

Christian Perspectives on Life in the Military

# COMMAND

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embolden

equip

encourage

engage

ETERNAL  
TRANSFER

AIHEAD

*Do you have a spiritual PCS sponsor?*

5 MYTHS OF MORTGAGED  
RENTAL PROPERTY

MEET THE CANDIDATES  
FOR OCF COUNCIL

LEVERAGING OUR LEGACY  
TO REACH OUR DESTINY

## Leveraging our legacy to reach our destiny

We recently celebrated the launching of numerous second lieutenants and ensigns into our military services. As they begin serving out their commissions, they possess unlimited potential that is crying out to be developed as they run their race the Lord has set before them. In *Secrets of the Vine*, Bruce Wilkinson says it takes a vintner's critical eye and skill to cut away the right branches of a vine to prepare it for even greater fruit yield. Under the Lord's guidance, you and I have a wonderful opportunity—even duty—to come alongside and equip these men and women to be the leaders God has called them to be.



**DAVID WARNER**  
Executive Director

Each of us is fearfully and wonderfully made in God's image and for His purposes. If a bramble making up a vine could talk, it would express its great discomfort about the pruning under way. And we are no different! Our future leaders must be shaped and pruned to reach their full potential. Are you willing to turn your active duty experiences, expertise and legacy into a foundation for the future? If so, I would offer a suggestion—to open your "I's."

### Identify

My sixty-mile commute every morning provides great opportunities to hear from the Lord, listen to the Bible, and take in my surroundings. Looking at other drivers, what do I see? A driver who just cut me off or shouldn't be in the passing lane? Or some-

*"For this reason I have sent to you Timothy, my son whom I love, who is faithful in the Lord. He will remind you of my way of life in Christ Jesus, which agrees with what I teach everywhere in every church."*

1 Corinthians 4:17



### How to shape future leaders

**Identify:** Adopt the eyes of Christ to see the potential around you.

**Initiate:** Time to engage. The first thing great leaders do is prepare their replacements.

**Invest:** Provide constant encouragement, feedback, and counsel.

one who may be hurting, lonely or lost?" Similarly, when you look out across your base, attend chapel or church, or gather for fellowship, what do you see? Do you see the next fellowship leader or your eventual replacement? When Paul saw Timothy through the eyes of Christ, he didn't see an immature young man, but rather his budding successor, an emerging leader with great potential: "For this reason I have sent to you Timothy, my son whom I love, who is faithful in the Lord. He will remind you of my way of life in Christ Jesus, which agrees with what I teach everywhere in every church" (1 Corinthians 4:17). Adopt the eyes of Christ to see the potential around you.

### Initiate

As you identify our future leaders, it's now time to engage. A leader I highly respected once asked me, "When you see an airman or a second lieutenant, what do you see? Someone needing lots of direction—or a future leader?" Instead of a young airman or lieutenant, he saw a future chief master sergeant, colonel, even a general. And he immediately put a plan in place to prune and grow that emerging leader.

I learned then that the first thing great leaders do is prepare their replacements, such as Paul did with Timothy by providing opportunities for growth: "But you know that Timothy has proved

himself, because as a son with his father he has served with me in the work of the gospel" (Philippians 2:22).

### Invest

Once you've identified and initiated, now comes the hard part—it's time to invest. It's not an unpruned grapevine our Lord Jesus Christ sees beneath the surface of our lives, but rather a vine full of potential that will release a bountiful harvest in due season. Paul invested time to develop Timothy, constantly encouraging him with feedback and counsel. "But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith" (1 Timothy 6:11-12).

Seeing our future leaders as He does, the Lord has placed exciting opportunities in our paths to identify them. We must resolve to look for divinely provided opportunities to initiate with and invest in them.

If we adopt the eyes of Christ, we can see the diamond within the lump of coal and, like the master diamond cutter, release the inner beauty and potential that lies within.

Please join me in this journey to translate our legacies into the destiny the Lord has planned for us in OCF to help equip our courageous men and women in uniform to become the leaders God has called them. ✚



Dan and Lexie Forbes photo

## Joy beyond compare: When we will finally see His face

by KIM FORBES

Few experiences in my life will ever compare to the moment when my husband came home from his first one-year deployment.

Since he was among the last groups returning home, the anticipation of his impending arrival was more intense than anything I'd ever felt before. I could barely relax, let alone sleep. It was heart-wrenching having to wait while watching others welcome their soldier back home before I did mine.

But the day finally came.

White sheets scrawled with hand-painted welcome messages lined the route from the airport to post. In a town affected by the absence of so many soldiers, their families relying on the generosity and support of the community during this trying time, these signs were more than just a greeting. They were significant reminders to all of the cost of sacrifice paid by our military and their families.

The gym was packed wall-to-wall with men, women, and children who had staked out their spots well ahead of time. Buses full of soldiers escorted from the airport by the police, sirens and all, finally rolled onto post hours later. Lee Greenwood's patriotic "Proud to be an American" song began playing and tears started flowing.

The 300 returning warriors broke through

the special-effects fog mixed with spotlights, greeted by deafening cries, screams, whistles and clapping. All the pent-up emotions came crashing down, colliding with the upwelling joy and relief of seeing our brave men and women march into view. Quieting down for our national anthem, we could hardly contain our excitement during the thirty-second speech by the post commander and the chaplain's prayer expressing our hearts' relief. Then we were dismissed. The somewhat organized chaos that ensued can be likened to the penguins' return in the "March of the Penguins" film—only here were seemingly endless waves of desert camouflage and loved ones rushing to unite with one another.

