



Christian perspectives on life in the military

# COMMAND

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### Practice outloving and outgiving

The heart of today's culture stands in stark contrast to why Jesus Christ came to earth and what he taught.

### Buy more stuff now

Somewhere along the way we allowed ourselves to get caught up in the spurious imitations of what was once genuine.

### Jesus is the reason for the season

Those Christians grieving this holiday season know with certainty that every ounce of hope for healing rests on that baby in a manger.

## Ministry snapshots

From ROTC to retiree, this is 'OCF for a lifetime'



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# Practice outloving and outgiving

Such unconditional love was lived out in the life of OCF's Betsy Teuton



DAVID  
WARNER

Executive  
Director

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A popular reality TV show, where lies, deception, and self-centeredness are the rule, proudly boasts its slogan as “Outwit, Outplay and Outlast.” Representative of today’s culture that focuses on individual triumph at any cost, the heart of that maxim stands in stark contrast, especially in this Christmas season as we celebrate why Christ came to earth and what He taught, “Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”

Such unconditional love was lived out in the life of Betsy Teuton, who was called home to glory 13 October after faithfully serving the Lord with husband Hank at the United States Coast Guard Academy as the OCF field staff rep couple. Over the past four years since coming on staff, Betsy and Hank lavishly, bountifully funneled Christ’s love and His truth through them and into the lives of the cadets they disciplined, mentored, encouraged and challenged toward growth as Christian military leaders.

Throughout her journey of the last couple years while resolutely fighting cancer, Betsy inspired hundreds, if not thousands, by how even on the darkest of days the love of Christ brightly glowed through her. Ever mindful of the cadets they had the privilege of serving, when asked how best to pray for them as they sojourned together through Betsy’s health battle, Betsy and Hank’s response was always to pray for the cadets, in particular, those they had not yet reached for Christ. But their hearts were heaviest for the cadets who had moved on in their careers and lives, asking others to pray they would stay in the faith.

Betsy Teuton’s final hours on earth was the unfolding of a beautiful love story as Hank and over 100 Coast Guard cadets, leaders, and friends streamed in and out of her hospital room, witnesses to Betsy’s impending birth into the heaven side of eternity.

They sang worship songs; they spoke loving words of thanksgiving to her, for the gift she’d given them as mentor and friend. I believe the best testimony of Betsy’s eternal effect on so many was captured in a beautiful letter written by a cadet, which the young lady read aloud to Betsy that day, as excerpted here:

*“Aside from God and my parents, no one has ever taken the time to know and love me as you do. I treasure our every meeting, learn from our every interaction, and marvel at how much God has used you to encourage, inspire, and change me and the other cadets at the Academy. Although I began Swab Summer sobbing, and I think both you and Mr. Teuton and my parents thought I would leave, you believed in me, prayed for me, and encouraged me. You chose to see me as God sees me, as a child of His He is preparing for good works which He prepared in advance for me to do. Although I still struggle with remembering this at times, you always teach and remind me to get God’s perspective. Thank you for teaching me to love and reach out to others more. I long to be like you, Mrs. Teuton, to love and encourage someone as you do to me. I will and am continuing to work on improving my relationship with God by individual time with Him and taking the time to care for*

*others. From seeing all the time you make to love people, Mrs. Teuton, and really get to know them, I recognize how essential it is to put God and loving people first. Thank you for your questions, your hugs, and your insight. You never fail to amaze me with your courage, kindness, and intuition. You are God’s light in this dark world, and you have been used by him to begin casting out shadows in my heart so His light can shine forth from there too.”*

Outwit, Outplay and Outlast? My wish for you this Christmas season is instead that you “Out Love and Out Give,” as Christ commands us and as Betsy Teuton demonstrated. Joyously serve your spouse, family, friends and neighbors; seek out ways to reach out to someone desperately needing to experience and feel Christ’s love, to be drawn into relationship with Him.

This is the way we fulfill the eternal promise represented by the little baby in the Bethlehem manger. This is the way we show our cynical world what it looks like to Out Love and Out Give. ✚



OCF photo

A participant in the recent Over The Top adventure for the OCF capital campaign takes time to study and pray before hitting the trail.

## Please join us in praying for these concerns

Prayer warriors needed! Use this prayer guide to join in with other OCF members as together we contend for God’s powerful moving in our ministry and each other’s lives.

### Pray for OCF ministry

#### PRAYER AND PARTICIPATION...

→For more members to pray with OCF’s faithful prayer warriors, diligently pressing in to hear God’s direction and encouragement for such a time as this.

#### CENTERS OF MASS...

→Puget Sound—Bible studies; Spiritually Smart Family conferences; marriage renewal and team building retreats, mentoring.  
→NCR/Strategic Partnerships—

local National Capital Region Bible studies, conferences, and ministry partnerships with local churches to minister to military men and women in the Washington, DC area.

#### CONFERENCE CENTERS...

→Ask the Lord to uniquely bless each life that was touched by last summer’s OCF conference center ministry at Spring Canyon and White Sulphur Springs.

#### MEMBERS & FRIENDS...

→To seek opportunities to encourage others with the joy, hope and promise found only in Jesus Christ.  
→To seek time with the heavenly Commander in Chief, to be refreshed and renewed by His still small voice speaking peace, strength and assurance.

#### DEPLOYED MEMBERS...

→For strength and protection, and also for those who may need a boost spiritually: “I will make rivers flow on barren heights, and springs within the valleys. I will turn the desert into pools of water, and the parched ground into springs” (Isaiah 41:18).

### Pray for our nation and world

→For God’s hand of protection and guidance on Christian ministries around the globe, and especially for other Christian military ministries, including ACCTS, AMCF, Cadence, CMF and CRU.

→For followers of Jesus Christ to be filled afresh by the power of the Holy Spirit, boldly rising up

and operating in the authority, strength and truth of the LORD God Almighty and His unchanging Word.

→For God’s call to believers across the world in Psalm 122:6, “Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: ‘May those who love you be secure.’”

#### HOW CAN WE PRAY FOR YOU?

OCF sends out a monthly *Power in Prayer* guide, containing specific prayer requests about OCF from members around the globe. To sign up to be a prayer warrior and to receive *Power in Prayer*, or to receive prayer from the OCF home office, contact us at: [www.ocfusa.org/contact/request-prayer](http://www.ocfusa.org/contact/request-prayer)



## Colonel John Haddick, United States Army, retired

**Born:** Fort Riley, Kansas, 1941  
**Alma mater:** University of Washington

**Came to OCF:** At Fort Belvoir for EOBC I saw a notice on the bulletin board about a home Bible study for officers and went to it, which was in the home of Howard and Gracie Graves.

**Involvement in OCF:** I looked up OCF (then OCU) people at Fort Benning while at Airborne and Ranger schools, and stayed involved with or started groups at duty stations including Fort Leonard Wood, Vietnam and Germany. Terry Kipp asked us to help with OCF's 60th anniversary celebration at the now Joint Base Lewis/McChord. And over the last ten years we have heavily engaged in the area's Bible studies, fellowship gatherings, and the Army ROTC Advanced Summer Camp (Warrior Forge) outreach to the cadets.

**Why OCF for me:** For nearly fifty years OCF has been the primary instrument God has used to train and mature me as a disciple of Jesus Christ. Bible studies, retreats, OCF's conference centers, fellowship, and the

training and example of godly OCF men and women have sustained my personal spiritual growth.

