

COMMAND

Christian perspectives on life in the military

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Part of an Amazing Lineage

The God of the Universe, creator of all things, has invited you to partner with Him in His kingdom in the places He has you right now.

Opportunities in the Desert

Do you opt for the comfort that comes from seeking the Lord rather than the comfort and stability of routine?

Avoiding Moral Ambushes

Six ways to prepare for the moral ambushes from the enemy and avoid becoming a spiritual casualty.

A new door of ministry

OCF celebrates dedication of Fort Shine Lodge



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DAVID
WARNER

Executive
Director

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Don't you love it when the Lord reveals something new through His Word? I have read Matthew many times. And I'll admit that I usually skim past the genealogy to get to the "meat" proclaiming the birth, life and good news about our Savior. Recently, however, my eyes were opened to two truths that penetrated my heart, ensuring that I will never again fast forward past these verses and forever ponder my lineage and legacy.

Truth #1: Several weeks ago, I was blessed to visit with Morgan Jackson, senior vice president of Faith Comes By Hearing (FCBH). Morgan's ministry is committed to getting "God's Word everywhere for everyone." So far, they have recorded the Scriptures in over 800 languages and dialects and have leveraged numerous methods to distribute these recordings.

In his introduction, he asked which part of the New Testament was the most compelling for many of the world's cultures. Stymied, I uttered the usual—the good news about Christ. Morgan captured my attention by saying it's the first seventeen verses of Matthew's gospel. Why? Because many cultures treasure and value their lineage—where you come from establishes your right to say what you say. The fact that Christ's lineage traces back to Abraham establishes Christ's bona fides.

Truth #2. Through Christ's death on the Cross we have been grafted into that genealogy; through Christ's blood, we are now in His "bloodline." How amazing is that? Now comes the hard question each of us must answer: "What am I doing to extend the genealogy?"

This summer I had the privilege of participating in two events that exemplified the legacy of Christ, where His lineage is being carried on. On Memorial Day at OCF's Spring Canyon conference center, the newly constructed Fort Shine Lodge was dedicated to the memory of 1LT Jonathan Cameron Shine, who gave his last full measure in service to his Lord and his nation in October 1970.

What we celebrated was not 1LT Jon Shine's death, but his life. For in his last moments on this earth, his thoughts were on his comrades in arms and on his Savior, ensuring that his life, through his last breath, was focused on extending the lineage of Christ! Shortly after his death, Jon Shine's brother, Al, and his wife, Sandra, named their young son Jonathan Anthony Shine. Now, LTC Jonathan Shine, one week after the dedication, assumed battalion command at Fort Bliss. LTC Shine is constantly aware of his lineage. He continues to live up to the legacy of service and calling established by his uncle and by his dad and mother.

In late June, I attended Anchor Points, which is OCF's executive leadership course dedicated to pouring into the lives of OCF's future leaders. I met a family who has withstood five deployments in fifteen years of marriage. How have they done this? By living a life worthy of the call, staying on their knees, immersed in the Word, and surrounded by loving fellowship. Throughout their journey, their faithfulness has allowed them to withstand the hardships that come with a life in the Army, and the ability to shine Christ's light to others.

Another family came together through an interesting series of events. The spouse grew up in Liberia and as a teenager endured that nation's civil war in which hundreds of thousands perished. She was able to escape and come to America where she met her husband. Through her struggle she knows what it is to be set free and to live a life for Christ. Now a mother of two beautiful daughters, she and her husband are committed to living a life worthy of the call of Christ.

With autumn's arrival on the horizon, as you settle into the routines of school and work, I challenge you to carefully consider where the Lord has you, who He has brought into your life, and then answer if you are living each day for Christ. Rejoice that you have been bought at a price and are now part of this amazing lineage.

As we stand at the foot of the Cross, have we lived up to a life worthy of the call (Ephesians 2:10; 2 Corinthians 5:20)? The God of the Universe, creator of all things, has invited you to partner with Him in His kingdom in the places He has you right now. If we really grasp the enormous truth of His calling on each one of us, we should be passionate and excited about the mission He has for us daily.



The Dorchester Chaplains
In 1961 Congress authorized and President Dwight Eisenhower awarded a one-time-only special medal for heroism, The Four Chaplains' Medal, posthumously given to their families. At left, the USAT Dorchester.

Making the 'no greater love' sacrifice

by BEN FERGUSON

Acts of uncommon valor in the arena of battle, those of valiant warriors risking their own safety and survival to come to the aid of their "battle buddies," are at the very heart of Jesus' proclamation that, "There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends" (John 15:13).

Four WWII chaplains, who had studied and served together, put into practice one February morning in 1943 what they preached. They gave their lives so others might live.

The USAT Dorchester was a converted troop ship taking 902 souls from New York to war in Europe via Greenland. Anyone who's ever been aboard a troop ship as a passenger, with troops huddled in every nook and cranny of the ship, knows it's not a Prin-

cess Cruises excursion! The sights and smells of huddled humanity aren't soon forgotten.

One day out of Greenland, a torpedo struck the side of the ship, killing all in the blast area, plunging the vessel into total darkness. Terrified and confused, the surviving soldiers scurried in search of exits and rescue boats.

Chaplains Alexander Goode, John Washington, Clark Poling and George Fox could have headed for the lifeboats. Instead, they went to different parts of the ship, assisting panicked and wounded soldiers to the top deck and rescue boats, handing out lifejackets to those who had left theirs behind, and giving their own away when all the lifejackets were gone.

Less than a half hour after the torpedo attack, the ship slipped below the icy waves. Inseparable at Harvard's chaplain school, in

war, and their final earthly moments, the four chaplains were last seen standing arm-in-arm against the slanted deck railing, leaning on each other. Above the din of the evacuating lifeboats the soldiers could hear Chaplain Goode, a rabbi, chanting in Hebrew, "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one" (Deuteronomy 6:4). Chaplain Poling, a Reformed church pastor, was reciting the Lord's Prayer while Chaplain Washington, a former New Jersey gang-member-turned Catholic priest, sang hymns of comfort.

The strongest human instinct is for survival. Why didn't these four men immediately head to the lifeboats and save themselves? Chaplain Fox, a Methodist minister, told his wife when the war broke out, "I've got to go. I know from experience what our boys

are about to face. They need me." In a letter to his dad Chaplain Poling wrote, "Just pray I shall do my duty... that I shall never be a coward."

Every chaplain who has come after them understands the risks assumed in becoming battle buddies to the warriors they accompany on their journeys through the valley of the shadow of death—many also making the same "no greater love" sacrifice as this brave quartet.

Ben, a Navy veteran, ministers as a chaplain to chaplains for Adopt-A-Chaplain. He also authored two books, *God I've Got A Problem* and *The Shaping of A Man of Faith*.

→ Check out "As Seen in COMMAND" for more information about AAC: www.ocfusa.org.