I had hoped to spot my husband from my vantage point on the bleachers before he spotted me. More like magnetic force than vision, we found ourselves suddenly locked in each other's arms. I will never forget the feelings in my heart as we embraced—the look on his face and the smell of Iraq! All the grinding work and dust clung to these soldiers throughout their cramped, two-day journey home.

We had survived one of the most trying years of our lives. Now there was so much of our hearts to talk about, rediscover, and share.

Months prior to this homecoming, Chris Rice's song "Smile" spoke to me not only of the moment when I would finally see

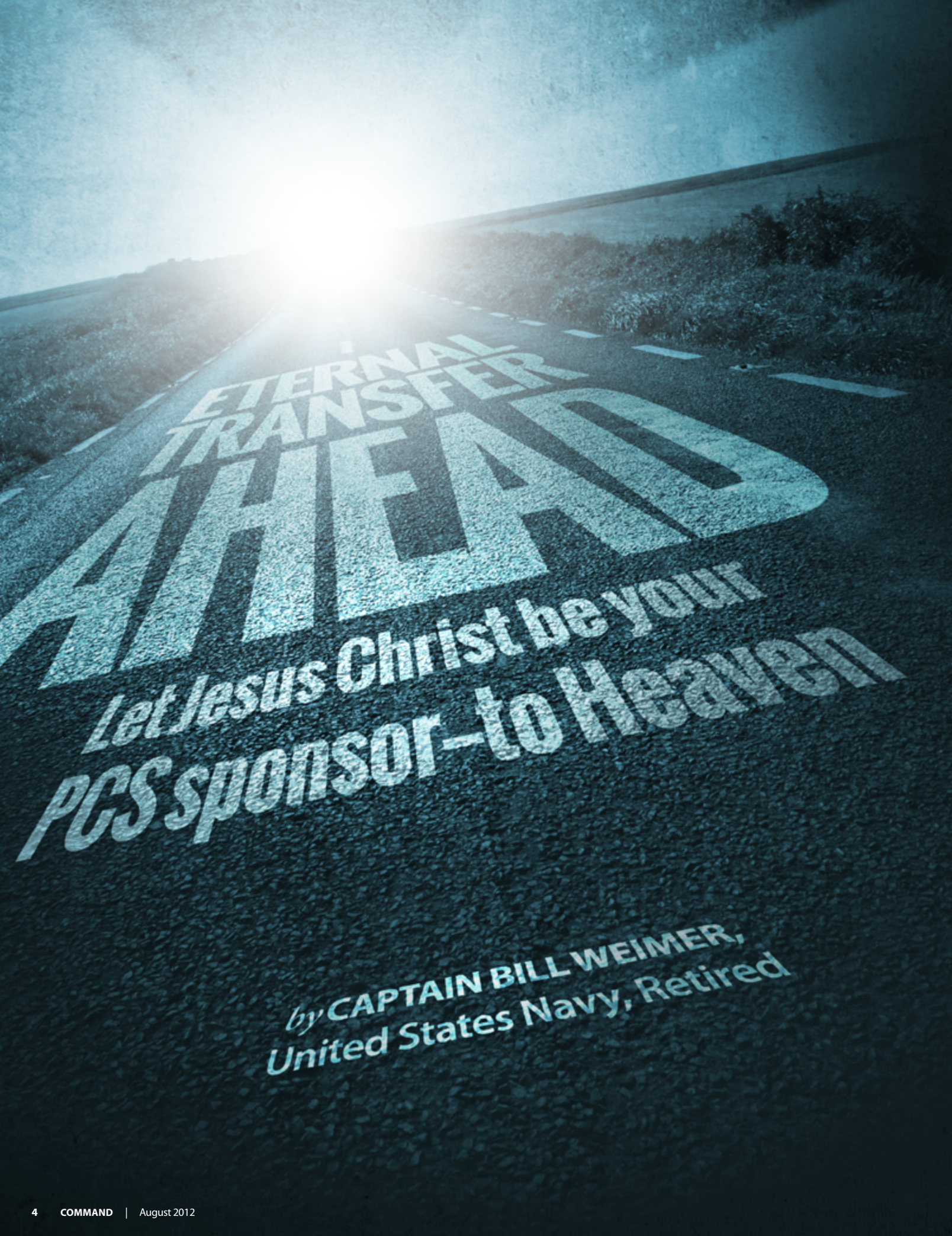
my husband, but also gave me a glimpse of heaven when we are finally reunited with our one true love, Jesus Christ. As my heart ached to see my husband's face, so too is the spiritual ache in our hearts to see our welcoming Christ, and experience the joy of unity and fullness of heart we will have in eternity with Him.

I imagine much of our time with the Lord in heaven will be spent rediscovering what was lost from the Fall in the Garden of Eden. Freed from the imperfections of our fallen selves by redemption, in heaven we will fully learn the full impact of our separation from God—and then truly celebrate our reunion.

The time spent apart from my soldier gave me a new perspective I will carry with me throughout this lifetime: a foretaste of heaven where one day I will see Christ face to face. "I found Him whom my soul loves; I held on to Him and would not let Him go" (Song of Solomon 3:4, NASB). ✚

Kim has been involved with OCF since her husband's early years as a lieutenant in Colorado Springs, CO. After three deployments and nine moves in eleven years, she continues to keep in touch with her OCF friends across the nation. Kim is a stay-at-home mom of two and a self-employed seamstress.





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ILITARY MEN AND WOMEN are well acquainted with Permanent Change of Station (PCS) orders that transfer them from one duty station to another across the globe, and as they will attest to, sponsors are crucial for such reassignments, those advocates welcoming them as they report to a new command by introducing them to command leaders and personnel, and befriending and making them feel at home.