**Why a military life:** I was born and raised in the Army, living in seven states and Germany growing up. I enjoyed the different places and felt like I understood the lifestyle. I came to Christ before being commissioned and have looked for fellowship and opportunities to be "an ambassador for Christ in uniform" everywhere we have gone.

**What's on my bucket list:** Seeing all of my grandchildren come to personal faith in Christ.

**Most memorable/exotic places visited:** Israel. We went there in 1978 with our Heidelberg, Germany, chapel group. The Bible came alive as we walked the ground and saw the places where Jesus, David and Nehemiah (to name a few) lived and followed God's leading by faith.

**Best advice given you:** It's not a quote, but more a sense of what Cleo "Buck" Buxton impressed upon me—your wife is first place

in your life after the Lord. Take care of her.

**Life Bible verse:** "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me" (Galatians 2:20).

**How did you meet Ryan Wainwright (see facing page)?** At Fort Lewis at the OCF Bible study in LTC Al and Debbie Kearsse's home. We later visited Ryan and wife Mary at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, CA, and were there when their first daughter was born.

**How did you as a Paul encourage Ryan as a Timothy in his Christian walk and military life?** When Ryan was again assigned to JBLM he contacted us, asking how they might best contribute to the OCF ministry. He also wanted to meet together to talk, and Ryan often came to Saturday breakfast with questions or areas he wanted to talk about: biblical principles, family leadership and what they all looked like in real life, especially in military duty. ✝

## Major Ryan Wainwright, United States Army

**Born:** California, 1976  
**Alma mater:** West Point, 1999

**How did you meet John Haddick?** I met John and Eva Haddick through the 'Find an OCF Group' link on the OCF website. As the local OCF representative at Fort Lewis, he immediately welcomed me into an existing group.

**How did he as a Paul influence you as a Timothy in your Christian walk and military life?** John taught me a lot about preparing for and leading small-group Bible studies. He also regularly blessed me with early Saturday morning one-on-one personal and professional mentoring. The Haddicks are very supportive and encouraging of military families with young children. They were among the very first to visit at my first child's birth, and willingly served as emergency babysitters at the hospital during the delivery of our third child!

**Came to OCF:** While a plebe at West Point, a classmate invited me to join a small-group Bible study. Right away, I was hooked.

**Involvement in OCF:** Bible study leader, Spring Canyon boys' staff supervisor (summer 1999).

**Why OCF for me:** The teaching and fellowship of small-group studies have been instrumental to my growth as a believer and leader. And the friendship and fellowship found in OCF groups at each duty station have always proved to be the most significant relationships during those times. I typically plug into a local OCF group long before settling on a local church.

**Hobbies:** Biking, hiking, yard work. I also enjoy reading board books and wrestling with the kids on the grass or carpet.

**Why a military life:** I love this country. For me, the natural expression of this love is through service. As with most of us, something about military service truly resonates in me.

**What's on my bucket list:** Bicycle ride across the U.S. Read the New Testament in Greek.

**Most memorable/exotic places visited:** Bicycle touring along the Rhine and Lahn Rivers in Germany. Sunrises in Germany, Baghdad, the Oregon coast, the Grand Canyon, and Spring Canyon.

**Best advice given you:** Be intentional, but leave margin.

**Quirky habits:** In most activities I'm right handed, but I throw Frisbees with my left.

**Something I can't live without:** The Word. Things quickly get way off-center when I'm not regularly opening Scriptures and meeting with Him.

**Life Bible verse:** Joshua 24:15, especially the first one-third: "But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." ✝



OCF field staff representatives

# OCF FOR A LIFETIME

The adage of a church not being a building, but rather its people also applies to the ministry of Officers' Christian Fellowship. Over the next several pages you'll get a snapshot of some of the vast entirety of ministry work that has gone on over the years through OCF, now entering its seventy-second year. The people and stories featured here represent all those who have sacrificially given of their time, talents and treasure—standing on the shoulders of giants while declaring God's "power to the next generation" (Psalm 71:18).

by **LIEUTENANT COLONEL GREG LANE**  
United States Army Reserve, Retired

**"Building Christian leaders, families, fellowships...for a lifetime."** That motto brings to mind varying impressions or images, starting with "what does OCF for a lifetime look like?" Perhaps the best illustration of "OCF for a Lifetime" is the comparison of the Christian life to a long distance race, "since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses...let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith" (Hebrews 12:1-3).

There are many diverse examples of how "OCF for a Lifetime" is lived out by those in the ranks of the membership, responding to the Lord's call to serve Him in their portion of the military society, engaging with those around them. There is a place for each of us in OCF where we can minister to others while running the race Christ has set out before us.

OCF for a Lifetime starts out for some literally at the beginning of their lives, such as this young Army wife having "grown up OCF," her Army physician father and mother hosting OCF Bible studies in their home. Either as an attendee or staffer she spent every Christmas and several summers at OCF's Spring Canyon conference center. Her husband's OCF involvement, beginning at the U.S. Military Academy, has continued at each location the Army places them, throwing out the welcome mat to their home for OCF Bible studies and get-togethers. They reflect the example of Priscilla and Aquila hosting Paul and instructing Apollos in Acts 18:1-3, 24-26.

As with the officer above, OCF for a Lifetime starts for many at the service academies or in ROTC. One friend of mine, a lifelong Christian and field grade officer, joined OCF in military college, serving as cadet chaplain his senior year. While at Fort Campbell he hosted or led OCF Bible studies. Four combat tours later, through chaplains at an Army training post, he is spearheading an outreach to all interested incoming lieutenants and captains.

Another friend became a Christian as a cadet and stayed active in OCF Bible studies, retreats and conference center events. Flying 450 missions in support of combat opera-

tions in Iraq and Afghanistan, she recognized a need for discipleship among junior female officers and actively reaches out to encourage those she encounters in her career.

These officers picture the Daniel 1:1-6 account of Daniel and his three friends deciding as young men to serve the Lord and sticking to it.

For some, OCF for a Lifetime begins while first serving our nation as a new officer. A now-retired Army Reserve officer joined OCF while doing her initial officer training at Fort Huachuca, AZ. She helped lead and encourage local OCF small group Bible studies in various duty stations, discipled younger military women, and served on OCF Council.

Another Army Reserve officer joined OCF during his engineer officer basic course at Fort Belvoir, VA. Remaining involved throughout his career, he now serves with his wife as OCF team leaders at a major post, directing OCF's participation at the chapel services during Army ROTC summer training. They are reminiscent of the Judges 6-8 account of Gideon, called by God to lead and fight for the Jewish people.

For others, OCF for a Lifetime starts during their careers, such as the Army general who first came to Christ while serving as a captain in Hawaii. Since then he has been involved with OCF groups at every service location, and later served on OCF Council multiple times. Or consider the Navy officer who became a Christian while attending a Rocky Mountain High outdoor leadership program at OCF's Spring Canyon conference center. Active in OCF groups in many locations, also serving on OCF Council, he is currently at a

key gateway ministry location. Acts 10 is the illustration of this through Cornelius, the Roman centurion who became a Christian during his military career.

For those no longer active duty, the awesome opportunities to continue serving the Lord through OCF is at the heart of OCF for a Lifetime, such as one couple active in OCF throughout their military career and now retired near one of the United States' largest universities. They minister as OCF team leaders to those in the ROTC program. Another couple, now retired near one of the Army's more isolated posts, has led the OCF effort at that location for many years. Barnabas (Acts 9:26-30, Acts 13-15) is the example of an older man who took a new Christian named Paul under his wing and helped him grow in his faith.

