnes
By Mrs. Jean Reavis
By Mr. Lowell Williams

Robert Clemens

By Mrs. Mary Nell Clemens

Ted Martin George Morgan Leola Burns Mark James Carlton Garrett

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

Roberta F. Henderson

By LTC & Mrs. Larry Henderson, USA (Ret.)

Brig Gen William Worthington Jr., USAF (Ret.)

By Ms. Teresa Campbell
By Mr. & Mrs. Allen Vincent

that Christ alone is judge. Generally very capable, these flight students still struggle with doubt and some with perfectionism, leaving them vulnerable to the criticism of others and damaged by their own critical self-evaluations. One student texted, after meditating on the verses we covered, that it “blew his mind” to realize how free he is in Christ (Romans 8:1). His perfectionism is coming to an end!

Ministry News

Now accepting applications for summer staff

Have you ever wanted to serve in a staff position that was more than just a summer job? Great Christian growth and discipleship opportunities while serving at OCF’s Spring Canyon or White Sulphur Springs Conference Centers await young people in the summer of 2017.

You’ll be challenged to serve with your whole heart in areas including food services, maintenance, housekeeping and outdoor leadership while having tons of fun along the way.

There are benefits to serving on summer staff, as WSS director Paul Robyn said, “I am re-amazed each summer at how the Lord uses the conference center summer staff experience. Both kids and parents who have served know the value of it—a great opportunity. We hope others will catch the vision and give it a try.”

Spring Canyon Summer staff positions:

- Junior staff (one month): ages 14 to 17
- Senior staff (entire summer): ages 18 to 27

Applications will be available 1 December with hiring notifications by mid-April. Send an email to programs@springcanyon.org.

Questions: Contact Spring Canyon: 719-395-2328 or visit springcanyon.org.

White Sulphur Springs Summer staff positions:

- Senior staff (ten weeks): rising college sophomore to young adult
- Staff apprentice (one month): ages 16 to young adult

OCF USMA

“I am the pastor of Cross Pointe Church in Columbus, GA, next to Fort Benning. I’m also a USMA grad, class of ‘93. I’ve lost count of how many dozens and dozens of young lieutenants have come through these last eleven years since we planted the church that have been so wonderfully ministered to by you and OCF. Thank you! I only wish you had been there when I was a cadet!”

Tom & Cheri Austin // OCF Field Staff

- Support team (two weeks): age 15 to just-graduated high schoolers

Applications will be available starting 16 December and can be downloaded at whitesulphursprings.org/summer-staff.

Dr. Bob Smith sermons now available on DVD

For those who heard longtime OCF favorite Dr. W. Robert Smith speak at events or conferences, you now have the opportunity to again hear his wisdom. Sermons by the late Presbyterian pastor covering seventy-eight of life’s most compelling topics are available on DVD for \$19.95, plus shipping and handling. To order a DVD for yourself or as a gift, which are also available at OCF’s Spring Canyon or White Sulphur Springs Conference Centers, contact:

- OCF Home Office: joyce.baerg@ocfusa.org
- Spring Canyon: reservations@springcanyon.org
- White Sulphur Springs: whitesulphursprings.org/contact-us/

EXSEL Applications due

Applications are due 28 February for the EXSEL Discipleship Program at OCF’s White Sulphur Springs Conference Center. EXSEL is a unique, year-long opportunity of Christian service, discipleship, ministry and growth for young adults ages 18 to 24. For more info, visit whitesulphursprings.org/exsel.

Save The Date

On Memorial Day, 29 May 2017, Spring Canyon will host the dedication of the Hartley Holmes Lodge expansion through the OCF Growing and Building campaign.

Minnesota OCF Annual Banquet

Join us 4 March 2017 as former Air Force Chief of Chaplains (CH) Maj Gen Cecil Richardson, USAF (Ret.), will be the keynote speaker. Check for upcoming additional info online at ocfusa.org/ocfresources/links/ocf-minnesota.



OCF USAFA photos

OCF USAFA

So many things happen at a retreat. Ninety-three people attended the fall retreat at Spring Canyon. Cadets led morning and evening worship, and there was time for encouragement and continued mentoring. Saturday afternoon was free time to rest, relax, talk, study, hike—or do crazy things like a “polar plunge” (above) into the forty-something-degree ponds. Being together with their friends; these cadet relationships will last through their military careers and well beyond!

Steve & Rita Wade // OCF Field Staff

OCF Council Fall meeting wrapup

OCF Council members met 20-23 October at OCF’s Spring Canyon Conference Center for their fall meeting, guided by the theme of, “We exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory” (1 Thessalonians 2:12).

We first focused on reconnecting with one another, devotions, and prayer for the Lord’s guidance. Council members tackled agenda topics that included fundraising, election of new members, Council training, signing of the contract for the Spring Canyon expansion, and preparing for OCF’S new Strategic Framework implementation starting in June 2017.