But what about the day when we transfer out of this world to that actual permanent change of station ahead on the horizon for every one of us when we die? Many are confused about the afterlife and have countless questions. Is there existence beyond the grave? Is there a heaven, hell, some other place or state of being? Or do we just cease to exist?

We never think it will happen to us, but the reality is that each of us will someday receive our final PCS orders to stand before the Lord. Do you have a spiritual sponsor for that coming day? Jesus Christ offers to be your spiritual sponsor now to help you through all those military moves, every moment of your life, and whenever your eternal PCS orders arrive.

As Stephen was being stoned as the Church's first martyr, he "looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God" (Acts 7:55).

Jesus' promise to His distressed disciples the night before He was crucified is rock solid to us as well 2,000 years later, "My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am" (John 14:2-3).

This Savior and Lord—our "sponsor" in this life and as we PCS into the next—will one day stand to welcome and greet us at death before the Commander in Chief of the universe and in the communion of saints. Today is the time to make sure Jesus is your spiritual sponsor for that coming day. ✠

Bill served thirty years active duty as a Navy line officer and then as a chaplain at Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard commands, including combat. He led many to Christ and was with others PCSing to their ultimate homecoming. Now serving at a Florida retirement community chapel, Bill and his wife have two sons and five grandchildren.



**Marine Corps: As a sponsor...you provide initial important contact [and] first impression of our unit.**

Jesus provides the connection between God and us, "For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins" (Colossians 1:13-14).

**Navy: Meet incoming Sailors/families...Remember the feelings and confusion experienced as a new arrival.**

Jesus knows our weaknesses, feelings, and fears, "For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are —yet he did not sin" (Hebrews 4:15). He has us firmly in hand.

**Air Force: Sponsors can help reduce anxiety...[of] a PCS move. ...A newcomer can reduce stress by talking to someone "already there."**

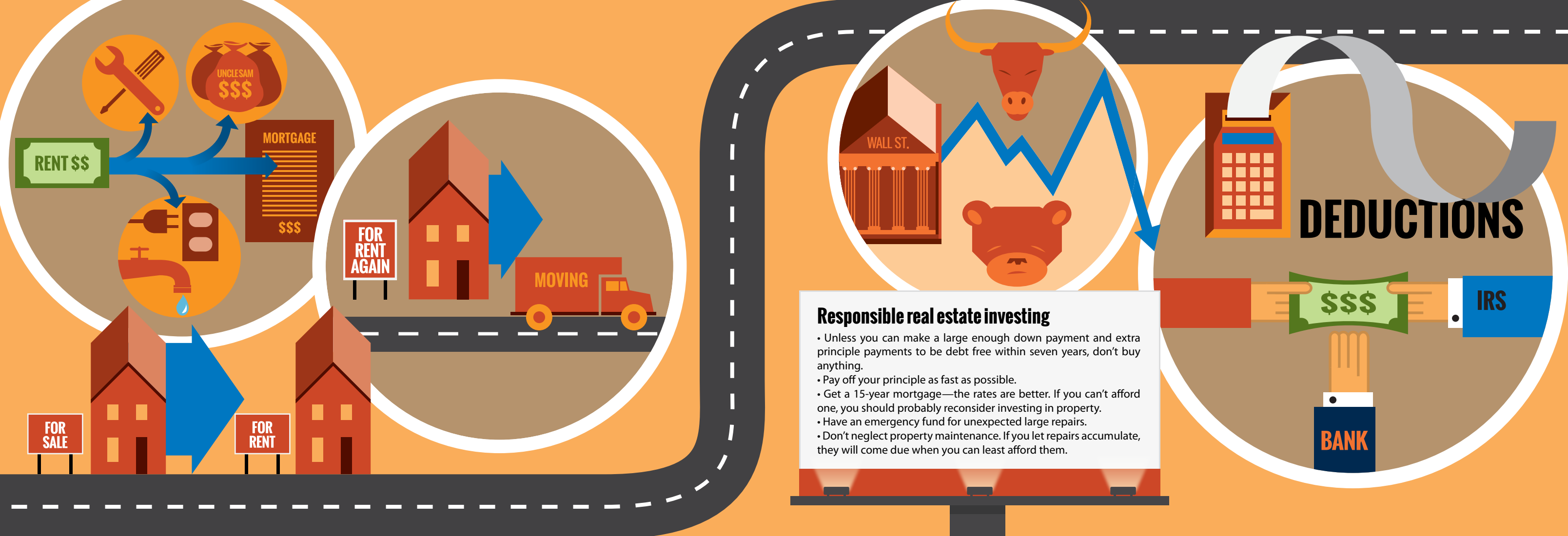
Jesus invites us to bring our worries to Him, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28). He is faithful and true to help us through this life's many difficult struggles and put us at ease whenever we approach our final assignment.

**Coast Guard: Relocating to a new duty station...can be a trying experience.**

Jesus faithfully cares for and nurtures us daily, and will one day present us into God's glorious presence "without fault and with great joy" (Jude 24-25).

**Army: Escort...[and] introduce the new arrival to chain of command.**

Our spiritual sponsor will one day escort us into heaven and introduce us to the Apostles, martyrs, and all Christians throughout history—and ultimately to Almighty God.



### Responsible real estate investing

- Unless you can make a large enough down payment and extra principle payments to be debt free within seven years, don't buy anything.
- Pay off your principle as fast as possible.
- Get a 15-year mortgage—the rates are better. If you can't afford one, you should probably reconsider investing in property.
- Have an emergency fund for unexpected large repairs.
- Don't neglect property maintenance. If you let repairs accumulate, they will come due when you can least afford them.