These are only a handful of the many examples of OCF members engaging with others, serving the Lord and His kingdom work through OCF at any stage in life, no matter where they are placed by Him. There's great reward from the Lord to be able to say, as Paul, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith" (2 Timothy 4:7-8). 🏆

## About Greg

Greg is a former Army ROTC instructor and current administrative assistant at Austin Peay State University Army ROTC, continues to lead the APSU ROTC OCF Bible study. He and his wife, LTC Lucy Lane USAR (Ret.), are team leaders for the Fort Campbell OCF, and have both served OCF in a variety of ways including OCF Council.



**Why OCF?**

“As a midshipman, two OCFers thought enough of me to invite me to an OCF retreat at White Sulphur Springs. This retreat changed my life for eternity. Since then, as a Christian I have followed Christ and been involved with OCF ministry.”

**Bryan Burt**

**Your advice for getting involved in the ministry of OCF?**

“Keep your contact information updated with the OCF home office so that we can network more easily. It really helps our new officers to link up at their next post with another officer in OCF.”

**Tom Austin**



**One of your ministry's most moving moments?**

“One of our ECU cadets openly and candidly shared at retreat why she, as a single, was maintaining her purity and devotion to the Lord. Her honesty and sincerity spoke volumes—especially since 80% of the attendees were males.”

**Tim Wiseman**

**Why OCF?**

“It has been a blessing to be a part of a community of believers in the military. This foundation is a great launching place for new officers as they catch a vision of how God wants to use them throughout their military career and their lives.”

**Rob Enos**

# Military Service Academies

EXCEPTIONALLY DEMANDING—THAT IS THE FOUR-YEAR JOURNEY through one of our nation's military service academies, deliberately designed as such to forge finely tuned military leaders from out of the fires of continual challenge. Cadets and midshipmen juggle jam-packed schedules that stretch them beyond the max physically, emotionally, mentally.

And spiritually.

These young men and women are preparing for lives of service and sacrifice as military officers to their country, a nation whose society is increasingly drifting off course into the ocean of moral compromise, severed from its Christian moorings.

Knowing full well the ever-increasing difficulties our nation's future leaders are facing, four couples provide OCF presence at the U.S. Military, Naval, Air Force and Coast Guard academies as field staff reps. These couples—Tom and Cheri Austin, Bryan and Sherri Burt, Steve and Rita Wade, and Hank Teuton, along with his late wife, Betsy—and their teams have responded to God's call, *Here am I. Send me!* And share the good news of Jesus Christ by selflessly pouring into the lives and souls of these budding military leaders.

**USMA OCF's Tom Austin and USNA OCF's Bryan Burt**, themselves graduates of the same academies they now serve, both became Christians via the OCF Bible studies and activities they attended as undergraduates. And both men were impacted by OCF's conference center ministry by speaker Jim Wilson whose gospel message stirred Bryan at White Sulphur Springs, and Tom and Cheri at Spring Canyon, on their first vacation as

a married couple. Cheri's OCF legacy goes back to when her parents, CH(LTC) Russell and Lois Stroup, USA, hosted Dr. Bob Smith and C.N. Tokatoglou (Mr. Tok).

Both men have participated in God's kingdom work through OCF by leading and coordinating Bible studies wherever assigned during active duty, and holding varied OCF leadership positions. Tom's OCF resume includes ROACT Council, and USMA and USAFA ministry teams with Cheri, while Bryan served on OCF Council, and along with Ward Graham and Eric Robyn on several Regional Training Conferences.

Ministry in the highly charged academy life world involves scores of activities, including Bible studies, mentoring and discipling, retreats and mission trips. Abundant portions of fellowship, food and fun freely flow through the ministry settings of USNA's Maranatha Mansion and USMA's Fellowship House.

Tom Austin, Bryan Burt, and their USAFA and USCGA counterparts' collective ministry efforts rely heavily on their faithful teams of volunteers to make ministry happen. Such “force multipliers,” as Tom calls them, are also long serving, such as Dr. R. David and Mary Ann Hampton, whose fifteen years of service includes the USMA OCF tenures of Mike Tesdahl, Barry Willey, and Tom's. These dedicated team members of active duty and retired military and civilians are spurred by “the love of Christ,” compelling them to share “the hope that lies within them,” Tom said. Key components of the teams are cadet and midshipmen leaders, guided by their experienced officer mentors who advise, assist, and teach them as they lead their peers. ✂

# ROTC programs

EVERY YEAR THE RESERVE OFFICER TRAINING CORPS PROGRAM launches several thousand newly commissioned officers into the operational military. Offered at over 1,000 college and university campuses across the nation, ROTC is also a lush harvest field for the Lord's kingdom reapers. Whether working as OCF local reps or in partnership with CRU's Valor program, they faithfully serve the Lord of the harvest.

For over fifty years now, OCF's conference center ministry—first at Spring Canyon in Colorado and later at White Sulphur Springs in Pennsylvania—has refreshed countless guests via activity-filled, Christ-extolling retreats and programs. The culmination of those things is a faith infusion, a reservoir of God's truth meant to be spilled over into others.

Reaching future generations for Christ in the ripe-for-harvest mission field of college ROTC is where **Rob and Chandra Enos and Tim and Penny Wiseman** have taken the fruit of their respective conference center ministry experiences in service. Rob and Chandra are at Virginia Tech while Tim and Penny are at East Carolina University in North Carolina.

For Chandra Enos who “grew up OCF,” her Howard “Foot” and Louise Ingersoll parents sought out OCF small group fellowships at each new assignment, and the family forged “fond memories” from their vacations at both conference centers. Chandra and her husband, Rob, who also grew up in an Air Force family, spent “nine wonderful years of ministry” at White Sulphur Springs before taking “a huge step of faith to leave a life and work we loved” as well as the lifelong relationships formed

there. “I mean, a farmhouse on 1000 acres with a pond for our three boys—who would leave that?” said Rob. Yet both sensed God “asking us to trust Him—and see how He could use our faithfulness.”

Passionate about a ministry to the military and investing in college-age students, their leap of faith led them to God's open door of full-time staff with the Cru Military ministry's Valor at Virginia Tech, ministering to “the 1000 cadets in the corps.” In partnership with OCF, Valor's vision is reaching these “future military leaders for Christ, helping them grow in their faith to become disciple makers at their future duty assignments around the world,” said Rob.

Tim, a full-time ECU employee, is the OCF and Valor area coordinator and also devotes off-duty hours facilitating an Army and Air Force cadet Bible study. While Tim's OCF involvement ramped up when he and Penny were stationed in Hawaii—he later served as Bible study leader, area coordinator and on Council—Penny also “grew up OCF.” She regularly visited the conference centers with parents Fred and Ilene Stubbs, who also hosted neighborhood Bible study groups throughout their military days, and in recent years, served at the conference centers.

The same biblical principles Tim and Penny infused into their own children's spiritual lives is what they as “pathfinders” pour into the lives of the ECU cadets, helping them to “follow Christ and integrate their faith into their academic and military aspirations.” ✂



**Your advice for getting involved in the ministry of OCF?**

"In the life of the active duty family, it's easy to focus solely on service to our country. But Christ reminds us our service to Him includes those closest to us: our shipmates, neighbors, and communities in need."

**Rhiannon Kutzer**

**Why OCF?**

"Even before everyone in my family knew what had happened to me in Afghanistan, my OCF extended family from senior staff and conferences was already praying for me. That's how the Body of Christ should work, and I'm so glad that there is an organization like OCF to support and strengthen leaders and families in our military."