The new Strategic Framework, a transformational shift from previous Council Strategic Plans, includes a major re-direction in how we challenge and equip members to lead and serve, and also better align resources and programs to

focus on desired outcomes. In collaboration with OCF Home Office and Field Staff personnel, Council began reviewing OCF’s current Purpose and Vision statements to ensure they’re synchronized and focused on the same end states.

OCF Executive Director Brig Gen David Warner, USAF (Ret.), and his staff did an outstanding job updating Council on OCF’s current state. He provided recommendations on where OCF needs to go in response to God’s calling: personal and professional excellence, moral and spiritual courage, and Christ-like leadership and service in the ever changing operational environment.

The Lord has greatly blessed the ministry of OCF! Council was reminded of that during the tour of Spring Canyon by director Kim Hawthorne. Thank you to all who invest in OCF. May God continue blessing us all as we live out our calling on earth to glorify Him.

—LtCol Hezekiah Barge Jr,
United States Marine Corps

Council election results

At its October meeting, the OCF Council reported the election of the Council Class of 2019. Starting a three-year term in January are:

- Col Amanda Birch, USAFR
- COL Robert Jassey, USA (Ret.)
- LT James Rader, USCG
- LT Benjamin (Luke) Scripture, USN
- MAJ Stephen Schmidt, USA
- COL Paul (Ric) Schumacher, USA
- Maj Timothy Tormey, USMC

LTC Vaughn (Eric) Hathaway, USA, was elected to fill a vacancy in the class of 2017.

Council officers for the upcoming year are:

- President: MajGen Mel Spiese, USMC (Ret.)
- Vice-president: Col Amanda Birch, USAFR
- Secretary: LCDR Gordon Hood, USCG
- Treasurer: CDR Steve Hoffman, USN

A Great HousHold Adventure

How their 16,000-mile trip paved a pathway toward future ministry

By Colonel Houstoun Waring V, United States Air Force, Retired

Editor's note: It was the road trip of a lifetime, the 2013 "HousHold Adventure" of Col Houstoun and Tami Waring, USAF (Ret.), and their family. They started in Alaska and ended in Alabama—with forty-two other states in between. Nearly fifty Air Force installations later, the Toyota Tundra carrying Hous and Tami, their daughters, Muriel, Virginia, Isobel, and son, Richard, plus their dog, Jet, over sixteen-thousand miles pulled in to Maxwell-Gunter AFB in Montgomery, Alabama. OCF's new field staff family was finally home. The trip was a unique journey full of fellowship opportunities with friends old and new. With each passing mile behind them, a pathway toward future ministry was being paved by connecting with and hearing the hearts of airmen and chaplains.

I came across the idea of traveling to Air Force installations when considering how Tami and I would build the bridges for ministry at Maxwell-Gunter AFB, and how we would know what was going on at Air Force installations in the continental U.S. Since our family had spent fourteen of our last eighteen active duty years in overseas assignments, I was concerned that we lacked an awareness of what airmen were dealing with across the force.

We also wanted to spend time with each OCF field staff rep couple at their locations so that we could learn about the ministry they do, lessons learned, and forge good relationships with them. It's one thing to hear about ministry occurring at the academies or key locations, but far more meaningful to have actually walked the ground they labor on.

Our trip helped us develop a mental picture of nearly every Air Force base, each chapel and facility. We gained a glimpse of some of the mission mindsets at those bases. Now when we greet and welcome new students at our country's intellectual center for airpower education, I have a platform to say I've visited the base they are coming from or going to. This provides social conversation for becoming better acquainted. With OCF members around the country knowing that we're here at Maxwell, some of the folks who arrive TDY or PCS are referrals from those we've met while on the road.

We consider fellowship gatherings as fairly synonymous with Bible studies since nearly everything we do involves a Bible study. We host and lead six of them weekly, which are attended by all ranks, ages, and DoD services. We also host monthly socials at our house that are opportunities to get to know students at a deeper, more personal level than Bible studies allow, especially with Officers Training School and Squadron Officers School graduates.

We focus on the Scriptures for Bible study, but use food and drink, and stories from our careers to empower and amplify the message of the gospel. Our hope is that men and women might gather to be taught, encouraged, exhorted, and equipped for further work during these years of military service and throughout their lives.

We want them to use the military-specific language and cultural knowledge they have to do outreach to folks at bases, posts, ROTC units, and local communities.

Our trip helped me to know and become known by the chaplain community. It established a type of trust with them, to welcome me as a friend rather than a stranger. Every chaplain has an opinion about the reputation of parachurch organizations and non-profits, usually based on a good or bad experience. Since OCF is only as good as the local leader or contact, my hope was to establish a positive starting point for all the chaplain teams regarding OCF, and why we serve from Montgomery.