OPPORTUNITIES IN THE DESERT

Trusting sovereign God in a dry and weary land

by LIEUTENANT COLONEL JAMES CAMERON
United States Army

Life in the military provides no shortage of times spent in the wilderness. The unique challenges of frequent moves from duty station to duty station, training exercises, watches, guards, duty shifts and deployments spawn seasons of stress, seeking, and feelings of desperation, not unlike King David's own wilderness experiences.

A fugitive from the avenging King Saul he'd wholeheartedly served, David cried out to the Lord, "O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and wearyland where there is no water" (Psalm 63:1, ESV). Despite his anguish, David recognized the needs of his soul: to focus on trusting the sovereign God while humbling his will to God's will in his life.

Our military lifestyle, where all routines and habits are continually and completely uprooted, is often uncomfortable and unsettling. And even though the best of spiritual disciplines may become unsustainable during these disconcerting times, we are provided with a unique opportunity to sift through that which is a "shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ" (Colossians 2:17).

My last opportunity for sifting came on a deployment to Afghanistan, doing endless staff work at a desk. Overwhelmed by trying to get up to speed on my job, jet lag kept me from decent sleep the first week. Frazzled and worn out all the time, my days became long and tedious—not dangerously exciting and exhausting as with previous deployments. At night I sat on my bunk in the living quarters absolutely drained, my mind unable to fully focus.

When I did have time to myself, decompressing and doing something mindless were all I felt able to do. I might spend a few minutes at the MWR tent watching football, but the time zones were always too far off to really enjoy a game. My best relief came from reading fiction that gripped my mind, providing a total escape.

Up until this experience, I was well established with solid spiritual disciplines: daily quiet time in the Word and prayer, Scripture memorization, and regular in-depth Bible study. Healthy fellowship—mentoring and plenty of encouragement—surrounded me. Although I had heard people talk of losing desire for their spiritual disciplines, I never experienced any such struggles until this deployment, when all my spiritual disciplines were uprooted and I struggled to reestablish them. Even when the limited opportunities to do so came my way, I was too exhausted. Concerted Bible study was simply out of the question.

What a blessing!

I came to realize my spiritual disciplines—not Jesus Christ—had become my focus, slowly and subtly supplanting what should have been a growing, intimate relationship with Him. Now when I did find precious time to get in the Word, thoughtful, purposed reflection upon Christ

became paramount—a necessity. My mind, body and soul craved contemplating Him, His faithfulness and loving kindness. I pondered the combination of His sovereignty and His goodness as they merged in my every day. Despite feeling overwhelmed with the job, the Lord's grace met my insufficiency as a professional and as a person, "a bruised reed he will not break, and a faintly burning wick he will not quench," (Isaiah 42:3, ESV). His provision ensured I was not shattered.

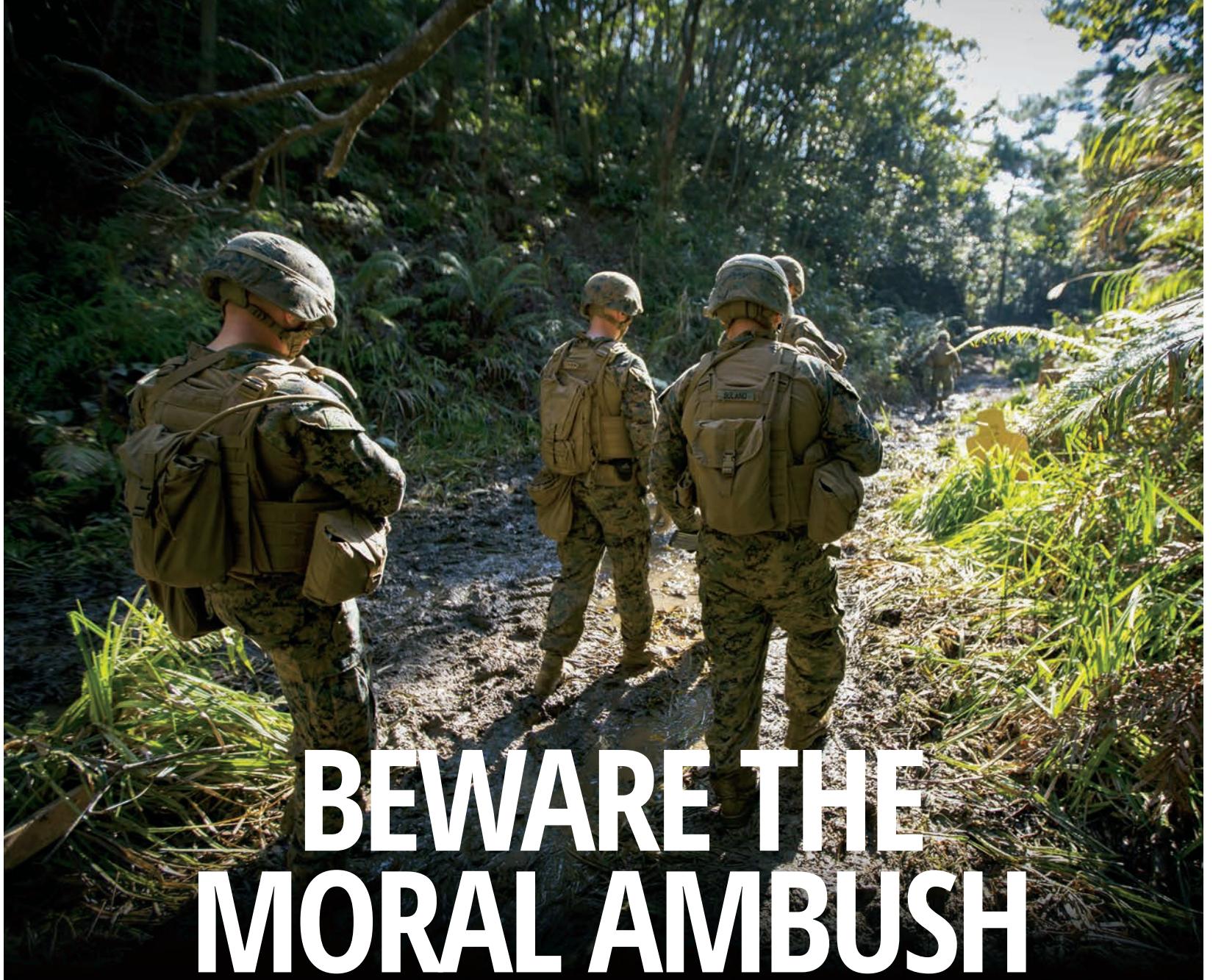
Time spent in the Word and committing it to memory over the years built a firm foundation I drew upon for intimacy with the Lord, and which enabled me to experience His provision. I began to experience His glory and grace in ways not ever felt before. Jesus' supernatural presence would overwhelm me, nourishing my soul as I sat on my bunk, only barely awake physically while my bunkmates slept. I sensed His love which surpasses all understanding and grew in knowledge of Him.