# FIVE MYTHS of MORTGAGED RENTAL PROPERTY

by CAPTAIN AARON STARK, United States Army

*Editor's Note: Frequent moves often involving quick decisions—such is the realm of our military and their families as they PCS across the globe. Captain Stark urges careful planning on what you may already be debating: whether to rent or purchase a home. Seek the counsel of your financial adviser or accountant.*

Check "As Seen in COMMAND" at [www.ocfusa.org](http://www.ocfusa.org) on how you can contact Aaron for more information on the mathematical examples behind his article.

If your military family is a typical one, chances are you have moved about once every two to three years. One of the most difficult decisions can be whether to buy a house or rent one.

The typical advice I've received throughout my career has been: buy a house and then rent it out when you move. The tenants will pay your mortgage, the house will gain value—it's a great investment. However, is that fundamentally sound advice? Would you buy a new car just because your neighbor said it's smart? No, you would do the math to determine if the car is affordable.

Biblical wisdom tells us "the borrower is slave to the lender" (Proverbs 22:7). By taking on debt in the form of a mortgage, we are introducing additional risk to our lives. Here are five common pitfalls associated with owning a rental property and some ways we can be wise stewards of the resources God has given us:

#### Myth 1: My tenants pay my mortgage

Many property owners mistakenly assume that as long as a tenant pays the mortgage, they're making money. In reality, after all other expenses—such as maintenance, insurance,

taxes, and utilities—are added in, most owners actually lose money. These expenditures can easily cost the owner 30-40 percent of the mortgage cost, meaning you must charge a tenant 130 percent of your mortgage payment, which may not be possible in competitive rental markets.

#### Myth 2: I will have a tenant each month

You may plan for a tenant to cover all of your expenses, but it's a guarantee that your house will be unoccupied at some point. If a house sits empty for just a few months every couple of years, you could still be left with a big loss. Unless you're able to account for these losses over time, you could cumulatively lose thousands of dollars.

#### Myth 3: I should not pay extra on my mortgage because I can make more in the market

Would you rather have a paid-off rental property earning you \$1,000 a month or unpredictable mutual funds? Many people assume that by investing in the market, their

investments will increase the historical average of 11 percent a year—which is far from the case in today's economic climate. Your mortgage is costing you 4-8 percent interest every year. A house paid on schedule over thirty years can easily double the cost of the original sale price after interest is factored in, meaning thousands of dollars that will go to the bank rather than your pocket.

And it's important to remember—a paid-off property cannot be foreclosed on if your financial situation changes unexpectedly.

#### Myth 4: I can depreciate my rental property and take a tax deduction

You can deduct the "depreciation" of your house every year on your taxes. However, when you sell it you will also have to pay some of that back to the IRS because it now counts as income, which can cost a homeowner more than \$10,000 in taxes after the sale of a property.

#### Myth 5: I can deduct the interest from my mortgage on my taxes

This makes the least sense of all the myths.

You can indeed deduct a portion of your interest (interest x tax rate = deduction). But you are losing \$8,000 a year by essentially paying the bank \$10,000 a year to avoid paying the IRS \$2,000.

Investing in rental homes can be an excellent income, yielding significant returns, for the prudent ones willing to first save before buying, and then diligently devote all resources to paying off the debt as quickly as possible.

In addition to warnings about being a debtor, the Bible also instructs us about actually having the resources to finish what we start, "Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won't you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it?" (Luke 14:2).

Aaron has a Bachelor of Science degree in Economics from the United States Military Academy and is a 2007 winner of the USMA Distinguished Thesis in Economics Award.



# OCF Council elections now under way

OCF Council elections for the Class of 2015 started 1 August at the OCF website, [www.ocfusa.org](http://www.ocfusa.org). Eligible OCF members are encouraged to vote in the election running now through 9 September. Members qualified to vote will need their voting ID (your OCF membership number, found on the address label of your August COMMAND magazine), and voting password (your ZIP code). You may vote for as many as five candidates.

## CANDIDATES



### 1LT Alysa Angel, USA

**Education:** University of Florida, BS Exercise Science, 2001; University of Central Fla., BS Nursing, 2009  
**Present assignment:** Clinical staff nurse, Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, Bethesda, MD.  
**Ministry involvement:** OCF NCR Council, local leader, women's Bible study; Faith Community nurse; health ministry.  
**Personal testimony:** Accepted Christ as my Savior as a child and baptized my sophomore year in college. As I learned of God's grace, love, mercy, and forgiveness, the bitterness over my parents' divorce began to soften. I traded in my ashes for beauty. With Christ, I have joy regardless of my circumstances.

**Nominated by:** Lt Col Jon Anderson, USAF (Ret.); CAPT Michael Garverick, USN (Ret.); Col William Hudspeth, USAF (Ret.); MAJ William Law III, USA (Ret.)



### RADM Richard (Rick) Breckenridge, USN

**Education:** USNA, Bach Aerospace Engineering, 1982; Naval Postgraduate School, Master's EE and Engineering Acoustics, 1989  
**Present assignment:** Commander, Submarine Group Two  
**Ministry involvement:** OCF Council, area coordinator, local rep.  
**Personal testimony:** God revealed to me His goodness, compassion, and the new life available through Christ's finished work on the cross when I was at the Naval Academy. He used OCF to facilitate this amazing work, saving me for the purpose of sharing His abundant grace with others through military leadership that is active, faith-based, and God-centered.