**John Orosz**

## Small group fellowships

THE HEARTBEAT OF OCF IS THE SMALL GROUP FELLOWSHIP, over 360 of them occurring throughout our nation and across the globe, including New Zealand, Korea and Norway. As they move throughout their careers, OCFers can utilize OCF's link up system to look up and hook up with existing small groups. Whether they meet before or after duty, or during lunch, OCFers come together in Christ to support and encourage each other through Bible study and prayer.

Navy submarine lieutenant Mark Treen believes God has given him a rare opportunity to be a missionary to those he lives, works and eats with in the ocean depths, an environment where the difficulties crew members face are more acute. The challenge, he says, is "letting Christ's light shine when you feel like you're surrounded by darkness," and instead trusting in Christ's promise that, "the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you should say" (Luke 12:12).

And just as submariners have unique opportunities to illuminate Jesus Christ to others in the ocean depths, opportunities abound as well once back on dry land.

Up in the often-overcast Pacific Northwest, Naval Base Kitsap OCF is a single snapshot of all the other OCF small groups whose military, civilian and family member attendees balance their ever changing, demanding schedules and constant deployments by regularly meeting for Bible study, and often times, meals.

These OCF small groups often instantly become both family and lifeline to the attendees. And when emergencies arise,

the small group members often rally together to provide meals, take care of children, and provide comfort and encouragement through prayer, Scripture and time spent together.

Every Wednesday, Naval Base Kitsap OCFers gather at the aptly named Anchor of Hope church, filling long tables with delicious smelling casseroles, crockpots and salads. The kids eat quickly so they can get back to playing and chasing each other. The adults enjoy the meal while chatting, laughing, and catching up on one another's lives, relishing the chance to finally rest from work or taking care of kids all day. Then they settle down to learn from God's Word and pray together. They are also putting to feet the exhortation from a recent Bible study, "faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead" (James 2:17).

Group leaders LT Flip and Christie Johnson opened Purpose Boutique, a women's clothing store ministering to both local and global physical needs, which donates a portion of the shop's net proceeds to helping women and children escape human trafficking.

Other outreach activities include a local food bank, Operation Christmas Child, and a Habitat for Humanity project, where this past summer nearly a dozen Naval and Coast Guard officers, spouses and kids helped build a house.

"There was a lot of manual labor, but just to be able to meet the gal that was going to be living there made it more meaningful," said leader Jennifer Corbin. "It was just a neat experience to be a part of."

—by Rhiannon Kutzer



**Your advice for getting involved in the ministry of OCF?**

"Serve where you are planted. God placed you in a location for a purpose. No matter how small you think it may be, connect with your local OCF coordinator and ask how you can support the spiritual growth of others in your community."

**Rob Humphrey**

**One of your ministry's most moving moments?**

"When a 2nd Ranger Battalion chaplain spoke to my platoon about the literal life-and-death importance of 'being right with the Lord,' recounting the conversion of a corporal who gave a stirring testimony at chapel, and days later was killed during battle in Afghanistan."

**Greg Lane**

## Warrior Forge

BEFORE ARMY ROTC CADETS CAN BE COMMISSIONED as second lieutenants, they must successfully complete what is now known as the Leader Development and Assessment Course (LDAC), a training event developing their leadership skills while evaluating their officer potential. Once held at Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Washington, LDAC—Warrior Forge—now takes place at Fort Knox, Kentucky.

Greg Lane was assigned as a platoon TAC to Warrior Forge in 2000. Mentored by "great Christians" in the military such as Lyons Williams, and Gail and Pud Freimark—Greg met his future wife, Lucy, at the Freimarks' OCF Bible study—Greg sensed that reaching out to those preparing "to lead and serve our nation" was something he also needed to do.

Greg met with and discussed future OCF ROTC ministry possibilities at LDAC with a fellow OCF member and retired Marine, who was surveying the ministry potential.

The Marine's name? Tom Hemingway, the former director of OCF's Spring Canyon conference center and architect of its Rocky Mountain High outdoor leadership program. Greg first met his fellow Citadel grad years earlier, impressed by the retired lieutenant colonel's "smile, friendliness, love for the Lord, and enthusiasm for getting the word out about Christ" to the military community. "Tom told me he was excited about ROTC ministry and looked forward to staying in touch," said Greg.

Greg never saw Tom again, who suddenly died only a few weeks later. And although he hadn't really known "what Tom's

goals were," Greg believes "the Lord placed a vision for reaching out to cadets for Christ" on the hearts of a permanent party of OCFers living in the Fort Lewis vicinity.

Among those spurred toward the promising mission field at Warrior Forge were longtime members John and Eva Haddick. Active in OCF since attending a home Bible study while at Fort Belvoir for EOBC, John was spiritually impacted by OCF patriarchs, including Cleo "Buck" Buxton, Dr. Bob Smith and C.N. Tokatoglou (Mr. Tok).

Conversations with the cadets are largely brief, occurring only at Warrior Forge's voluntary chapel services. Those fleeting moments, however, are substantial. Digital camo New Testaments, booklets, pamphlets and brochures, and pocket-sized spiritual kits are available for the cadets, often stopping by to ask questions of the team members manning the tables.

Army colonel Rob Humphrey, assigned to US Army Cadet Command, the headquarters responsible for Army ROTC, came to OCF as an Army cadet. And now as the Fort Knox OCF area coordinator, with CRU Valor's support, Rob had "the pleasure of coordinating the ministry" to last summer's 7,500 Army ROTC cadets.

"God has placed me in my professional position to effect support of the OCF ministry across Army ROTC and directly with summer training," said Rob, who relishes the "great partnership" he has with command chaplain Greg Thogmartin, who plans and executes the cadet summer training ministries.



**One of your ministry's most moving moments?**

"We would pray for the designers and contractors during our meetings. During Heritage House's construction, we prayed for the superintendent's family member during and safely home from his deployment to Iraq. The superintendent had never experienced that before on any other projects."

**Joe Orosz**

**Why OCF?**

"We have found OCF as a good conduit to bring others to Jesus Christ and encourage Christians in their faith."

**Kit Vaughn**



**There's even more ministry information online. Check out the OCF website for additional information on each article in the ministry guide, as well as Q&A sections that provide even more insight into the ministry of OCF.**

[www.ocfusa.org](http://www.ocfusa.org)

**Are you looking to join or start an OCF small group?**

→ If you're moving soon, are new to an area, or just looking to get connected to a group of military believers, try the OCF link-up program: [www.ocfusa.org/find-ocf/](http://www.ocfusa.org/find-ocf/)

→ And if there is not an OCF group near you, there is a variety of resources on the OCF site for starting a small group fellowship: [www.ocfusa.org/ocfresources/small-groups/](http://www.ocfusa.org/ocfresources/small-groups/)

**Join us as we strive to integrate faith & profession.**

→ Do you want to be an effective ambassador for Christ in the military society? Do you need to integrate profession, faith, and family more effectively? Do you desire authentic Christian fellowship in the military community? Is your heart moved by a vision for personal ministry at your duty station? You can find out more about becoming an OCF member here: [www.ocfusa.org/join-ocf/why-join](http://www.ocfusa.org/join-ocf/why-join)

Photos from top to bottom: OCF Field Staff, OCF Home Office, OCF Council

# OCF Retirees

FOR CHRISTIANS SERVING IN OUR NATION'S ARMED FORCES, even when their active duty days meld into retirement, God's call to serve Him remains evergreen, for in age's autumn years "...they will stay fresh and green" (Psalm 92:14), still bearing fruit. Such is the extravagant generosity of so many throughout all the years of OCF, faithfully doing God's Kingdom work, exemplifying the heart of OCF for a Lifetime.