David's conclusion in the Judean desert became mine as well, "My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me" (Psalm 63:8, ESV). This powerful reminder was the greatest lesson learned from the deployment: the Lord alone is my sustainer—down to the finest detail.

Before I deployed God gave me Psalm 46:10, "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth." Deploying I saw that as a promise of His sovereignty and protection over me and my family; returning it was also the Lord's invitation to rest squarely in Him and His sustenance. I did re-engage with most of my spiritual disciplines over time, but now with a renewed vigor of first drawing near to Christ.

When life's "opportunities" through desert experiences come your way, opt for the comfort that comes from seeking the Lord—who truly nourishes the soul—rather than the comfort and stability of routine. ↗

Jim, a 1995 West Point graduate, is a strategic intelligence officer. He began his career in the infantry and he has served with the 82nd Airborne Division, the 3d Infantry Division, the 75th Ranger Regiment and the U.S. Pacific Command. Deployed to both Iraq and Afghanistan, he is now an instructor at the U.S. Army's Command & General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, KS. Jim and his wife, Wendy, have three children.



BEWARE THE MORAL AMBUSH

6 strategies to avoid becoming a spiritual casualty

by COLONEL BRIAN MICHELSON
United States Army

"Medic!" Few words so completely capture a leader's attention like that urgent call, one most often following the staccato of automatic gunfire or the deafening explosion of an enemy-initiated ambush. In the blink of an eye a situation has quickly gone bad, a unit has casualties, and there will likely be more unless it quickly clears the kill zone.

Ambushes are deadly attacks utilizing surprise and concealment. Similarly, a moral ambush is a situation in which our character is tested—often in areas of personal weakness—at a time, manner or place decidedly not of our own choosing, after a series of smaller attacks by our spiritual enemy. We may even enter moral kill zones oblivious to the dangers around us. And then suddenly comes the larger enemy effort, where we or someone we know find ourselves mired in a morally compromising situation—respected and dedicated professionals ambushed by their own poor choices.

Given the description in Ephesians 6 of the spiritual battle raging around us, what can we do to prepare for the moral ambushes upon us from the enemy and avoid becoming a spiritual casualty? Here are six suggestions.

1. Conduct good Intelligence Preparation of the Battlefield (IPB). Have we honestly assessed our own moral weaknesses and previous failings? Do we know what our personal kill zones are: ego, Internet pornography, flirtatious relationships justified as just “kidding around,” pride, covetousness, anger or other heart attitudes? Do we understand the triggers and precursors to these events in our lives? The autopsy of a moral failure would rarely show someone deliberately walking into a kill zone fully aware of the dangers involved, but rather the toxic combination of situational ignorance and personal overconfidence. We should recognize that given the right set of circumstances we really could fail. Pondering these situations in conjunction with good IPB will help us establish good standard operating procedures (SOPs) and “red lines.”

2. Take Christian discipleship seriously. Our relationship with Christ is the one thing truly impacting every area of our lives. As Christian leaders, with our life’s primary calling to first be followers of Christ, it’s surprisingly easy to view our Christian character as “good enough” and not needing continuous, active development. We may already be in a vulnerable position if the moral challenges inherent in our rapidly growing professional responsibilities exceed the capacity of our spiritual maturity to handle them. Comparatively, with the significant efforts we expend developing and honing our professional skills, we sometimes invest only time and energy leftovers into discipleship. We have time for physical fitness, watching football all season, playing computer games, etc., yet find little time to invest in our relationship with Christ.

3. Build moral reasoning. We must learn to think “Christianly” by knowing what we believe, why we believe it, and then apply these principles at the in-

ception of a decision-making cycle. Just as sprinkling more sugar on top of an already baked cake is superficial, we also cannot reason through a decision and hope to add some spiritual morality to it after the fact.

4. Have a ranger buddy. One is good, but more are better. Have we built accountability into our lives with people we trust—or are we attempting to go it alone? On a personal level we need relationships with people who encourage us in our Christian walk and will be honest with us when we’re drifting off azimuth. Just as conducting combat operations is a team sport, so is our faith.

5. Listen to the scouts. Seek out, learn from, and ask the counsel of those farther along in their Christian walk than we are. Those going before us can provide invaluable advice on work pressures, family life, our own shortcomings, or the myriad of other issues that can cause us to stumble. While many of us likely regret not seeking more good counsel earlier in our lives, it’s never too late to get good advice.

6. Keep the time priorities right. The demands on our time increase dramatically with rank, especially in command, S3, and XO-type positions, where we could spend twenty-five hours a day at the unit and still not complete our to-do list’s “A” items. Yet daily life’s incessant demands can quickly suffocate our spiritual life and personal relationships. The way we spend our time—that one resource money can’t buy, and no amount of effort or tears can create—is a clear indicator of our priorities. We should soberly examine: are we deliberately balancing our time on the right things, in the right proportions? Our kids are only young once, our marriages cannot go on hold during command, and the current quality of our relationship with Christ impacts us in all we do personally and professionally.

Our spiritual enemy is skilled, cunning and relentless. Yet if we are paying close attention to our Heavenly Commander in Chief, we can avoid many of the moral ambushes common to this life. Even if we do fall, by His grace we can still recover. But in this war of eternal significance, our short time on this earth is better spent on the battlefield than in the recovery room. 

Brian currently serves as the garrison commander of White Sands Missile Range, NM. Previous assignments include deputy brigade commander of the 95th Civil Affairs Brigade (Airborne), commander of the 97th Civil Affairs Battalion (Airborne), and other assignments in Afghanistan, Iraq, South Korea and Laos.

OCF Council elections open through 30 Sept.

OCF Council elections for the Class of 2017 start 1 September at the OCF website. Eligible OCF members are encouraged to vote in the election running through 30 September. Vote for as many as five candidates at www.ocfusa.org. Members who cannot/prefer not to vote online can contact Susan Wallis at the OCF home office for a hard copy ballot—800-424-1984 or susan.wallis@ocfusa.org.

COL Dolas Bain, USA (Ret.)

Education: Lee University, 1969, BS Business

Present Assignment:

Retired

Ministry Involvement:

OCF member since 1999, Lay leader/teacher, Elmore County Board of Education; Directed Leadership Elmore County, Church of God Ministry to the Military Dept., Alabama State Laymen's Board (Church of God)



Personal Testimony: My father is a retired Pentecostal pastor. Attended church all my life. Gave my heart to Jesus while attending a Christian university and have been involved in church ministry since 1969. Continue to believe and teach true Christian doctrine in a modern world.

What is the biggest challenge you see currently facing OCF right now?