**Nominated by:** MAJ John Hoyman, USAR; CAPT Roy Springer, USN (Ret.); CDR Hank Teuton, USCG (Ret.); CDR Clay Thomas, USN (Ret.); CAPT Lyle Watkinson, USN (Ret.)



### Col Richard (Rick) Burgess, USAF (Ret.)

**Education:** USAFA, BS Civil Engineering, 1982; Liberty University, MA Religion, 1995.  
**Present assignment:** Chief of Security Cooperation, Air Combat Command, International Affairs Directorate (General Service Civilian), Langley AFB, VA.  
**Ministry involvement:** OCF European country coordinator, local rep, Bible studies; chapel advisory board; missions board; Sunday school teacher; lay leader; preaching/teaching; group leader; military and international ministry; Protestant Men and Women of the Chapel.  
**Personal testimony:** Grew up filling my life with sports, parties and destructive behavior. During technical training in the Air Force I attended a Campus Crusade retreat center. Knew nothing about the Bible or a relationship with Christ, but surrendered all to Christ and committed my life to Him. Thank God for His grace!

**Nominated by:** Col Kim Hawthorne, USAF; Col William Hudspeth, USAF (Ret.); CDR Clay Thomas, USN (Ret.); Lt Col Stephen Wade, USAF (Ret.)



### Lt Col Tom Falconer, USAF (Ret.)

**Education:** University of Southwestern La., BS Management, 1975; AFIT, MS Logistics Mgmt., 1980  
**Present assignment:** Retired active duty  
**Ministry involvement:** OCF Capital Campaign committee chair, Spring Canyon Advisory Council member, USAFA cadet ministry and squadron Bible study and UCCS ROTC Bible study; Race to the Summit capital campaign event assistant.  
**Personal testimony:** Raised in a godly home, I accepted Christ my senior year of high school through Young Life. While wrestling with my lost dream of flying for the Air Force, it was through an OCF Bible study and the witness of two members that I made a full surrender to serve Christ and develop a relationship with Him.

**Nominated by:** LTC Tom Austin IV, USA (Ret.); Lt Col Scotty Nowlin, USAF; MAJ Dean Rizzo, USAR



### Col Scott Fisher, USAF

**Education:** USAFA, BS Political Science 1992; Harvard Kennedy School, Master's Public Policy, 1994; Marine Corps War College, Master's Military Operational Art, 2011.  
**Present assignment:** Military assistant to Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs.  
**Ministry involvement:** OCF local leader, prayer ministry, Bible study; USAFA Protestant council, Baptist Student Union, FCA; lay leader; adult and youth Bible studies, small groups, and Sunday School class teacher; youth minister; deacon; short-term mission trips; counselor.  
**Personal testimony:** Parents sent me to a private Christian school though they didn't have a relationship with God. He used loving discipleship and church to grow my faith. At vacation Bible school, after trying to convince my dad to commit his life to God, I realized I'd never done so myself—and committed my life to Him.

**Nominated by:** Brig Gen David Warner, USAF (Ret.); CDR Clay Thomas, USN (Ret.); Col Rich Sanders, USAF



### COL Rich Goldsmith, USA (Ret.)

**Education:** USMA, BS Engineering, 1963; Tulane, MBA 1972  
**Present assignment:** Recently retired Director of Strategic Initiatives, OCF Home office.  
**Ministry involvement:** OCF Field Staff rep, local leader, council governance & steering committees; Sunday school teacher; mentoring, discipling.  
**Personal testimony:** While in grad school as a major, I realized I had no answers to the "eternity" questions. A pastor caused me to really think for the first time about the truth of the gospel, and it changed our lives. My wife and I were baptized together in 1971 and tutored by the OCF ministry at Fort Leavenworth.

**Nominated by:** LTC Eric Hathaway, USA; Col Kim Hawthorne, USAF; Lt Col Scotty Nowlin, USAF; LTC Tom Schmidt, USA (Ret.); MAJ Jon Shine, USA; CAPT Jamie Vandiver, USN; LTC Mike Wertz, USA



### LTC Vaughn (Eric) Hathaway, USA

**Education:** University of Southern Mississippi, BA Criminal Justice, 1994  
**Present assignment:** Mission Command Training Program  
**Ministry involvement:** OCF Anchor Points, post coordinator, Bible studies, discipleship; Life Point contemporary service.  
**Personal testimony:** A pastor's son, I grew up in a family that followed Christ. God called me to help men become all He dares them to be. My wife has a heart for women's ministry, so we work together to build up the body of Christ. OCF has encouraged me by creating opportunities for fellowship with other believers, helping

me to become a better leader.  
**Nominated by:** MAJ Kyle Knotts, USA; LTC Tom Schmidt, USA (Ret.); Jeff Vordermark



### LCDR Charles (Chad) Tidwell, USN

**Education:** Arkansas Tech University, BS Business Administration, 1994; University of Memphis, MA Education, 2002; attending Liberty University for EDD in Educational Leadership.  
**Present assignment:** Commanding officer, Navy Operational Support Center Cheyenne  
**Ministry involvement:** OCF Anchor Points, local leader; Bible study; youth program.  
**Personal testimony:** My dad, a naval aviator, always emphasized to me "the most important decision you'll ever make in life is whether or not you will follow and serve Jesus Christ." I gave my heart to the Lord at age eight and was baptized. Though I fall short, I strive to serve Him to the utmost daily.

**Nominated by:** 1LT(R) Rafael Danam, USA; COL Rich Goldsmith, USA (Ret.); CDR Jeff King, USN; COL Mike Tesdahl, USA (Ret.)