We heard themes from the chaplains regarding the ministry they do, the type of volunteer partnership needed, and the requirements levied by their career field. We have a much greater empathy for the requirements they have to fulfill—accomplishing unit engagement, faithfulness to their endorsing bodies, etc. By making personal contact with chaplains and staffs, Tami and I think we've helped make OCF a better known body of believers, and have provided a positive experience for religious support teams to know that we love them and want to support the chaplaincy.

It was a great joy to see how many doctrinally sound chaplains are serving around the Air Force. Non-military friends often ask us about the state of the chaplaincy. And while some news channels and conservative outlets report problems, we can encourage anyone who wonders by reminding them to stay the course in loving the men and women who are willing to serve in order that military members and their families might exercise their freedom of religion and free speech.



Hous Waring photo

Hous and Tami Waring, second and third from right, back row, pictured with four of their children, enjoy fellowship in North Dakota while visiting Lt Col Dale and Sheri Fadley, USAF (Ret.), parents of SGT Andrew Fadley, USA, who was part of the Warings' OCF study in Alaska.

Our trip also developed within me a willingness to travel, stay connected, and better reach out to local OCF leaders and the offices of chaplains. So much of my administrative coordination of itineraries, appointments, etc., takes place while on the road, meaning one of our kids sitting next to me is often taking notes, texting, or looking up phone numbers for me. They are a huge part of the team.

Our intent is continuing in the footsteps of those who have ministered at Maxwell before us, to help others become effective servant leaders wherever they go, so they use their limited military career years well. But we are especially striving for a future day when a majority of Air Force leaders know about OCF and the work we do as a ministry. We hope to be gardeners stirring up men and women to know and proclaim the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ and glorify God in their professional excellence and integrated lives. ✝

About Hous and Tami

Serving as OCF field staff reps at Maxwell-Gunter AFB, Hous and Tami met and married as a result of God's work and OCF's presence at the U.S. Air Force Academy. Hous was a F-15E Strike Eagle pilot; Tami's Space System Analyst specialty changed to mother and teacher, raising their nine children (three still at home). They underscore a key OCF Spiritual Pillar of supporting the chaplaincy via attendance at services and volunteerism.

Q&A with Hous Waring

What were some of the outcomes from your trip?

I found God uses even quick visits to allow us to connect deeply and have a starting point for further fellowship. Face-to-face travel took me from being a stranger on email to being an acquaintance or friend of someone I met at a previous base. My hesitation to enter the lives of men and women on a short-term basis was removed.

Most surprising things you learned on the trip?

The most surprising was the access I have because I'm a colonel. Few administrative assistants wanted to make an appointment for me when I was simply "Hous from Officers' Christian Fellowship." When Colonel Waring was on the line, however, I was always able to make an appointment.

Some snapshots of your life on the road?

Our dog was at the feet of our three girls in the back seat; Tami, Richard and I in front. Tami taught Richard nearly every day with a tile-based system to develop his ability to read, helping him cope with dyslexia. The kids used computers and books to keep up with school. We planned many of our stops around class requirements so that we could have wireless access while one of the girls was on-line in a classroom.

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



OCF Pensacola photo

Christianity is a team sport

By Colonel Chet and Michelle Arnold, United States Marine Corps, Retired

Anyone is stretched to the limit living in this world. Service members and their spouses are stretched even further than that. How does one prepare for the challenges associated with living the military life? Preparation comes through a commitment to spiritual disciplines and these include spending time in God's Word, in prayer, and in living a life characterized by obedience to God's commands.

While we Christians do enjoy a personal and individual relationship with Christ, that relationship is most evident as we live in community, particularly Christian fellowship. Even then, sometimes it seems all you have left is faith. At those times, it is important to remember that our faith is enough, not because we have enough faith but because of the Object of our faith—Christ Jesus (2 Timothy 1:12).

Over the years, keeping our focus has depended greatly on staying in Christian fellowship. When we are at the end of our rope, these friends are the ones who know us best and who we can trust the most for prayer and advice. For us, OCF's White Sulphur Springs Conference Center has been an important part in fulfilling the need for Christian fellowship. That's where members of our family can

routinely attend an event, volunteer or serve on staff. It was there in the summer of 2013 when we heard about the opportunity to serve with OCF in Pensacola, Florida. It's not surprising to us that God answered our prayers at WSS while enjoying fellowship there, and where we became aware of how He would eventually use us in Pensacola's military community.

Fellowship is always about who we are in Christ, and at Pensacola it includes Bible study, one-to-one discipleship, serving at the local rescue mission, supporting the crisis pregnancy center, or volunteering at church. Dinners, cookouts, charity 5Ks—the list of activities we enjoy together goes on and on.