I believe the biggest challenge facing OCF today is maintaining the strong Christian values and standards in a rapidly decaying world. We must be strong in our faith and actions to point to the Christian life with a fantastic reward in the end. We must do this on dwindling dollars and a shortage of true believers who have high ethical and moral fibers woven into their bodies and souls.

Nominated by: Col James Martin, USAF (Ret.); COL Dolas Bain, USA (Ret.); COL Douglas Mastriano, USA

Lt Col Alex Boulter, USAF

Education: Tyler Junior College, 1989, AS Natural Sciences; Louisiana Tech University, 1993, BA General Studies; Louisiana Tech University, 1994, MA Counseling; University of Colorado, Colorado Springs, 2006, MA

Counseling and Leadership Development

Present Assignment: National Airborne Operations Center, USSTRATCOM, Offutt AFB, NE

Ministry Involvement:

OCF member since 1991; attended Spring Canyon and White Sulphur Springs Conference Centers; Rocky Mountain High mentor (4 times); Spring Canyon Advisory Council; USAFA ministry team member; involved in OCF local groups at Louisiana Tech University, Columbus AFB, MS; Barksdale AFB, LA; and Offutt AFB, NE; currently a church member, have served as an elder in two churches, regularly taught in Bible studies and preached in services; elder at Open Door Bible Church, Bossier City, LA; church planting elder, Hope Church, Colorado Springs, CO; teacher at Grace New Testament Church, Natchitoches, LA.



Personal Testimony: I accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior as a child. However, I did not fully understand the grace and mercy of His effectual calling on my life until my sophomore year in college. My faith grew through strong biblical teaching and from caring spiritual mentoring relationships, of which many were through OCF.

What is the biggest challenge you see currently facing OCF right now?

The current spiritual climate in the military is challenging at best; this coupled with multiple long-term combat deployments puts a continual strain on military members and their families. There is an increased need for continual refreshing, equipping and encouragement. OCF must continue to equip and embolden men and women in uniform to live out their faith through godly servant

leadership in their families, military units, and communities in a humble, approachable and credible manner.

Nominated by: Col Kim Hawthorne, USAF (Ret.); COL Ray Porter USA (Ret.); Col Scott Nowlin, USAF

CH(COL) Marc Gauthier, USA

Education: College of the Visual Arts, 1985, BFA Communication Design; Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary, MDiv 1992; Gordon Conwell, DMin Homiletics, 2007; The School of Conflict Resolution and Analysis, George Mason University, Senior Service College Fellow, 2012.



Present Assignment:

Command Chaplain, Army Central Command, Shaw AFB, SC

Ministry Involvement: OCF member since 1986, OCF Council 2003-2005, 2006-2008; SC and WSS; Area Coordinator, Ft. Jackson, SC; Retreat Speaker for NCR Retreat; Off Post Bible Studies Coordinator, Ft. Leavenworth, KS. Consistent involvement in local Bible studies and fellowships in every duty assignment; Board of Directors, Conservative Congregational Christian Conference, 1998-2000; evangelizing and discipling are critical components of my ministry as a chaplain.

Personal Testimony: During my junior year of college, I went through a period of emptiness. Shortly after, a friend invited me to church and I knew I needed to find out more about God. I went to a local church and met the youth pastor at the door. He explained the Gospel to me and I yielded my life to the Lord.

What is the biggest challenge you see

currently facing OCF right now? OCF must participate effectively in God's Kingdom within the military. It must help Christ followers abide in Jesus (John 15:5), make and become disciples (Matthew 28:19-20), and communicate the reality of their faith (1 Peter 3:15). As our culture becomes increasingly hostile to expressions of faith, OCF must use its ministry DNA to equip its members and all Christians within the military so that they can effectively integrate their faith into their vocation and serve as Christ's ambassadors.

Nominated by: Col Kim Hawthorne, USAF (Ret.); CH(MAJ) Jay Tobin, USA; CH(MAJ) Jeff McKinney, USA

MAJ David Guida, USA

Education: Concordia College 1998, BA Psychology, English Literature; Florida Institute of Technology, MS Logistics Management

Present Assignment: J4 Logistics Shop in the Pentagon (Joint Chiefs of Staff)

Ministry Involvement:

OCF member since 2010, attended Spring Canyon twice, 2014 Anchor Points; OCF Bible study; chapel and worship teams; attends New Life Church; regular mentor to Christians in uniform.



Personal Testimony: I was raised in the church. Sadly my faith and obedience to the Word ebbed and flowed throughout my youth. On my third deployment to Operation Iraqi Freedom, I actively participated in several ministry events and Bible studies. It was on that deployment I began to understand the sacrifice that Jesus Christ made for me and was born again.

What is the biggest challenge you see currently facing OCF right now? I believe the biggest challenge facing OCF is a lack of exposure in the active duty services. OCF is an awesome organization that should be on the lips of Christians throughout the services; however, when I ask other Christians in the service if they've heard of it, overwhelmingly the answer is no. I think OCF does a fantastic job in the service academies but we miss the opportunity to reach the pro-

spective members and supporters throughout the active duty services.

Nominated by: MAJ Eric Fowler, USA; Col Stephen Shambach, USA (Ret.); LTG Robert Caslen Jr, USA; Col Philip Exner USMC (Ret.); LtCol Susan Exner, USMCR (Ret.)

CDR Steve Hoffman, USN

Education: USNA, 1991, BS Economics; Naval Post Graduate School, 1999, MS Leadership and Human Resource Development; Industrial College of the Armed Forces, 2010, MS National Resource Strategy

Present Assignment:

Program Manager, Defense Threat Reduction Agency

Ministry Involvement:

OCF member since 1988, two terms OCF Council, lead a small group in our home, NCR Council, attended both conference centers; taught chapel Sunday school, chapel councils/boards, encouraged chaplains as able wherever located; currently involved at a large mega church in the DC area, working with their military ministry; led a nine-week study in our home on discipleship; 12 years on the ACCTS Board; OCF Council / Small group leader, McLean, VA; NCR Council, Washington, DC; OCF Council / OCF Area Coordinator for Norfolk, VA & San Diego, CA; USNA Ministry Team



Personal Testimony: I was raised in a Christian home. Through the faithfulness of my parents and the working of our great God, I have never known a time when I didn't believe that Jesus is the Son of God and that He died for my sins and rose again. He has been good, faithful, and loving to me in countless ways!

What is the biggest challenge you see currently facing OCF right now? When I was 17, my pastor said, "God needs missionaries in the military." He used my pastor's words and the OCF vision to transform my life for a purpose of serving Him in the military. I have served mostly in chapels over the years but now see OCF's key strategy is to equip strategically located civilian churches to minister to the military community as well. OCF needs wisdom and insight to do this well and engage local churches

that want to minister to military personnel but don't always have the vision.