*Continued on next page*

OCF COUNCIL ELECTIONS *2012***Capt Kathryn (Kate) Veseth, USAF**

**Education:** USAFA, Political Science, 2003; Liberty Theological Seminary, MA Theology, 2010.

**Present assignment:** C-17 Instructor Pilot; 60 AMW Director of Strategic Communication, Travis AFB, CA.

**Ministry involvement:** Home and work study leader; local church community group leader; airmen coffee shop ministry volunteer; Council of Sabers.

**Personal testimony:** Raised in a home that was Christian in label only. A competitive debater, I developed skepticism/cynicism/agnosticism/crisis of faith. At USAFA, met OCF staff rep Terry Stokka, who patiently, lovingly helped point me to the truth, and met Jesus for real at age twenty-one. The more I learned, especially apologetics, the more I wanted to learn and share, hence the seminary.

**Nominated by:** LTC Greg Lane, USAR (Ret.); LTC Lucy Lane, USAR (Ret.); COL John Haddick, USA (Ret.); CDR Clay Thomas, USN (Ret.); Capt Russ Foxworth, USAF; CH (COL) James Park, USAR (Ret.); Lt Col Terry Stokka, USAF (Ret.)

**MAJ Elijah Ward, USA**

**Education:** Virginia Military Institute, BA History, 2001; attending University of Oklahoma, MA International Relations.

**Present assignment:** Field Artillery Captains Career Course instructor, Fort Sill, OK

**Ministry involvement:** OCF Council, small group leader; adult Sunday school teacher

**Personal testimony:** Born and raised in a Christian church my dad pastored in Virginia. Through his, my mom, and others' godliness, I accepted Christ and was baptized at age 13. I was nurtured into spiritual leadership as a cadet at VMI through OCF and BCM and through the chaplain's mentorship. Since then I have remained active, excited about sharing the joys of OCF with others. My wife, Jenn, and I currently co-lead a

study at Fort Sill.

**Nominated by:** LTC Greg Lane, USAR (Ret.); LTC Lucy Lane, USAR (Ret.); CH (COL) James Park, USAR (Ret.); CDR Roger Pinkley, USN (Ret.); CAPT Alan Wood, USA

**LTC Mike Wertz, USA**

**Education:** USMA, Aerospace Engineering, 1990; Georgia Institute of Technology, MS Industrial Engineering, 2002

**Present assignment:** Chief, Studies Branch, Special Operations Command J8S.

**Ministry involvement:** Co-leader of Reveille; Bible study leader; Fort Leavenworth chapel council; home-school group athletic director.

**Personal testimony:** Grew up in a Christian family where my parents were excellent Christian role models, and while in middle school I accepted Jesus as Lord and Savior. The past five years have been a significant spiritual growth period for me, grateful that God is so faithful, forgiving, and loving.

**Nominated by:** LTC Barry Bazemore, USA (Ret.); COL Rich Gross, USA; Kevin Schmidt

**LTC Colin Wooten, USA**

**Education:** Wheaton College, Literature, 1995; Long Island University, Counseling and Leader Development

**Present assignment:** Professor of Military Science, Wheaton College, IL.

**Ministry involvement:** ROTC OCF/Valor retreat coordinator; deacon; team and Bible study leader; Fort Leavenworth Protestant chapel ministry staff

**Personal testimony:** Accepted Christ at a post chapel at age five. After several years of rebelling in junior high, I rededicated my life through the Campus Crusade for Christ ministry.

**Nominated by:** LTC Tom Schmidt, USA (Ret.); MAJ John Hoyman, USAR; COL Mike Tesdahl, USA (Ret.)



Go to [www.ocfusa.org](http://www.ocfusa.org) to vote. Voting ends 9 September.

**NOTE:** Members who cannot/prefer not to vote online should contact Susan Wallis at the OCF home office for a hard copy ballot: (800) 424-1984 or [susan.wallis@ocfusa.org](mailto:susan.wallis@ocfusa.org).



White Sulphur Springs photo

**Anchor Points 2012**

**Plug in**—OCF's White Sulphur Springs Conference Center in Pennsylvania was the site of 2012's Anchor Points. Attendees shared their OCF experiences and gained deeper insights into OCF's vision, structure and purpose. Check As Seen in COMMAND at the OCF website for full report by LTC Ric Schumacher, USA: [www.ocfusa.org](http://www.ocfusa.org).



Puget Sound OCF photo

**Armed Forces Day Concert—Washington**

OCF field staff rep Larry Simpson (right) emceed an Armed Forces concert at Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor earlier this year. Nashville recording artist Linda Lanier (left) headlined the event, closing her performance by honoring each military member in attendance.



Fort Campbell OCF photo

**Fort Campbell—Kentucky**

*Joy in the Lord*—Comprised of company grade officers and spouses, this on-post Fort Campbell OCF group enjoys fellowship time together at their Wednesday evening Bible study.



Pensacola OCF photo

**NAS Pensacola OCF—Florida**

*Fellowship, Bible study, prayer, and fun*—It's opening night for the new NAS Pensacola OCF group hosted by Capt Joshua and Moriah Hamm, USAF.

**BIRTHS**

**Caleb Holmes**, 18 January 2012, son of **LT Wendell and Mary Holmes, USN**, Big Rapids, MI.

**WEDDINGS**

**2LT Tyler Collins** married **Katie Jo Rice**, 30 June 2012. Their home is Lancaster, PA.

**Capt John Simmons, USAF**, married **MAJ Brittany Meeks, USA**, 23 June 2012. Their home is McGuire AFB, NJ.

**TAPS**

**MSG Candace Francis, USA (Ret.)**, 10 June 2012, West Point, NY.

**Suzanne Meyer**, 10 June 2012, wife of **Lt Col Donald Meyer, USAF (Ret.)**, Manitou Springs, CO.

**CPT Ian Morrison, USA**, 21 March 2012, husband of **Rebecca Morrison**, son of **Maj Greg and Kathleen Morrison, USMC (Ret.)**, Hockessin, DE.