It all started with an invitation.

And the ensuing ripple effect throughout the ages, from people affirming that original "come follow me" call from the Messiah, has helped build God's eternal kingdom—His adopted family—one redeemed person at a time.

The Granville Sharpe family invited Kit Vaughn to an OCU conference in Germany, where Dr. Bob Smith's salvation message there brought the high school sophomore to Christ. At Fort Lee, Virginia, LTC Dick and Brenda Kail invited Army lieutenant Joe Orosz, on his first-ever duty assignment, to a Bible study at their home. Newlyweds Jeff and Grace Silliman were invited to OCF's Spring Canyon conference center by their Sheppard AFB, Texas, OCF leaders, and were spiritually impacted for a lifetime by much-beloved OCF Bible teacher C.N. Tokatloglou (Mr. Tok), "a living example of Christ's loving person-hood" possessing a "rare combination of great intellect and biblical wisdom with winsome humility," said Jeff.

Involved in OCF "everywhere we were assigned," and starting an OCF "if there wasn't one," when Gwynn and Kit Vaughn located to Columbus, Ohio, they started an outreach to ROTC

students at The Ohio State University. The OCF local leaders provide guidance for the student-led Bible studies—and an occasional home-cooked meal—while also mentoring cadets and midshipmen.

As with so many others over the years, both Jeff Silliman and Joe Orosz and their families drank deeply from the conference centers' spiritual well of programs and events. Serving in many OCF capacities along the way, both are co-laborers with other committee members on OCF's Growing and Building capital campaign. Joe's task with the design and construction projects helped OCF identify the project requirements and select a design firm and contractor for the building of Hemingway Operations Complex, Heritage House, and Veterans Memorial and Fort Shine Lodges.

Jeff's public relations chair duty literally has him getting the word out about the campaign's progress, and especially "stories of the conference centers' impact on lives," said Jeff. One such story involves committee co-laborer Joe with his son, John, both of whom participated in this past summer's Over the Top, an outdoor adventure fundraiser for Spring Canyon.

The sharply pressed military uniforms Jeff Silliman, Joe Orosz, and Gwynn Vaughn have hung in the back of the closet for years now. But in God's economy, His call to serve Him never rescinds. It's all about impacting future generation for Christ, and extending invitations to come along on the journey by declaring, "...Your power to the next generation, Your might to all who are to come" (Psalm 71:18).

# JESUS IS THE REASON FOR THE SEASON

Throughout December, we'll read this over and over on billboards and bumper stickers and Christmas cards. Amidst millions of tiny sparkling lights and hundreds of white bearded Santas, followers of Christ will seek connection to the real meaning and message of the holidays. **And for one group of believers, every single breath depends on it—as we grieve our way through Christmas.**

by LESLIE JONES

This Christmas season marks a decade that his stocking hangs empty. A stark reminder of the aching, empty place in our hearts for our firstborn child, Reed FitzGerald Jones. Taken with no warning, in peaceful sleep, from this world to that world of which we've only heard rumors. For a Jesus follower, death is the lightning jolt that moves us from "I have faith that it is real" to "my every single breath depends on the fact that it is real." Paul's statement to the Corinthians that if Jesus is not the Savior of the world we are "most to be pitied" is permanently etched like a tattoo on our foreheads. If it is not true we are done, crushed beyond repair.

That first Christmas after the death of our son was agony. Every decoration and party and present and Christmas card were reminders that the whole world kept moving while our world was buried beneath the cold hard ground in a tiny wooden box. I wanted nothing more than to fast forward through that warm and fuzzy December to a bare, bleak January when the outside world would match the dreary darkness in my heart.

And then came a very unexpected gift, a song I'd sung all my life, but heard for the very first time that Sunday morning. It was dark and desperate and full of pain, just like my heart. It was the haunting, yet hopeful cries of a people longing for their Savior. And it changed everything.

*O come, O come, Emmanuel / And ransom captive Israel / That mourns in lonely exile*

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**For a Jesus follower, death is the lightning jolt** that moves us from "I have faith that it is real" to "my every single breath depends on the fact that it is real."

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*here / Until the Son of God appear / O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free / Thine own from Satan's tyranny / From depths of Hell Thy people save / And give them victory o'er the grave / O come, Thou Day-Spring, come and cheer / Our spirits by Thine advent here / Disperse the gloomy clouds of night / And death's dark shadows put to flight. / Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel / Shall come to thee, O Israel*

As I grieved my way through Christmas, I really, truly understood in a way I never had before. My pain had given me clarity of vision, eyes to see past the sweetness and nostalgia of the holidays to the earth shattering power of the Creator sending a little baby in a manger to rescue us from sin and from death. To the miracle that He came for us, and the promise that He is coming again to make "all things new."

No one needs to tell the grieving Christian to remember the Reason for the Season. The true message of Christmas in the birth of Jesus Christ is the reason we open our eyes in the morning and can make it through the day, and the month of December—and the rest of our lives. We have wrestled through the deepest questions of faith and doubt. We've wondered if it is all just one big made up story. And no opiate of the masses or tradition passed down from our fathers or feel good fairy tales are adequate to ease the pain of our loss.

We know with certainty that every ounce of hope for healing rests on that baby in a

manger. It is only Emmanuel—God with us—who is strong enough to bear the weight of grief in a mother's empty arms.

And now ten years later, I am okay with the hustle and bustle around me. I am okay with the decorations and the presents and the parties. I am okay with the world moving on. Because Jesus holds me day in and day out, season after season, year after year. And He draws me especially close during the holidays, whispering promises of a kingdom to come and a reunion with my son. My very favorite part of Christmas is gathering together with the body of Christ to proclaim the power of what His Advent means for us all. These hymns feel fresh and new and alive each year, a hopeful healing balm allowing me to worship with a beautiful intensity and gratitude birthed out of my grief and His comfort. ~~✕~~

## About Leslie

Leslie received a double portion of military life via her Army colonel father and beloved uncle, longtime OCF member COL Al Shine, USA (Ret.). She has a master of education degree from the University of South Carolina, is a speaker at women's events, and blogs about God's faithfulness to her family of five.

→ Go to "As Seen in COMMAND" on the OCF website to read Leslie's blog or for contact information: [www.ocfusa.org](http://www.ocfusa.org).

# BUY MORE STUFF NOW

Somewhere between our Thanksgiving Day prayer to God for His unmerited grace and abundance to us and the newsprint cornucopia of Black Friday ads, we allowed ourselves to get caught up in the spurious imitations of what was once genuine.

by **LIEUTENANT COLONEL LES KNOTTS**, United States Army, Retired

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**My transformation from a detached observer** to crawling on all fours across beer-soaked asphalt for shiny beads was rapid and inscrutable. I still marvel at that moment as I came to myself, holding those beads in front of my face.

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The “BUY NOW” media barrage made it clear that the Wampanoags and the colonists of the 1600s never had a New World harvest like this to be so thankful for.