Nominated by: CAPT James Baca, USN; CDR Michael Kuypers, USN (Ret.); Maj Brent Kendall

LT Gordon Hood, USCG

Education: USCGA, 2005, BS Marine and Environmental Science

Present Assignment: Boise State University graduate student, Organizational Performance and Workplace Learning

Ministry Involvement:

USNA Chapel 2010-2012, White Sulphur Springs weekend retreats; local leader, Kodiak, AK; faculty representative, USNA; VBS, AWANA, parenting study, marriage class



Personal Testimony: I asked Jesus into my heart when I was three years old, but really began to "own" my faith as a freshman in high school when I met with the principal to explain our constitutional right to start a Bible study club.

What is the biggest challenge you see currently facing OCF right now? I believe the biggest challenge facing OCF is remaining relevant to junior officers. We have vibrant academy ministries, but with a narrowing military social gap, variety of church options, and mission organizations targeting young adults, a newly commissioned officer may shy away from an "officers" group at the time in their career when experienced mentors are needed most; only a fellowship of Christian officers can truly set the example of integrating faith and profession as an officer in today's military.

Nominated by: LT Daniel Lavinder, USCG; Maj James Groves, USAF (Ret.); Capt Carolyn Groves, USAF (Ret.)

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COUNCIL NOMINEES

COL Kelly Horst, USA

Education: USMA, 1990, BS Civil Engineering; Georgia Institute of Technology, 2000, MS Ops Research; U.S. Army War College, 2013, MA Strategic Studies

Present Assignment: Chief of Force Management at U.S. Army Central, Shaw AFB, SC

Ministry Involvement:

OCF member since 2003, attended Spring Canyon and WSS, Bible study leader: West Point, NY; Fort Leavenworth, KS; Carlisle Barracks, PA; Poland, Mexico and Germany missions trips; deacon, youth leader, and small group facilitator experience.



Personal Testimony: I grew up as an Army brat attending chapels and churches with the misperception that being a Christian meant you believed in God. One of my classmates at West Point invited me to a Navigators Bible Study and I accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior during my sophomore year.

What is the biggest challenge you see currently facing OCF right now? I know my biggest challenge as an OCF member is providing support to the post/base chapel. Like most Army families, we decide where to live based upon the quality of the community/schools. We have often joined local churches in order to meet the spiritual needs of our family, connect with the community, and tell the Army story outside of the gates. Gaining more support for the chapel is definitely a challenge worthy of further analysis.

Nominated by: COL Al Shine, USA (Ret.); CH(MAJ) Erik Gramling, USA; COL Gregory Graves, USA

COL Chris Johnson, USA

Education: USMA, 1989, BS National Security Studies; LIU-C.W. Post, 1998, MS Counseling/Leader Development

Present Assignment: Operations Division Chief, USNORTHCOM J3

Ministry Involvement: OCF member since 1985, been to both SC & WSS, Spring Canyon Advisory Council, local rep, FT Carson, USMA OCF OIC, participated in OCF

Bible studies at all our duty stations, Bible study leader various duty stations; serving in the military has provided many opportunities to share my faith and I have been able to participate in some discipling relationships that have helped my spiritual growth.

Personal Testimony: I was fortunate to be raised in a Christian family and accepted Christ at an OCF retreat. OCF has contributed greatly to my Christian walk. I served on SC volunteer staff, participated in the cadet ministry at USMA, met my wife through OCF, and we have participated in OCF studies for the past 25 years.



What is the biggest challenge you see currently facing OCF right now? As we transition over from an era of continuous conflict to a period of organizational/cultural change and diminished resources, we must ensure that we are able to stay focused on the essential task of equipping OCF members and their families to serve as ambassadors to the military. I think it is especially important that we develop future OCF leaders, support programs that strengthen families, and work with other military ministries to support local chapels/churches in military communities.

Nominated by: LTC Colin Wooten, USA; LtCol Chas Cox, USMC (Ret.); COL R. Michael Tesdahl, USA (Ret.)

LTC Ted Kaiser, USA

Education: USMA, 1997, Chemistry; UNC, 2007, MS Analytical Chemistry

Present Assignment: USMA assistant professor, Chemistry and Life Science Department

Ministry Involvement: OCF member since 1996, Anchor Points, 2011; Club OIC and small group leader, West Point, NY; small group leader: Ft. Campbell, KY; Ft. Leavenworth, KS; Ft. Knox, KY; Gideons



Personal Testimony: I was raised believing in Christ and attending church sporadically; however, this belief

was merely historical, superficial. Before my firstie year at West Point I attended a retreat that confronted me with my reprobate state and I finally received salvation and surrendered my life to Christ. OCF was a big part of preparing me intellectually for my salvation moment.

What is the biggest challenge you see currently facing OCF right now? OCF confronts challenges beyond those of other ministries like preparing members to pursue Christ in love in a military that is increasingly hostile towards evangelical Christianity. We have to stay current with what is acceptable behavior and train our membership on how they can see Christ glorified without getting themselves or the organization under undue, prohibitive scrutiny. We could be made to appear as if subjugating Christ to fear on one extreme or contradictory to our federal duty on another.

Nominated by: COL Richard Goldsmith USA (Ret.); LTC Tom Austin IV, USA (Ret.); CH(MAJ) Jay Tobin, USA

MAJ Kwenton Kuhlman, USA

Education: USMA, 1999, International Relations degree; Kings College, London, England, 2010, Masters, Defense Studies; Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, 2011, Masters, International Public Policy



Present Assignment:

BDE Operations Officer, 2nd BDE, 101st Airborne Division (AASLT), Afghanistan

Ministry Involvement:

OCF member since 1999; senior military POC, Fort Campbell, KY; Anchor Points, 2013, OCF Bible studies, Fort Campbell, KY; organized OCF brown bag lunch series, Fort Campbell, KY, with Greg and Lucy Lane; led/hosted a Bible study in our home—FT Leavenworth, KS, England, and Washington, DC; Grace Community Church in Clarksville, TN; helping lead an “Experiencing God” study on deployment.

Personal Testimony: My parents taught us about Christ as children and I attended church weekly growing up. I accepted Christ as my Savior at 13. At USMA, I taught kindergarten Sunday school and led God’s Gang

youth groups. I was active in OCF and BSU at USMA. Summer and I led a youth group at FT Bragg. We are active in a local church.

What is the biggest challenge you see currently facing OCF right now? The biggest challenge to OCF is reaching a military that is tired from years of war. Little time between back-to-back deployments left some unwilling to take on additional activities, including attending studies and taking on leadership roles. As our military resets, it will be important to reset the spiritual balance in the lives of our service men/women. OCF has a huge role to play in strengthening the spiritual vitality and accountability of leaders across the military.

Nominated by: COL R. Michael Tesdahl, USA (Ret.); LTC Thomas Schmidt, USA (Ret.); LTC Norman Lane, USAR (Ret.)

LTC Greg Lane, USAR (Ret.)