**Mary Anne Muhlig**, 27 March 2012, wife of **Lt Col Robert Muhlig Jr., USMC (Ret.)**, Hoover, AL.

**Margaret Navorska**, March 2012, wife of **LtCol Donald Navorska, USMC (Ret.)**, Knoxville, TN.

**Suzy Neu**, 24 June 2012, wife of **Lt Col Paul Neu, USAF (Ret.)**, Aurora, CO.

**CDR Michael Newman, USN (Ret.)**, 18 March 2012, husband of **Susan Hall Newman**, Pike Road, AL.

**Cindy Powell**, 30 June 2011, wife of **Lt Col William Powell, USAF (Ret.)**, Orangeburg, SC.

**2LT David Rylander, USA**, 2 May 2012, Stow, OH.



Spring Canyon photo

A Spring Canyon campgoer is baptized. For 50 years, God has worked in a mighty way at OCF's Spring Canyon Conference Center in Buena Vista, Colorado.

## OCF's Spring Canyon Conference Center celebrates 50 years of ministry

by **MICHAEL EDWARDS**

Cleo Buxton had a vision: a “campus in the woods” retreat and conference site that would enrich the lives of military believers with the good news of Jesus Christ.

The inimitable OCF pioneer and first executive director saw his desire become a reality in 1962 with OCF's Spring Canyon Conference Center. And over the past five decades, thousands have sacrificially given of themselves to the Lord. Their time, talent, and treasure in His hands made ministry possible, changing lives in incalculable ways.

This habitation of holy ground, consecrated to God, fulfills His purposes as OCF strives to embolden, equip, encourage and engage our service men and women and their families as they run their God-ordained race in the military society.

**Spring Canyon Milestones: 1962–2012**

**1962**—Christian camping begins on a small scale.

**1963**—A complete program is offered for families and singles.

**1964**—Larry Banning becomes director

**1969**—George Meaders becomes director

**1980**—Tom Hemingway becomes director  
**1983**—Rocky Mountain High outdoor adventure program launched

**1987**—In October ROACT's board unanimously votes to approve the merger with OCF.

**1988**—OCF officially becomes the successor organization 1 January.

**1990**—Father/Teen Adventure program launched.

**1997**—Ben Jordan becomes director

**2000**—Staff housing built—Kuykendall House

**2002**—Dean Rizzo becomes director

**2004**—Staff housing built: Meaders Cabin and Beth Elohim Adonai

**2011**—Hemingway Operations Complex completed

**2011**—The OCF Growing & Building Campaign's focus shifts to Spring Canyon.

**2012**—Spring Canyon celebrates its 50th anniversary

Pray with us as OCF moves forward with fundraising efforts to build two lodges (Veterans Memorial and New Fort Shine), a new wastewater treatment plant, and enlarge Hartley Holmes Lodge's dining room and kitchen. This is a giving opportunity that supports OCF's conference center mission to provide more ministry opportunities! 🌿

**IN HONOR OF**

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.

*Roy & Madeline Stout*  
**By Anonymous**

*William C. Nolan Jr.*  
*Michael Cranston*  
*Buddy Blake Sr.*  
*Blake Hosford*  
*Frank Shell*  
*R. J. Haney*  
*Mike Shoffner*  
**By CAPT O. W. Camp Jr., USNR (Ret.)**

*George "Pete" Howell*  
**By MAJ & Mrs. Peter R. Exline, USA**

*Mary Anne Ross Muhlig*  
**By Lt Col J. R. Muhlig Jr., USMC (Ret.)**  
**Caroline & Jerome Welkom**  
**Patty & Allen Baker**

*Elaine Schantz*  
**By Mr. & Mrs. William D. Wilcox**

*William B. Caldwell III*  
**By LTG & Mrs. William B. Caldwell IV, USA**

*CDR Mike Newman, USN*  
**By Lt Col & Mrs. Terry L. Howlett, USAF (Ret.)**

*Maj Ronald P. Johnson, USMC (Ret.)*  
**By Earline K. Johnson**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS****National Capital Region autumn events**

OCF members are invited to sign up for two OCF National Capital Region events planned this autumn. OCF Executive Director David Warner will speak at the **22 September fall banquet** in Springfield, VA. **The fall retreat is scheduled for 26-28 October** at OCF's White Sulphur Springs Conference Center. COL Bobbie Little will be the speaker.

Check As Seen in *COMMAND* at the OCF website for more information:  
**www.ocfusa.org**

# Building momentum in Growing and Building campaign

by LIEUTENANT COLONEL JEFF SILLIMAN, United States Air Force, Retired

THIS HAS BEEN AN EXCITING YEAR for OCF's Growing and Building capital campaign as we see what God has done and is doing through you—and what we trust Him for in the future. At White Sulphur Springs, Heritage House's second season of family camps is wrapping up for the summer, while out west at Spring Canyon the fully operational Hemingway Operations Complex—featuring a year-round climbing wall—supported the outdoor activities of their summer programs. And the new wastewater treatment plant came on line 18 May. Successful campaign events have taken place, while other exciting opportunities are underway or targeted for the future. The aim of these efforts? Taking the Spring Canyon phase fundraising over the top, building new facilities for expanded ministry capacity and capability like we've seen at White Sulphur Springs. 🌿