My wife and I decided to see later that night what it’s like when victims of advertising shop for bargains at midnight. We weren’t really intending to shop. I only had “just in case” money with me, while Monika—who doesn’t like crowds and would have gladly remained at home in bed—didn’t even have her purse. Our son, Aaron, wanted to go—he with a stack of gift cards to deploy—until I woke him up at 11:33 p.m. My plan was to be in position when the glass doors opened so I could see for myself what I had only heard about before: a massive crest of elbow-throwing bargain hunters.

When we arrived in the dim parking lot, spirited shoppers were driving a little too fast while pedestrians were running—some for the first time all year, I suspect—to the entrance. The throng surged inside, and we the detached observers, were drawn deep into crowded aisles of mercilessly focused shoppers, some triumphant in getting that first loss-leader Xbox or the last sale-priced Samsung big-screen TV. All too soon, however, with a new Blu-ray disc player clutched in both hands, I was navigating toward the end of the line, a stripe of humanity snaking all the way around the perimeter of the store to where I had gotten the disc player. For a guy who still uses VHS, no Blu-ray technology upgrade could tempt me to wait in that line. Maneuvering under the armpit of a woman fixed in front of the display, I deposited the disc player on the shelf. We escaped the crush and went home.

It all reminded me of my sole visit to Mardi Gras in New Orleans, when I had gone with only a passing interest to watch the French Quarter’s sketchy and masked raucous revelers, free-flowing alcohol, and loud music, all seasoned with a hint of voodoo: a Black Tuesday version of a Black Friday spectacle.

I watched from well behind the rows, yet drawn ever closer to the people scrambling under the bleachers, crawling on hands and knees to recover tossed trinkets and strands of colored plastic beads. Instantly I became one of them, and stood up with both hands full of gaudy necklaces I’d wrested from the scuffling others. I felt victorious, rich!

I felt shock. My transformation from a detached observer to crawling on all fours across beer-soaked asphalt for shiny beads was rapid and inscrutable. I still marvel at that moment as I came to myself, holding those beads in front of my face. The realization may be different—and yet similar—for those finally awakening to a convicting truth in mid-pursuit of other acts of the flesh: selfish ambition, fits of rage, discord, sexual immorality, and more.

My behavior I used to brush aside as “I am only a man.” Twice I had placed myself in positions of dispassionately observing carnality, only to be drawn to prizes of no value, unable to stand and resist the schemes of the evil one (Ephesians 6:10-14). However, in 1 Corinthians 3:16-17 it’s clear that I am more than that. I am—we are—the temple of God. The Spirit of God dwells in us, and we are holy. Much more than just limited, carnal men and women, we are stewards of the mysteries of God, “This, then, is how you ought to regard us: as servants of Christ and as those entrusted with

the mysteries God has revealed” (1 Corinthians 4:1). We are obliged to daily take up our shields of faith and struggle against the powers and spiritual forces of wickedness. That’s our duty. This battle is not like war; it is war.

When we enter His gates giving thanks, it is not about thanks for all the trappings of what contemporary Christmas in America has become. We miss the point of Christmas entirely—celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ—when we succumb to a post-Thanksgiving marketing frenzy of plastic money purchases (with double-digit interest) of plastic-wrapped products eventually ending up as plastic junk crammed in boxes of chock-full garages.

In the birth of our Savior and Lord, “What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us” (1 Corinthians 2:12). Think about that next Black Friday. Free. Unlimited, unearned credit, and no waiting in line. ✕

## About Les

Les, a West Point graduate, served twenty-seven years on five continents in the Army Infantry. Alternating formal schooling with battalion and division level operational assignments, he also served at USMA as an associate professor of English. Les is a director at a leadership corporation, an ordained deacon, and has ministered in variety of ways including as OCF area coordinator. He and his wife, Monika, are parents of “two of the finest sons on the planet.”



Navarre OCF photo



Naval Base Kitsap OCF



CPT Sarah Davis photo

**OCF NAVARRE, FLORIDA**

TOP: *The Heartbeat of OCF*—This Navarre, Florida, OCF group is one of more than 360 small groups that meet regularly for fellowship and Bible study. OCF field staff reps Chet and Michelle Arnold (back row, left) dropped by to visit this group, largely comprised of those working at Hurlburt Field AFB.

**NAVAL BASE KITSAP OCF**

ABOVE LEFT: *Taking generosity to the heart*—Two Washington OCF Bible studies joined forces for a Habitat for Humanity outreach this past summer, striving to “be doers of the word, and not hearers only” (James 1:22). The Naval and Coast Guard officers,

spouses and kids muscled up to construct landscaping walls, install piping insulation, among other tasks, for the excited homeowner, a mother of five kids.

**COLORADO SPRINGS OCF**

ABOVE RIGHT: *Let’s get our studies together*—Two Colorado Springs OCF small groups met for a spontaneous potluck recently, adding to their get-together list that includes weekly Bible study, quarterly social events, and the annual Aspentime Retreat at Spring Canyon conference center every September. The group led by Chuck and Donna Hendrick are studying Romans, while the Arnie and Lois Ahnfeldt one studies John.



Kim Paine photo



Steve Satterfield photo

**FORT CARSON OCF**

TOP: *Uniting for fellowship*—Fort Carson field grade officers, spouses and “lots of kids” enjoyed a final cookout together before several families PCSed to new duty locations. They met together on Sunday evenings, first studying Ecclesiastes, followed by Ephesians.

**FORT CARSON SINGLES TEAM BUILDER**

CENTER: *Relationship Seminar*—CH(MA) Steve Satterfield, the ministry and pastoral care department’s deputy chief for Evans Army Community Hospital at Fort Carson recently led a seminar at Spring Canyon conference center in September. The conference provided tools for single soldiers to use in building and sustaining strong, healthy relationships.



Phil Exner photo

**INTERNATIONAL RMH**

BOTTOM: *Shaping future leaders*—Tom Falconer (third from right) was part of a military leadership contingent that hosted and helped teach young international military men and women from Israel, Poland, Finland, and South Korea. Participating in a special Rocky Mountain High (RMH) leadership program at Spring Canyon, these cadets, midshipmen, and a sergeant enjoyed outdoor adventures while soaking in solid spiritual lessons from the leaders.

# OCF Council wraps up fall meeting at Spring Canyon

by **COLONEL MANDY BIRCH**  
United States Air Force  
Reserve

Your OCF Council gathered beneath the yellow aspens and snow-capped mountains at OCF's Spring Canyon conference center 16-19 October for its fall meeting. The verse "Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith" (Hebrews 12:2, NASB) anchored us as we engaged with one another to carry out our responsibilities for the ministry and activities of OCF.

Our shared bonds in Christ created opportunities to encourage one another as we sought God's will for the strategic direction of the ministry. From arrival through departure, worship, devotions, small-group introspection, and prayer equipped us for our business sessions. OCF's Spring Canyon conference center director couple, Kim and Kari Ann Hawthorne, welcomed us with an open house. As we later

settled into our rooms, a few lucky ones found themselves in the newly dedicated Fort Shine Lodge.

Council welcomed special members to their first meeting, legal rep Skip Ash and spouse rep Kim Paine, and also personally thanked Anthony Gray and Blair Watkinson for their faithful service as members of the Class of 2014 as they rotate off Council. During our final meal together, OCF ministry advancement director couple Mike and Peggy Tesdahl were honored with a Fort Shine room dedication: "USMA 1997-2005" in recognition of their seventeen years of service as OCF staff members, including a stint as field staff reps at West Point.