Education: The Citadel, 1981, BA History; Austin Peay State University, 1995, MA Education

Present Assignment: Retired; Administrative Assistant, Austin Peay State University Army ROTC

Ministry Involvement:

OCF member since 1987, OCF Council 2010-2012; OCF area coordinator and local leader; attended chapel at Fort Polk, LA, 1988-91, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, WA, during Cadet Summer Training, 2000, 2002-2005, 2007- 2013; deacon, First Baptist Church, Clarksville, TN; Gideon member, president Clarksville Gideon South Camp; FCA Huddle Coach, 1996-2000, Clarksville Academy, Clarksville, TN; Gideon Testament distributions at local high school graduations; discipling through meeting one-on-one with local young men

Personal Testimony: I grew up in a Christian home with Christian parents and faithfully attended church. At age 11 during a revival, I joined the church and was baptized. At age 17 I saw the hypocrisy in my life compared to biblical standards and accepted Jesus Christ as Savior, and was re-baptized as a believer at age 25.

What is the biggest challenge you see



currently facing OCF right now? I believe OCF's biggest challenge is proving its relevance and worth to our officer corps, officer candidates, and retirees in today's demanding environment. OCF must continually show the importance and value of studying God's Word, sharing fellowship and encouragement with fellow Christians, and reaching out to the lost around us in the military with the Gospel. In a busy, fast-paced world with many things clamoring for attention, OCF must show it can help one walk closely with the Lord.

Nominated by: COL John Haddick USA (Ret.); LTC John Orosz, USA (Ret.); LT Kristina Rohlin, USN; COL Laurence Mixon, USA; LTC Lucinda Lane, USA (Ret.); CDR David Ruth, USN; CDR Hank Teuton, USCG (Ret.); CDR Bryan Burt, USN (Ret.); CPT John Orosz Jr., USA

1stLt Brooke Leigh, USAF

Education: East Carolina University, 2012, BS Chemistry; Trident University International, Information Technology Security

Present Assignment:

Davis-Monthan AFB, AZ

Ministry Involvement:

OCF member since 2010, Missional Community Bible study, local food bank, zero campaign against prostate cancer, lead college ROTC OCF Bible study, I was a part of Campus Crusade for Christ in college and had the privilege of discipling many younger students. Also, being a part of the OCF ROTC ministry helped me minister to girls and guys as well.

Personal Testimony: I was raised in the church, and after my mom and brother died, I connected with Christ like no other. It was in Campus Crusade for Christ during my freshman year at college that I really stepped out and grew my faith. Attending an inner city mission trip opened my eyes to the powerfulness of Christ.

What is the biggest challenge you see currently facing OCF right now? I think many believers in the military do not know about OCF. I would try to get POCs at every base because when I first got here in Tucson, AZ, there was not an active group.



I would work with people in helping them establish a group in their area. People need to know that there are believers out there who want to fellowship with other believers. Spreading the word is what it is all about.

Nominated by: 2ndLt Jessica Dulin, USAF; Col Wayne Pavlischeck, USMCR; COL William Wiseman, USA (Ret.)

COL Laurence Mixon, USA

Education: USMA, 1986, BS Engineering Mgmt.; University of Virginia, 1996, ME Systems Engineering; Air War College, 2007, MS Strategic Studies

Present Assignment:

ACofs G3 US Army Intelligence and Security Command, Fort Belvoir, VA

Ministry Involvement:

OCF member since 2006, OCF Council 2012-2014; led OCF Bible Study 2006-2007, Air War College, currently lead home OCF Bible Study; Spiritually Smart Family speaker and supporter at JBLM, WA, 2011; married couples Bible study, JBLM, WA, 2012; National Capital Region small group Bible Study leader, 2014; post chapel choir, 1995-96, 1998-99; home group leader, 2014; Pillar Church, Dumfries, VA, Art of Marriage course host, 2014; Emmanuel Bible Fellowship prayer ministry, 2010-2013; Family Bible Church lay minister, Augusta, GA, 2008-2010; various Christian home school groups, 1999-present; discipling my eight children through homeschooling and mission activities; hand out personal tracts; volunteer at local mission shelter providing food service to families. Over the past 20 years, I have witnessed and shared the Gospel with multiple soldiers and civilians who have been hurting and searching for answers.

Personal Testimony: Twenty-one years ago I was a mental and spiritual mess. I cried out to God and He saved me. He placed several saints along my path to disciple me from July 1993 to August 1995. I committed my life to the Lord Jesus Christ in August 1994 and praise God, I will never turn back.



Continued on next page →

What is the biggest challenge you see currently facing OCF right now? Remaining relevant to a military that is largely pluralistic, biblically illiterate and operating within a society that is increasingly hostile toward traditional Christian views. Given these conditions it is no surprise that our military suffers from skyrocketing divorce rates, substance abuse, sexual immorality and suicide. OCF must continue to exhort, encourage and equip Christian service members to live out their faith among comrades who desperately need the Gospel.

Nominated by: CPT Alysa Angel, USA; Col Scott Fisher, USAF; COL Richard Goldsmith, USA (Ret.)

Col Paul Riegert, USMC

Education: USNA, 1989, BS Political Science; Naval Postgraduate School, 1998, MS Systems Management; Naval War College, 2005, MA National Security and Strategic Planning

Present Assignment: NAVAIRSYSCOM, military director rapid response

Ministry Involvement: OCF member since 1985, attended White Sulphur Springs and Spring Canyon; OCF Bible studies; OCF local leader: Leonardtown, MD; Okinawa, Japan; Monterey, CA; Pensacola, FL; warden, junior warden, Sunday School teacher; youth group and life-group leadership; homeless outreach, Christmas in April, Habitat for Humanity, Big Brothers/Sisters, CS Lewis Institute, Special Olympics, FCA, Young Life; evangelizing/discipling within the military, the homeless.

Personal Testimony: I was introduced to the Lord growing up through the godly discipleship of my parents. After my freshman year in high school, I realized I had let sports and worldly acclaim become unforgiving idols. I rededicated my life to God and now joyfully enter the arena daily for a gracious and inspiring audience of One: Soli Deo Gloria.

What is the biggest challenge you see currently facing OCF right now? I believe the biggest challenge facing OCF is supporting and equipping our members for



victory as they face a growing gap between their Christian worldview and the increasingly post-modern worldview of the DoD in which they are called to serve.