Some of the spiritual disciplines we've keyed in on over the years, and always encourage in our fellowship gath-

erings, start with being continually in prayer. And yes, some of that is dedicated time, not just prayers wedged in between the events of busy lives or spoken right before gulping down a quick meal. We must be reading, hearing, studying, memorizing and meditating on God's Word. Then, and this is crucial, we must live out the precepts and principles revealed to us there. The Apostle Paul calls it "obedience that comes from faith" (Romans 1:5), a living out of our faith that he says is done in Christian community (Romans 12:3-8). Others will see Christ in us as we lovingly serve one another (John 13:34-35). We must then be prepared to share the reason for the hope that is within us (1 Peter 3:15).

The "obedience that comes from faith" is the bellwether. Obedience and faith are two sides of the same coin. The circumstances of life, when seen through the lens of Scripture, often make clear the areas where there is some work to be done. In Christian community, God uses our brothers and sisters to encourage and exhort us in those areas of life. The Christian marathon is a team sport! A young newlywed military wife once came to Michelle with her frustration at not knowing what was going on at work with her husband, who had texted her that his commanding officer had summoned him and gave no reason for the unusual directive. Several hours passed before she had received an "all is well" follow-up text from him. With communication now available at lightning speed, time horizons grow shorter and so does our patience. There's a temptation to worry while we wait for the results of a meeting, orders, promotion lists—or whether the pilot survived the crash you are watching on the local news. There are many times in a military spouse's life when the answers cannot come fast enough.

The patience required in these circumstances can stretch you to the breaking point. Be prepared! Philipians 4:6-7 is a passage that we repeat a lot. It includes both a command and a promise. We are supposed to obey the command and then God delivers on the promise. It is conditional. We must choose. In choosing to obey we live out our faith and demonstrate in a very real way that we trust Him. It is then that we avail ourselves of the promise. God promises and delivers a supernatural peace. No matter how many breathing and stretching exercises you do or how fresh your vegetables and fruit may be, you cannot avail yourself of this peace apart from the obedience of faith. We recommend the discipline of a good diet and exercise, but the obedience of faith is spiritual and therefore requires spiritual discipline.

The power of Christian fellowship works as we serve one another in prayer, with a timely passage of Scripture, with a meal, with a listening ear and in many other ways. In fellowship we are better able to live in such a way that Christ is evident in our lives. When others in the military society—where God has providentially called us—see our calm in the midst of a storm, they will recognize it as unusual. A personal commitment to spiritual disciplines lived out in Christian fellowship not only helps us suc-

Find your OCF team and get connected

One of the most important relational aspects in your Christian walk is the decision to find someone to come alongside you in accountability and support. Join an OCF small group fellowship, where you will find military Christians who can relate to your struggles and will pray with you.

Find a small group near you: ocfusa.org/find-ocf

Strategic military locations for fellowship

- **Fort Benning**, CH(LTC), Walt & Kathy Hoskins, USA (Ret.), walterhoskins@hotmail.com
- **Fort Leavenworth**, LTC Tim and Kim Stiansen, USA (Ret.), tim.stiansen@ocfusa.org
- **Hampton Roads Region**, CDR Clay & Marty Thomas III, USN (Ret.), clayandmartyt@gmail.com
- **Maxwell-Gunter AFB**, Col Hous & Tami Waring V, USAF (Ret.), Maxwell.OCF@gmail.com
- **National Capital Region**, Washington, D.C. area, MG Greg & Susan Schumacher, USA (Ret.), greg.a.schumacher@gmail.com
- **Pensacola**, Col Chet & Michelle Arnold, USMC (Ret.), chester.arnold@gmail.com
- **Puget Sound (and Family Outreach)**, Col Larry and Bobbie Simpson, USAF (Ret.), ocfoutreach@comcast.net
- **Quantico**, CAPT Mike & Arden Patterson, USN (Ret.), mikeandarden@gmail.com

Service Academies

- **USAFA**, Lt Col Steve and Rita Wade, USAF (Ret.), stephenwade@comcast.net
- **USCGA**, CDR Carl and Christy Crabtree, USN (Ret.), ocf.uscga@gmail.com
- **USMA**, LTC Tom and Cheri Austin, USA (Ret.), OCFAUSTINS@gmail.com
- **USNA**, CDR Bryan and Sherri Burt, USN (Ret.), OCFUSNA@gmail.com

OCF Conference Centers

Upcoming winter retreats are part of the year-round activities at Spring Canyon and White Sulphur Springs Conference Centers. Check out availability for this Christmas:

- **Spring Canyon Winter Sports Retreat**: springcanyon.org/winter-sports-retreat
- **White Sulphur Springs Winter Retreat**: whitesulphursprings.org/winter-retreat/

cessfully live as Christians in the military, but also impacts others in our spheres of influence for His eternal purposes. ✨

About Chet and Michelle

Chet and Michelle met the day after he commissioned as a second lieutenant. They were married six months later and then headed to Pensacola, Florida, for flight school. More than thirty years later they're again in Pensacola as OCF field staff reps. God has blessed them with seven kids and many great friends through intentional Christian fellowship.