The Holy Spirit helped the Council to find unity in passing the 2015 budget and charting the best way to ensure the long-term financial health of OCF. We also reviewed the recent election results and confirmed the Class

## OCF Council election results

At its October meeting, the OCF Council confirmed the membership's selection of the Class of 2017. Starting a three-year term on the twenty-two-member Council in January are:

- CH(COL) Marc Gauthier, USA
- CDR Steve Hoffman, USN
- 1stLt Brooke Leigh, USAF
- COL Laurence Mixon, USA
- Col Paul Riegert, USMC

Council also elected LT Gordon Hood, USCG, and MajGen Mel Spiese, USMC (Ret.) to serve with the Class of 2017.

Council officers for 2015 are: MajGen Mel Spiese, USMC (Ret.)—president; CAPT Jamie Vandiver, USN (Ret.)—vice president; Maj Kate Veseth, USAF—secretary; and CDR Steve Hoffman, USN—treasurer.

of 2017 Council members, praising God for his hand in shaping a Council that mirrors the overall membership demographics of OCF. After our evaluation of the executive director was our hands-on prayer of reaffirmation for David and Lori Warner and their call to the OCF ministry.

The Council also took the opportunity to further refine

foundational assessments and frameworks we'll use in creating OCF's 2017-2021 Strategic Plan. USAFA OCF field staff rep Steve Wade emboldened us through the closing devotions and worship to fix our eyes upon Jesus and run a good race in our committee work carrying us to our spring 2015 meeting at White Sulphur Springs. ✠

Niceville, FL.

**LTC Stacy Bragg, USA (Ret.),** 24 September 2014, husband of **Linda Bragg**, Colorado Springs, CO.

**SSgt Bettie Brown, USAF (Ret.),** 26 June 2014, Montgomery, AL.

**LTC Steven Dougan, USA (Ret.),** 9 October 2014, husband of **Kyong Dougan**, Springfield, VA.

**COL Dennis Harron, USA (Ret.),** 16 September 2014, husband of **Jean Harron**, Columbus, GA.

**Carolyn Loizeaux,** 7 July 2014, wife of **COL Peter Loizeaux, USA (Ret.),** San Antonio, TX.

**LTC James McDowell, AUS**

**(Ret.),** 18 June 2013, husband of **Joan McDowell**, Thousand Oaks, CA.

**Sally Reinhard,** 2 October 2014, wife of **COL Karl Reinhard, USA (Ret.),** Urbana, IL

**Barbara Schult,** 8 June 2014, wife of **CAPT Richard Schult, USNR (Ret.),** Norfolk, VA.

**Amanda Strader,** 8 July 2014, wife of **LTC Kent Strader, USA,** Kailua, HI.

**Betsy Teuton,** 14 October 2014, wife of **CDR Hank Teuton, USCG (Ret.),** Quaker Hill, CT.

**Velma Thornburg,** 23 September 2014, wife of **George Thornburg,** Loveland, CO.

## Births

**Henry Alonzo Chauta,** 3 September 2014, son of **2ndLt & Mrs. Shaun Chauta, USAF,** grandson of **Col Houstoun & Tami Waring, USAF (ret.),** Montgomery, AL, great-grandson of **George & Ann-Meredith Waring,** Carbondale, IL.

**Micah Gramling Garland,** 20 May 2014, son of **LT John & Abby Garland, USCG,** Williamsburg, VA.

**Meredith Rae McNaughton,** 21 October 2014, daughter of **SrA Mick & Marijean McNaughton, USAF,** granddaughter of **Col Houstoun & Tami Waring, USAF (Ret.),** Montgomery, AL, great-granddaughter of **George**

**& Ann-Meredith Waring,** Carbondale, IL.

**Michael Obadiah Prinzing,** 26 August 2014, son of **1LT Joseph & Erin Prinzing, USA,** Huntsville, AL.

**Delilah Kaneli Schmidt,** 12 July 2014, daughter of **Kevin & Casey Schmidt,** Wahiawa, HI; granddaughter of **LTC Tom & Jean Schmidt, USA (Ret.),** Leavenworth, KS.

## Taps

**Carolyn Barber,** 23 October 2014, Colorado Springs, CO, widow of **Kenneth Barber.**

**COL Benjamin Beasley, USA (Ret.),** 3 December 2013, husband of **Tammy Beasley,**

EXPERIENCE. SERVE. LEAD.



**EXSEL**  
DISCIPLESHIP PROGRAM

## White Sulphur Springs internships give students a chance to EXSEL

by **PAUL ROBYN**  
White Sulphur Springs  
Director

What if you could get a jump-start on the next chapter in your life with a year of mentoring, service and leadership growth development, while gaining real-life work experience and earning college credits? What if you could do it in a Christian environment committed to serving military families and to developing you? The new EXSEL Internship at OCF's White Sulphur Springs conference center in Pennsylvania will offer you all of those things while emphasizing Experience, Service, and Leadership.

WSS is recruiting its first cohort of up to eight young men and/or women, ages eighteen to twenty-four, to join the staff as interns for the one-year EXSEL Internship beginning September 2015. We're seeking applicants who are committed to Christ and want to deepen their faith and strengthen their walk while learning, growing, and serving. They will serve in one of WSS's operational vocation areas: programs/front office, youth programs, horse program, facilities/maintenance, and food service.

The EXSEL program provides

hands-on work experience, spiritual and personal growth in learning to be a servant leader, and opportunities to earn college credits. Seminars and workshops, directed readings and discussions, one-on-one meetings, and mentoring and discipling are all planned to help interns become more effective Christians. College credits will be made possible via enrollment in elective course offerings through a regionally accredited university.

As WSS team members ministering to the guests and running the programs, the interns will work under the close supervision of WSS staff and be given responsibility incrementally from September through early June. From there, a capstone event of EXSEL is assigning interns direct leadership roles and responsibilities as key members of senior staff during the eight-week summer program. Once EXSEL concludes in mid-August, the WSS team will work with interns for follow-on placement assistance tailored to their goals.

We're excited about the prospect of expanding the leadership and spiritual development opportunities that have been the OCF ministry's signature strength for decades. This

investment with its academic and vocational opportunities can have a multiplying effect for years to come in God's Kingdom. Whether you think of it as a "gap-year" or "year-out" from college education, or simply an opportunity during a critical stage of life for personal and spiritual growth, participation in the EXSEL program can be a life-changing experience.

To qualify for this unique opportunity, applicants must be professing Christians, between the ages of eighteen to twenty-four, and who are ready to grow in their faith and service to others. Priority will be given to those from military families, but those interested in serving the military community will also be considered. Applications are due by 28 February 2015, with notification of acceptance by 1 April.

We invite you to pray about whether this opportunity could be right for you or for someone you know. EXSEL is an opportunity to accelerate growth while preparing for excellence in service to the Lord and His calling upon your life. ✠

→ To start an application or for more information, call 814-623-5583 or go to [whitesulphur.org/EXSEL](http://whitesulphur.org/EXSEL)

## 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.

### IN MEMORY OF...

**SSgt Bettie J. Brown, USAF (Ret.)**

By Col & Mrs. Charles O. Cox, USAF (Ret.)

**RADM Stanley J. Anderson, USN (Ret.)**

By BGen & Mrs. Hugh T. Kerr, USMC (Ret.)

By CAPT & Mrs. Wilbur J. Mahony, USN (Ret.)

By LCDR Elinor S. Kessel, USN (Ret.)

**CDR Garvin M. McGettrick, CHC, USNR (Ret.)**

By Lynne N. McGettrick

**Maj Ronald P. Johnson, USMC (Ret.)**

By CAPT & Mrs. Donald V. Colley, USN (Ret.)