Nominated by: LtCol Mike West, USMC (Ret.); LtCol Todd Ferry, USMC; LtCol Hezekiah Barge Jr., USMC

LTC Greg Solem, USA

Education: University of Kansas, 1987, BA Personnel Management; Florida Institute of Technology, 2000, MS Logistics Management

Present Assignment: Pentagon, HQDA Army G-1

Ministry Involvement:

OCF member since 1993, WSS Advisory Board Director, attended White Sulphur Springs and Spring Canyon, OCF Bible study leader or sponsor: Pentagon, Iraq, Central Washington University ROTC, Fort Wainwright, AK; Fort Leavenworth, KS; Fort Lee, VA; Wheaton College ROTC, IL; Fort Riley, KS; Fort Benning, GA

Personal Testimony: I read a Bible in a hotel during college and was convicted that I was a sinner (Romans 3:23). I repented of my sins and accepted Jesus Christ as my Savior and Lord (Ephesians 2:8-9) and became a child of God (John 1:12). Upon receiving my commission, He called me to serve in OCF as His ambassador to the military.

What is the biggest challenge you see currently facing OCF right now? Our biggest challenge is to help train each OCF and family member to walk with Jesus! God's Word transforms lives and helps us love Him with all our heart, mind, soul and strength and lead families (Deuteronomy 6:5-9). Everyone must be equipped to read, study, meditate and obey His Word (2 Timothy 3:16-17/Joshua 1:7-9) and make disciples/fulfill the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20). We must impart a vision for becoming ambassadors for Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17-20) to reach the next generation.

Nominated by: CH(COL) Barry Bowden, USA (Ret.); Col Bill Hudspeth, USAF (Ret.); CAPT C. Michael Garverick, USN (Ret.); CPT John Orosz Jr., USA

MAJ Blair Watkinson, USAF

Education: USAFA, 2000, BS Computer Science; The Ohio State University, MS Computer Science

Present Assignment: Computer Science instructor, USAFA

Ministry Involvement: OCF member since 1999, 3 years OCF Council; USAFA cadet ministry, team/local leader: Scott AFB, IL; Grand Forks AFB, ND; Little Rock AFB, AR; Laughlin AFB, TX; The Ohio State University; local church counseling

Personal Testimony:

Though I grew up attending church every week, by the time I was in college I had developed post-modern views, believing there were many ways to heaven. Academy OCF cadet ministry leaders lovingly confronted my heresy, and I accepted Christ as my Savior during my senior year. The ministry team discipled me and eventually baptized me at Spring Canyon.

What is the biggest challenge you see currently facing OCF right now? The nearing end of the capital campaign brings the opportunity to refocus efforts on equipping members in integrating faith and profession. Today's military members are presented with a myriad of options when it comes to their associations, ministry or otherwise. Bolstering local discipleship with appropriate, thoughtful use of technology tools is the way to reach current and next generation military leaders. Additionally, we need to develop a fiscal model to maintain OCF facilities, reducing the need for future massive capital fundraising efforts.

Nominated by: CAPT James Vandiver, USN; Lt Col Stephen Wade, USAF (Ret.); COL Richard Goldsmith, USA (Ret.)



How to vote

Complete voting instructions can be found at ocfusa.org/voting. Before you begin the voting process, be sure to use the email address that OCF has on file for you. Your personal ballot link will be sent to that address. If you have any questions, problems logging in, or need to verify your correct email address, contact Susan Wallis at 800-761-1984 or susan.wallis@ocfusa.org.



WSS photo



Fort Leavenworth OCF photo



Jim Hocker photo

ANCHOR POINTS

TOP: Pouring into leaders' lives—Attendees at OCF's 2014 Anchor Points enjoyed Christian fellowship and summer fun in the midst of God's wondrous creation at OCF's White Sulphur Springs conference center. Anchor Points encourages and develops future OCF leaders while also instilling deeper insight into OCF's vision, structure and purpose.

FORT LEAVENWORTH OCF

ABOVE LEFT: Body and soul sustenance—Fort Leavenworth OCF's weekly discipleship training breakfasts frequently draw 60-plus military leaders for fellowship, spiritual encouragement—and some lip-smacking good fare. These volunteer chefs—all Marines—whipped up "Peggy McMuffins," a recipe from the days

of OCF stalwarts and Fort Leavenworth OCF leaders George and Peggy Kuykendall.

WARRIOR FORGE

ABOVE RIGHT: Pray for the Lord's leading—Army colonel Rob Humphrey (left), an OCF area coordinator, served the Lord in a joint venture between OCF and Valor at this summer's Warrior Forge, the leader development and assessment course at Fort Knox, KY. By mid-July more than 400 Army ROTC cadets already had been ministered to during chapel services. The OCF/Valor team also drove to Maxwell-Gunter AFB in Alabama for chapel services to the Air Force cadets also attending summer leadership training.



COL Mike Tesdahl, USA (Ret.), and his wife, Peggy,

Mike Tesdahl, OCF's Ministry Advancement director, retiring

After seventeen years of multi-faceted leadership and service for the Officers' Christian Fellowship ministry, COL Mike Tesdahl, USA (Ret.), director of Ministry Advancement, will retire in November.

Mike and his wife, Peggy, have served in several leadership roles, including as the inter-

im executive director couple in 2010, bridging the ED posts held by Lt Gen Bruce and Melissa Fister, USAF (Ret.), and currently Brig Gen David and Lori Warner, USAF (Ret.).

The Tesdalhs' "incredible sacrificial service" includes directorships in the OCF home office of the separate strategic initiatives and field operations posts as well as the present ministry advancement role.

As ministry advancement

director, COL Tesdahl has spearheaded—and participated in—several extreme challenge fundraising events: Race to the Summit, Grand Portage and Over the Top adventure. The proceeds from the trio of outdoor events has benefitted the Spring Canyon phase of OCF's Growing and Building capital campaign.

Arguably, however, the Tesdalhs may be affectionately best known as "Papa T and Mama T" to the USMA cadets they impacted for the Lord while serving as OCF's field staff couple at West Point from 2000-2008, COL Tesdahl's alma mater.

"The lives they touched and molded there are now reaching the next generation for Christ," said Brig Gen Warner. "The ripples from what Christ has done through the faithful service of Mike and Peggy will continue transforming lives for the Lord's Kingdom purposes in an incalculable way for His glory. Their love, energy, enthusiasm, storytelling, and ability to move mountains will be forever remembered with a smile, a tear, and much love."

Births

Emmeline Faith Buchheit, 7 May 2014, daughter of **Capt Andrew and Kaitlin Buchheit, USAF**, Jber, AK.

Rex Lydiard Powers, born 17 February 2014, son of **Capt Sean and Lindsay Powers, USAF**, Little Rock AFB, AR.

Weddings

1LT Jeremy Byram, USA, married **Carly Christen**, 7 June 2014. Their home is Fountain, CO.

2ndLt Jessica Dulin, USAF, married **SrA Matthew Goforth, USAF**, 25 May 2014. Their home is Bedford, MA.

LT Kristina Rohlin, USN, married **Matthew Fritts**, 10 May 2014. Their home is Annapolis, MD.

ENS Kellen Stock, USCG, married **ENS Jessica Nelson, USCG**, 28 May 2014. Their home is Fritz Creek, AK.