### WHAT YOU'VE DONE



**White Sulphur Springs**  
Heritage House, dining hall shown above, opened summer 2011

- Doubled capacity & opportunities for ministry
- Summer 2011—attendance up 45%
- Winter 2011—attendance up 75%

**Spring Canyon**  
Hemingway Operations Complex

- Enhances outdoor programs year round
- Indoor climbing wall

**Wastewater treatment plant—operational 18 May**

- Hooked up to existing facilities
- Supports new facilities as they come on line

### WHAT YOU'RE DOING



**Spring Canyon Room Sponsorship**

- \$25,000 to equip/design/name a room honoring a school, military unit or campaign, or deceased OCF hero

**\$100,000 Matching Challenge—Met!**

- Every dollar donated was matched

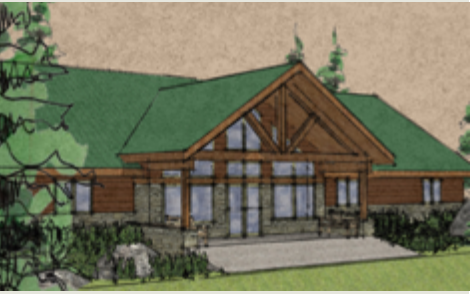
**Race to the Summit fundraiser**

- Climbing 14,000 foot Mt. Harvard
- 12 teams aiming for \$25,000 each

**Local campaign events, raising \$60,000**

- Bangor, Washington
- Carlisle, Pennsylvania
- Colorado Springs, Colorado
- More being planned!

### WHAT'S NEXT TO DO



**Veterans Memorial Lodge, construction fall 2012**

- Expanded ministry capacity & capability: Eight family-sized rooms, and meeting and other common areas

**Ahead on the horizon**

- New Fort Shine: eight family-sized rooms, and meeting and other common areas
- Hartley Holmes main lodge's kitchen and dining area expansion

## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Pray for God's continued blessings on the campaign.
- Take advantage of one of the giving opportunities.
- Make it an objective to attend one of these two wonderful conference centers.
- Go back again, inviting a friend or family to join you.

### State of the campaign

- **\$10.9 million** of overall goal of \$12.5 million raised
- White Sulphur Springs **100% funded**
- Spring Canyon now over **50% funded** (over \$2 million of needed \$3.5 million)

# Jesus' challenge to us: Choose what is eternal

**H**ave you ever thought about the number of choices you have? You could even describe life as a series of choices—where to live, what profession to pursue, and whom to marry. Joshua passed the ultimate choice, "... then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve... as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord" (Joshua 24:15).



**DAVE ROWLAND**  
Director of Resource Development

Once we are adopted into God's family, we face many more choices. The condition of our heart is going to greatly affect those decisions. At OCF's White Sulphur Springs Conference Center there is a hillside where rock has been excavated for use around the property. Two kinds of rock predominate, shale and slate. From a few feet away these rocks look the same, but they are very different. Shale looks hard, but its sedimentary layers of clay and other materials quickly break into small shards and dust when picked up. On the other hand, slate starts out as shale but is transformed by processes such as heat or pressure.



## Points to ponder

- If my heart follows my treasure, where is my heart today?
- What choices do I need to ask the Lord for help with today?
- Have I made any recent choices that crumbled like shale?
- Are there unwise choices I've made that I can reverse?
- Am I wasting my time, treasure, or talent with a choice I've already made?
- Should I pray with someone about a choice I'm facing now?
- Do I trust God to lead me to make the right choices?

Because of this change, slate is much more stable and able to be used for things—roofing, chalkboards, and floor tiles. Slate stays intact in your hand. Shale and slate are metaphors for the life choices we face. On the surface shale and slate look the same, but choosing one or the other has vastly different results. We face the same dilemma when considering the investment of our time, treasure or talent. How do we decide which of those choices will yield lasting fruit and which will waste the valuable resources God has given us? We have to examine each choice carefully, just like I did when picking up those rocks. I noticed something else while looking at the shale and slate. Shale has a smooth, attractive surface while the slate has marks left in it from the transformation process. I started to think how that resembles some of our choices. We may be drawn to the smooth and polished because it looks better, but frequently it's not the lasting choice. Think about those transformation marks in the slate for a minute. Aren't you and I also being transformed? Don't we bear marks from that too? As we make choices, maybe we should look for "marks" or indicators that God is at work in one choice or the other. Choices can seem to have little difference. Shale and slate

occur one on top of the other, and isn't that a lot like good and bad choices? They can seem almost the same, but if we dig deeper to evaluate each, we usually find the best choice down below, just as slate lies below shale. Jesus challenged us to choose that which lasts. He told us about the man who built his house on a rock. (I don't think He was referring to shale!) He told us to lay up treasures in heaven where moth and rust can't destroy. Jesus says about choices, "You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you" (John 15:16).

We need to consider our choices carefully because they have eternal consequences. Choose to build on the Rock, choose to lay up treasure in heaven, and choose to bear fruit that will last. Do as the Macedonians did—give yourself first to God. Then do what you sense is His leading. He will guide you as you grow more generous toward Him. "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." I invite you to join with me asking the Lord each day, "Lord, where is my heart today?" 🌿

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### **OCF FACEBOOK**

On the **OCF Facebook page**, you can get the latest news, comment on articles, share how God is working in your life, and dialogue with other OCF members.

### **OCF NEWSWIRE**

**OCF NewsWire** provides news, notes, and events of a more immediate nature. Sign up to receive the NewsWire on the OCF Facebook page.