Sgt Dorian Gardner, USMC, photo

Marines from Cpl. Joshua Dumaw's platoon gather for a final prayer in front of his memorial stand 11 July. Dumaw, a squad leader with the Police Mentoring Team, was killed while conducting operations against insurgents in the city of Delaram on 22 June.

When Christmas isn't happy

By Esther Fleece

The phrase "It's the most wonderful time of the year" always rang true for me during the Christmas season. I love seeing Christmas decorations in homes and department stores, enjoy hearing Christmas music play and there always seems to be a little extra cheer to go around.

But in 2013, just two days after Christmas, my good friend David Lyon was killed in Afghanistan. David was a man of God who faithfully served while our country was at war. We all believed him to be in a secure area "behind the wire" as he was training local forces.

David spent Christmas visiting his wife at another base who was also deployed, and as high winds did not allow for him to return in a helicopter, David hopped into an unmarked vehicle to head home. A suicide bomber hit David's unmarked car ending his life upon impact.

For the first time in a long time, Christmas lost its merry for me. This once blissful season became incredibly painful.

As a believer I am supposed to rejoice always (1 Thesalonians 5:16) and give thanks in all circumstances (v.18) yet how do I pray when we feel otherwise? Is it okay for Christians to be sad?

A lament is an expression of grief that God meets us in. A lament is a godly howl that goes directly to the ears of a God who hears us. In our happy-go-lucky culture of enthusiasm and entertainment, we almost forget to pursue a God who weeps.

Jesus was a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief (Isaiah 53:3); the Holy Spirit can be grieved (Ephesians 4:30). If God Himself experienced grief and expressed it, certainly He would allow space and time for our grief and laments as well. Our teary remembrance doesn't always have to be full of pain—sometimes the remembering can bring us through the pain.

Remember with others

In our quiet moments of reflection and somber moments of sad, it is good for us to remember with others.

Reflect on your loved one who passed away. Remember the fun memories you shared with them. Whatever the loss or change may be in your life, remember it and tell another person. In the same way we confess our sins to one another for healing (James 5:6), lamenting out loud can bring us hope when our laments are heard. Lamenting in community is a powerful tool that removes us from isolation and prepares us for transformation.

Remember the Good Works of God

Even though David died at such a young age, I could give thanks to God that He had first made us friends. Even though his wife was now a widow, I could be thankful our church community came around her in a time of need. In the middle of your pain, can you see the hand of God in a way that allows you to give thanks? We don't silence our pain to bring these things to mind, but remembering good works of God helps us to give thanks in pain's midst: "I remember the days of old; I meditate on all Your works; I muse on the work of Your hands" (Psalm 143:5, NKJV).

Remember God the Holy Spirit

We know the disciples lamented Jesus' absence here on earth, yet God the Holy Spirit came to us as a comforter (John 14:26). This gives us full permission to wail, express hurt, sadness, disappointment and anger directly to God. We do not have to silence our emotions before a God who also feels. We can go directly to God with our pain and ask Him to comfort us.

Often when we are in a lamenting season, we can find it hard to pray. But taking our pain directly to God is the only way our pain can find its way back to praise. God will not turn away a lamenter's cry: "The Lord is near to those who have a broken heart" (Psalm 34:18, NKJV).

The book of Psalms reminds us that we have permission to express everything we feel directly to God. Instead of holding your pain inside, remember God wants to hear you, comfort you, and walk your memory into being able to give Him thanks.

In the years since David's death, I can become aggravated when people cheerfully spout off, "Happy Memorial Day" or "Merry Christmas." But as I gather with David's widow, and when I am with friends and we remember his life, our mourning can move from laments to praise. We miss him every day, yet we can rejoice that he is in his heavenly home.

One commentary calls the Romans 12 passage to "weep with those who weep" the "beautiful spirit of sympathy" because we are all members of the same body, and so when one member suffers, we all suffer (1 Corinthians 12:26). By keeping our laments inside we stay alone in our grief. But lamenting directly to God and in community allows others to mourn with you, God to come near you, and our grief to turn the corner toward praise.

Are you or someone you know struggling with the Merry of Christmas?

Maybe depression, loneliness, or even despair to the point of suicide have never crossed your mind. But someone around you may be facing those feelings.

Wearing our country's uniform, or being the loved one of someone who does, is stressful, while facing all kinds of sacrifices, separations and situations that can change us. As I heard Chaplain (Major General) Douglas Carver, U.S. Army Chief of Chaplains, say in a speech years ago, the three main reasons soldiers are killing themselves are because of personal shame, failed relationships, and being isolated from community.