**Capt. John Beving, USMC**

By Ms. Adriana Beving

**Sgt. Peter Alexander Dvorak, USAF**

By Mr. and Mrs. Paul Garnett

By Randy and Cheryl Schroeder

By Soul's Harbor Church of God

By Victory Assembly of God

By Mary Sue Winneke and Leo T. Winneke Jr.

**Mrs. Sally Reinhard**

By Melody Henson



OCF photo

Over the Top trekkers stop for a photo at Ptarmigan Lake in August. The fundraising event generated over \$264,000.

## Over the Top receives outpouring of blessing

by **ERIC HOLMERTZ**  
Associate Director  
of Ministry Advancement

Rock climbing, rappelling, ATVs, spirit-filled devotions, and even some hatchet throwing were some of the great adventures trekkers and guides alike enjoyed in August for OCF's Over the Top fundraiser.

This OCF Growing and Building capital campaign event, the third extreme-challenge event in as many years, took place in Colorado among the Collegiate Peaks surrounding OCF's Spring Canyon conference center outside of Buena Vista, Colorado. Over the Top's mission: helping complete the Spring Canyon phase of the capital campaign, now focused on dining room/kitchen expansions and renovations.

Starting at the Mt. Princeton Hot Springs for introductions and also to acclimate adventurers to the elevation, Over the Top's first activity was a five-hour horse back ride across the face of 14,196-foot Mt. Princeton before hiking to the first campsite. Over the next

few days we enjoyed climbing, hiking, fishing, hearty meals and warm fellowship before heading back down to Spring Canyon for a BBQ dinner event and time for reflection.

With the second of two eight-room lodges now completed at Spring Canyon, the 26 May dedication of the newly built Fort Shine Lodge opened up yet another consecutive door to more life-changing ministry opportunities available at OCF's two conference centers.

Underway in 2006, OCF's Growing and Building capital campaign has already met the need for new lodging facilities starting with Heritage House opening at White Sulphur Springs in 2011. Veterans Memorial Lodge at Spring Canyon became available late summer 2013, and then launched into a full calendar year of packed-house ministry starting with the winter sports retreats, the second one Spring Canyon's largest winter retreat ever. The critical need for kitchen/dining room renovations at Spring Canyon to accommodate increased camp capacity was underscored this year by several full-house

retreats, including a spring event with 137 high school students and a summer session of 165 people, with an "outdoor café" set up to serve the overflow of diners.

Prior to those lodging facilities' openings, an unexpected blessing allowed Spring Canyon's Hemingway Operations Complex, a year-round multi-purpose building, indoor climbing wall, guide quarters, and ropes courses, to open in 2010.

Spring Canyon Alive!, the current work of OCF's capital campaign, endeavors to convey OCF's conference center ministry to full potential by raising \$1.4 million by the end of 2015 to complete the renovations and expansion debt free. Over the Top's outdoor event helped OCF reach 46 percent of that projected goal by generating over \$264,000. 🙌

→ For updates on campaign progress or to join in God's kingdom work of ministry to our military through OCF, check out: <http://SpringCanyonAlive.ocfusa.org>

## Go forth, do good: A call to generosity

Four biblical principles for taking hold of the life that is truly life



**MIKE  
TESDAHL**

Director  
of Ministry  
Advancement

OCF is here to encourage you as you run your race. If you've been blessed by this ministry, would you prayerfully consider making a donation?

To make a donation:  
[www.ocfusa.org/donate](http://www.ocfusa.org/donate)

In 1 Timothy 6:17-19, Paul summarizes everything God has related to us—in His Word, through His prophets and by the example of His Son—about a generous heart and a generous lifestyle, calling us to be "extravagantly generous. If they do that, they'll build a treasury that will last, gaining life that is truly life" (MSG).

**Go after God!** Jeremiah 9:23-24 warns the rich man not to boast of his riches, "but let him who boasts boast about this: that he understands and knows me." As I grow in my knowledge and understanding of Jehovah-Jireh, "The Lord Will Provide," I throw off my unfounded hope in wealth with its accompanying anxiety, distrust and hoarding. As a Christian my hope becomes an assured, confident expectation of what will indeed take place—because God has promised and guaranteed it: "And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19). This verse declares that God will supply my needs; it is silent about my greedy wants and frivolous desires. But there is more to be gleaned here. Paul is also saying that it is as if Christ draws on the treasury of heaven, so that as I supply another's needs from my poverty, He supplies my every need from his riches.

**Be rich in helping others!** Philippians makes a transitive statement—I am rich because of what God has done. In the opening passage

from Timothy, however, "Be rich" is used intransitively; through no outward intervention or motivation, I will simply be rich, extravagant, in my personal outreach and service. Extravagant people are outward focused. Whether of their time, talents or treasure, they simply love to give, steadily pouring themselves out for others in acts of love. They draw energy from making a difference. They are disciplined, making hard choices so that they can do even more. They are humble, drawing others along by the sheer testimony of their example. They are in community "alert at noticing differences and quick at mending fences... together, both outwardly and inwardly" (Ephesians 4).

**Be extravagantly generous!** At first glance, the emphasis here seems to be on my generosity. On the contrary, the emphasis is on my testimony. "What matters most to me is to finish what God started: the job the Master Jesus gave me of letting everyone I meet know all about this incredibly extravagant generosity of God" (Acts 20:24 MSG). Rather than generosity, most other translations

speak of God's grace. From the root, to rejoice, grace in its broadest sense reminds us of all that God has done for us and compels us to joyfully and delightfully imitate those things in our personal and corporate generosity. For many of us, our most precious and sacrificial gift is not even our money; it is our time, our participation, our leadership, our knowledge and experience. Extravagantly generous people live with gratitude, make giving a first priority and teach others to save carefully, spend prudently and give lavishly.

**Take hold of the life that is truly life!** This is my last column, as I leave the OCF staff after seventeen years and my wife, Peggy, and I go into retirement—unless and until God calls us into something new! Be assured that we are not leaving the Fellowship; we ministered as one of OCF's great army of "lay-indigenous" leader couples for years before we came on staff, and we will continue to serve as the Lord calls us. After all, that is what an extravagantly generous life looks like.

May you also choose life! 🙌

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# There's still time to join us at an **OCF Winter Retreat**

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

## Here's what others are saying about OCF Winter Retreats:

→ *It's clear that God is at work here. It's a place where we can focus with attention to our spiritual lives...*

→ *My teens beg us to come! I appreciate that they are challenged to live out their own faith. It's 'cool' to be on fire for God here.*

## Spring Canyon: Winter Sports Retreat

**Winter Sports Retreat #1: 20-26 Dec.**

**Speaker:** Col Scott Frickenstein, USAF

**Topic:** "Discipleship Tune-up"

**Winter Sports Retreat #2: 27 Dec.-3 Jan.**

**Speaker:** Col Houstoun Waring, USAF (Ret.)

**Topic:** "Knowing the Scriptures and the Power of God"

→ Reserve your Christmas and New Year's celebration today: [SpringCanyon.org](http://SpringCanyon.org)

## White Sulphur Springs: Winter Retreat

**Winter Retreat #1: 19-26 Dec.**

**Speaker:** Chaplain Norman Brown, USN (Ret.)

**Topic:** "Have You Seen the Glory? How the Word became flesh so we might have life!"

→ For complete information and to register: [WhiteSulphurSprings.org](http://WhiteSulphurSprings.org)