Acknowledging that your spirit, soul, or body is in pain is the right thing to do. There is no shame in being in pain. It's a gift from God to let us know something is broken and needs healing. Things may not be like they were before—which may mean learning how to live under a new normal.

Some thoughts to keep in mind when you are in pain caused by traumatic events or damaging words others have said to or about us:

- **Be honest** about yourself and the struggles you face.
- **Get help.** Spend time with a chaplain, minister, counselor.
- **Remember God's promise** that you will never be alone: "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you" (John 14:18).
- **Stop focusing** on what not to do.
- **Let go** of the self-imposed "shoulds" from you or others.
- **Forgive yourself and others.** It lightens your load!

If you or someone you love is struggling with depression, seek the help of your commander or chaplain who can get you the help you need with a qualified professional counselor.

Adapted from "Wrestling with Depression" by SGM Michael Weiss, USA (Ret.), published in COMMAND magazine, August 2010.

When we remember the pain of Good Friday—Jesus' pain on the cross—our eyes can be lifted up since death is not the end of the story. Jesus' story does not end in pain, and neither will yours. As we are hidden in Christ, God remembers us as we remember Him. Even if this holiday season is painful, take heart that God remembers you. 🙏

About Esther

Esther is an international speaker and writer recognized among Christianity Today's "Top 50 Women Shaping the Church and Culture" and CNN's "Five Women in Religion to Watch." Her first book *No More Faking Fine: Ending The Pretending* comes out in January (Zondervan). For more about Esther and to share your own lament, visit estherfleece.com.



Gwynn Vaughn photo



Raya Pyscher photo



Natalee Snyder photo

The Ohio State University OCF

TOP: Guest speakers, such as Olympic wrestling gold medalist Kyle Snyder (right, black shirt), are part of the varied activities enjoyed by The Ohio State University OCF group. Mentored by OCF local leaders Gwynn and Kit Vaughn, their nearby home hosts movie nights, games, and Thanksgiving or Christmas dinners. “We have even been blessed to have a few of them live with us through the years,” said Kit of their twenty-one year ROTC outreach.

Aberdeen Proving Ground OCF—Maryland

ABOVE LEFT: Leading the OCF group at Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland are (left) COL Bill and Maria Montgomery, USA (Ret.). The group meets at the post chapel and recently completed a

twenty-four week NOOMA video study. COL Montgomery reports that they also unwind by enjoying potluck meals and playing the Snake Oil board game together.

OCF in California

ABOVE RIGHT: They’re three separate small groups—weekly on base, reservists, and another meeting on reserve drill weekends—meeting for Bible studies. But when concerts, retreats, or family fun days roll around, they gather as one. “We’re all family now,” says TSgt Ryan Padgett, USAF, (left) at Travis AFB. His re-enlistment ceremony had to be “around the people I love and care about the most.” Ryan recruited Col Jeff Synder, USAF (Ret.), OCF local leader at Vacaville, to pray for him before administering the oath.



Tom Matelski photo



Lola Deckard photo



OCF USNA photo

Oahu OCF—Hawaii

TOP: OCF members, local chaplains, and others from several ministries enjoyed an end-of-summer picnic held on Oahu. Those attending the event also prayed for each other’s ministries, their families, and sought God’s blessing on their efforts for His Kingdom work in Hawaii. “We are excited for what God has in store as we continue to grow Christian military fellowship across the island,” said OCF local reps Tom and Amy Matelski. Current Bible studies taking place include Schofield Barracks, Kaneohe Bay, JB Pearl Harbor/Hickam, and military housing areas.

Warrior Forge Bible study—Kentucky

ABOVE LEFT: A combined ministry outreach of OCF and Valor, with support from the Navigators, Cru Military, and local chapel/church supporters, took place this past summer at Fort Knox,

KY, to ROTC cadets attending Warrior Forge. Nearly 900 cadets attended the voluntary after-chapel Bible study and fellowship gatherings, with over thirty cadets committing their lives to Christ. Retired Army LTC Bob Deckard (in blue shirt) coordinated the team of several partner ministries at Fort Knox.

USNA OCF—Maryland

ABOVE RIGHT: There are weekend cookouts, boating, and retreat, among many other events at USNA. And noontime and evening Bible studies—such as OCF Tuesday night. OCF Field staff rep Bryan Burt reports, “it continues to be a great opportunity for the midshipmen to gather for fellowship and connect around a home cooked meal.” A time of worship and relevant speakers challenge the midshipmen in their Christian walk, with topics including godliness and character, such as modeled by the life of Daniel.



Kim Paine photo



Fort Leavenworth OCF photo



Spence Kawamoto photo

Spring Canyon expansion contract signing

TOP: At its fall meeting, OCF Council gathered in front of Hartley Holmes Lodge at OCF’s Spring Canyon Conference Center where (at the table, right) Council president MajGen Mel Spiese, USMC (Ret.), and Matt Young, owner of Uncommon Angles, Inc., signed the contract for the expansion of the dining hall and the addition of four classrooms. The facilities will be dedicated on Memorial Day, 29 May 2017.

Fort Leavenworth

ABOVE LEFT: Retired Army colonel Dr. Jack Kem speaks at a command team prayer breakfast in September, the breakfast being one of many ministry activities taking place at Fort Leavenworth under the leadership of OCF Field staff rep couple Tim and Kim

Stiansen. Other activities include on-and-off post Bible studies, a marriage-mentoring ministry, discipleship breakfasts, and attending events such as marriage conferences, various retreats, and, of course, the highly feted annual fall BBQ Bonanza.

Chris Bolt retirement

ABOVE RIGHT: After nearly three decades of Navy life, the CAPT Chris Bolt, USN (Ret.) family has started testing the waters of retirement by first of all “reveling in bonding together as a family,” reports LTC Spence Kawamoto, USA (Ret.). Surrounded by the family and “buds” who flew into San Diego for the three-day retirement celebration, the Bolts are now exploring the new normal of their post-Navy lives.



Sam Tate photo

OCF Hampton Roads Region picnic—Virginia

ABOVE: Nearly 150 guests of all ages gathered for food, fellowship, fun and encouragement at the September region-wide picnic held at the quarters of VADM Rick and Melanie Breckenridge, USN, at Naval Station Norfolk. The day's program included worship, devotional remarks by VADM Breckenridge, encouragement from Brig Gen David Warner, USAF (Ret.), OCF's executive director, and a message from speaker Dr. Mark Jumper, CDR (CHC), USN (Ret.). Emcee for the event was CDR Rob Turner, USN (Ret.).



Kurt Danis photo

Aspentime at Spring Canyon

LEFT: Maximizing your impact as a Christian by knowing your identity in Christ was the encouragement CH(CPT) Jake Snodgrass, USA, shared with nearly forty people attending the Aspentime Retreat at OCF's Spring Canyon Conference Center in September. In addition to worship, teaching sessions, and a talent show, guests were invited to try out PEDALboards on the ponds, courtesy of Tim Tokatloglou. (Back row, fifth and sixth from left) COL Steve and Miriam Shambach, USA (Ret.), served as the event's guest ambassadors.



Kim Hawthorne photo

Larry Banning (right) with Dean Rizzo at the 2012 Veterans Memorial Lodge groundbreaking ceremony at OCF's Spring Canyon Conference Center in Buena Vista, Colorado.

Building God's Kingdom one soul at a time

By OCF Communications Department

The degree from Michigan State College communicated to the world that Larry Banning, the first director at OCF's Spring Canyon Conference Center, who transitioned to glory on 14 August, was gifted in residential construction.

Larry's skill and craftsmanship are unmistakable throughout the conference center grounds. For anyone who's ever stayed at Yale, Princeton, Antero or Harvard chalets, or the original Fort Shine (now Cornerstone) Lodge, has stayed in a building that Larry, the first "Keeper of the Spring," built. The native timbers used in the construction of Veterans Memorial and Fort Shine, Spring Canyon's two newest lodges, were carefully selected and milled by Larry and his son, Chris, who preceded him in death.

"I'm told that it was a great joy for Larry to help Chris see all the potential in a log or piece of wood," said Kim Hawthorne, the current "Keeper of the Spring" with his wife, Kari Ann. "You can sure see the potential they got out of the wood in all the chairs,

tables, chalets, and lodges they built around Spring Canyon!"

But it's not the wooden structures or furnishings that attest to the lasting impact of Larry's ministry watch from 1964 to 1971 with his wife, Kay. Just as the buildings were constructed piece by piece, one board or timber at a time, God's eternal kingdom was being built, one soul, one changed life at a time. Thousands of people have stayed in the chalets and lodges Larry built to attend Christ-centered retreats and programs. They found refreshment, encouragement—and for many—a life-changing encounter with Jesus Christ for the first time ever.

Changed lives for Christ continue to be at the heart of OCF's ongoing conference center ministry, both at Spring Canyon in Colorado and White Sulphur Springs in Pennsylvania. Through OCF's Growing and Building Campaign, more than 2,300 OCF members and friends have donated over \$10 million for much-needed expansions and upgrades. The new or improved facilities at both locales have provided additional space to increase ministry opportunities for more mili-

tary members and others.

Another milestone in the campaign takes place on Memorial Day, 29 May 2017, at Spring Canyon, with the dedication of the expanded Hartley Holmes Lodge and dining room, now currently underway.

It was fitting that Larry Banning's memorial service took place at Spring Canyon in August. Speaking on the life and faithful service of Larry Banning, Kim said, "We are thankful for the Bannings' legacy and their incredible work for the kingdom in the early years of Spring Canyon. It's a great reminder of the rich legacy within OCF and Spring Canyon, and how God works through His people to bring about ministry and a lasting impact." ✠

You can help change people's lives
 Team up with OCF to complete the final phase of OCF's Growing and Building campaign at Spring Canyon. The work to reach others for Christ continues.
<http://growingandbuilding.ocfusa.org>

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Cover photo by Sgt Frances Johnson, USMC

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Lieutenant Colonel Jon Shine
 UNITED STATES ARMY

Came to OCF: At birth. My parents have been OCFers since before I was born, and as we moved and attended various chapels and the OCF Conference Centers growing up, I considered OCF to be my "home church." I officially joined in 1996 as an ROTC cadet.

Why OCF: I love the instant connection with like-minded believer-professionals that OCF gives whenever you go to a new location. I am constantly challenged by the concept of integrating my faith with professional excellence.

Why a military life: My wife and I ask each other this every time we get PCS orders! We do it because it's important and valuable to lead soldiers and help protect our country, and because the Lord has called and equipped us to serve.

What's on your bucket list: I'd love to visit the great Italian homes of Renaissance art: Venice, Rome, Milan—with

my wife, without our kids. And I want to learn to SCUBA dive!

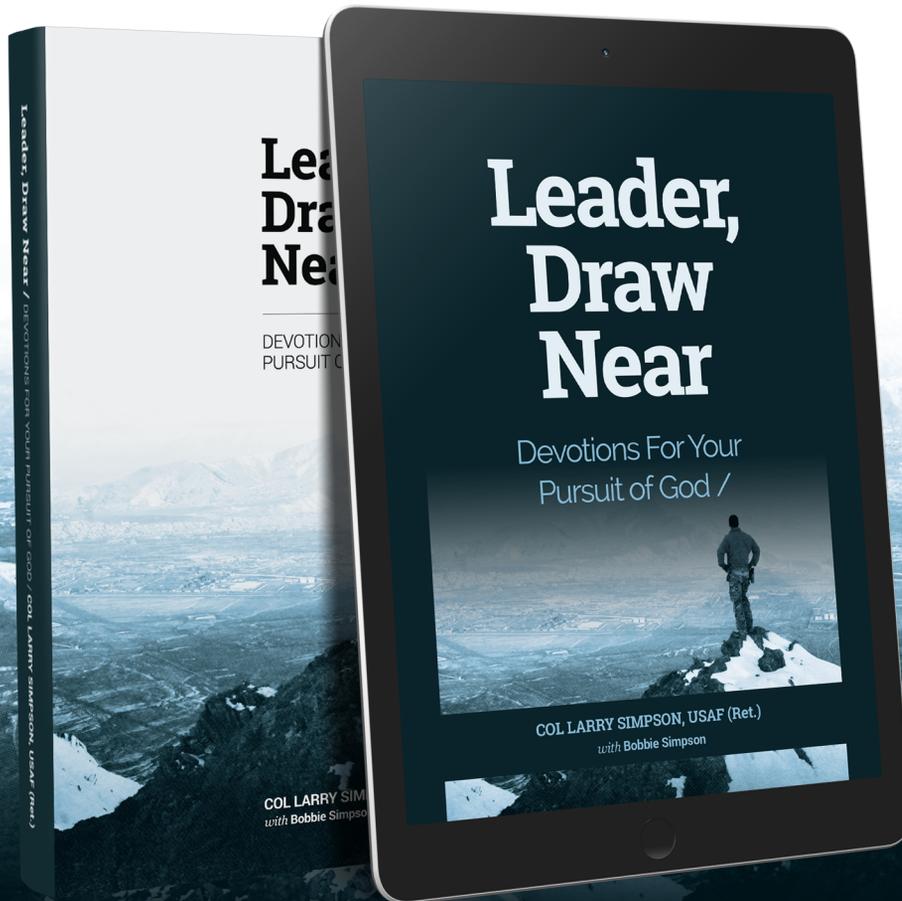
Best advice given you: Hold everything with a loose grip—except your relationship with Christ.

Most memorable/exotic places visited: I got to serve as an aide for an Admiral who traveled all over the world, so it's hard to narrow down. The ones I most remember are the ones that felt most foreign: Jakarta, Manilla, Ankara, Sofia, and Caracas all stand out.

Life Bible verse: Romans 12:1-2, "Therefore I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is: His good, pleasing, and perfect will."

Who is a Leader?

You—the one who turns to God for wisdom and direction in leading others.



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