Taps

RADM Stanley Anderson, USN (Ret.), 2 May 2014, husband of **Lora Anderson**, Golden Valley, MN.

CAPT Donald R. Bennett, USCG (Ret.), 28 May 2014, widower of **Gloria Bennett**, Littlerock, CA.

LTC Kent Brown, USA (Ret.), 24 May 2013, husband of **Jill**

Brown, Tampa, FL.

COL Thornton Burns Jr., USA (Ret.), 8 December 2012; husband of **Sue Burns**, Forsyth, GA.

LTC Rex Frazer, USA (Ret.), 25 May 2014, husband of **Jan Frazer**, Fort Leavenworth, KS.

CWO4 Nelson Foucher, USNR, 1 April 2014, husband of **Suzanne Tisdale-Foucher**, Lakehills TX.

Mary Evelyn Graf, wife of **LTC Robert Graf, USA (Ret.)**, 13 June 2014, Keizer, OR.

Lois Greshel, 28 May 2014, wife of **Lt Col James Greshel, USAF (Ret.)**, Okemos, MI.

Former OCF Council president dies

RADM Stanley Anderson, USN (Ret.), who served in many OCF Council capacities including as president in 1983-85, went home to be with the Lord on 2 May. Most recently he supported ministry efforts to ROTC cadets and midshipmen through the dynamic OCF Minnesota group. RADM Anderson is survived by his wife of sixty-one years, Lora Anderson, of Golden Valley, MN, and son Stanley "Jay" Anderson Jr.

OCF fall retreat at Spring Canyon

Beautiful fall setting, Christian fellowship and opportunities to grow in your faith. Space is limited and will be filled on a first-come, first-serve basis.

When: 19-21 September, Friday 6:30 p.m. (dinner not provided) through Sunday lunch

Where: OCF's Spring Canyon Conference Center, Buena Vista, Colorado

Cost: \$170 per adult; \$100

Continued on next page →

COL Richard A. Grube, USA (Ret.), May 23, 2014, husband of **Carolyn Grube**, Suffolk, VA.

Janet Myers Heuer, 13 June 2014, wife of **CH(Col) Michael Heuer, USAF**, Annapolis, MD.

CDR Garvin McGettrick, CHC, USNR (Ret.), 11 June 2014, husband of **Lynne McGettrick**, Shoreview, MN.

LCDR Floyd Robertson, USN (Ret.), 1 May 2014, widower of **Lauralie Robertson**, New Oxford, PA.

CAPT John Robson, USNR (Ret.), 28 May 2014, husband of **Esther Robson**, Gerry, NY.

per child ages 5-12; free for children under age 5

What: CH(Col) Greg Tate, USAF (Ret.) will speak on Character Studies from the Bible.

To Register: Contact Angela Lundy at 719-395-2328 or at reservations@springcanyon.org

For additional info: Contact Steve Shambach at 719-481-4776 or at shambachsm@msn.com

NCR OCF fall retreat

Date: 31 Oct-2 Nov

Where: OCF's White Sulphur Springs Conference Center in Pennsylvania

The OCF National Capital Region fall retreat will feature Larry and Bobbie Simpson conducting a Spiritually Smart Families (SSF) conference, "Draw Near: A Time of Marriage and Family Refreshment."

Highly interactive and principle driven, SSF's seminars, conferences and retreats provide biblically based tools, solutions and hope towards resilient

military marriages and families. Couples will be able to refocus on their relationship in this weekend's refreshing setting, away from life's busyness and distractions.

For additional info: Visit whitesulphursprings.org

NCR Military Summit fall events

Outreach Prayer Luncheon

16 November, 1130-1300
Fort Belvoir Officers Club,
5500 Schultz Circle, Building 20,
Fort Belvoir, VA

Quarterly Luncheon

17 November
Details are in the works for a quarterly luncheon at The Clubs at Quantico, Marine Base Quantico, Virginia.

→ For more info on both NCR events, contact: MilitarySummit.ncr@gmail.com.



Barry Willey submitted photo

Silver Star presentation

Former OCF field staff rep at USMA and *Out of the Valley* author Barry Willey (left) attended a Silver Star medal presentation to Rob Jackson (right) from Rep. Chellie Pingree (D-ME) at the Vietnam Memorial Wall in Washington D.C., earlier this summer. Jackson displayed gallantry in action during the battle that took the life of 1LT Jonathan Cameron Shine, whose Christian character and legacy was lauded in COL Willey's book. For information on ordering *Out of the Valley*, contact the OCF home office: 800-424-1984 or joyce.baerg@ocfusa.org.

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 HONOR OF...

LTC George Kuykendall

By LTC Robert Neville, USA & LTC Debbie Kuykendall, USA

Mike Tesdahl

By Lt Col & Mrs. Jeffrey K. La Dine, USAF

LtCol Thomas Hemingway, USMC (Ret.)

By Mr. & Mrs. Randy Zeron
By LTC & Mrs. John R. Cassady II, USA (Ret.)

1LT Jonathan Cameron Shine

By Bundy Banking Solutions,
Russell T. Bundy, CEO

Lyle W. Dorsett

By Ms. Elizabeth Childs

COL Richard A. Grube, USA (Ret.)

By COL and Mrs. Avery V. Allison, USA (Ret.)
By COL & Mrs. Thomas F. Woloszyn, USA
By Peter Krause

IN MEMORY OF...

Major General Marvin Ball Jr.

By Phillip T. Korman

John Beebe

Amy Calaway

Bob Archer

Perrin Jones

Robert P. Ramsey

Mildred Southall

Dorothy Benson

By Theodosia Nolan
Corrie Bechtelheimer

Michael Johnston

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

RADM Stanley J. Anderson, USN (Ret.)

By Mr. and Mrs. Waldo L. Avello
By Ms. Jo. J. Cunningham
By Institute of Nuclear Power Operations
By Mr. and Mrs. Scott S. Webb
By Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Gordon
By Mr. and Mrs. Sheldon D. Sorenson
By Maj & Mrs. Karlton I. Bakke, USAF (Ret.)

By Ms. Virginia K. Larson

By Mr. and Mrs. Fred C. Zimmerman

By Erick and Linda Pettersen

Mary Evelyn Graf

By Mrs. Kenneth H. Barber

By COL Robert M. Ward, USA (Ret.)

By Joel D. Aron

Rachel Wade

By Ms. Thelma J. Elgersma

Maj Ronald P. Johnson, USMC (Ret.)

By Mrs. Earline Johnson

COL Richard A. Grube, USA (Ret.)

By Donald and Janet Albers
By CAPT & Mrs. Guy C. Jarratt III, USN (Ret.)

Capt Jerry Keller, USAF

By Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Steele

Mary Pace "Molly" Carr

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



Sean McGarrahan photos

OCF celebrates dedication of Fort Shine Lodge

Shine's life and legacy 'a testimony to Jesus'

by MICHAEL EDWARDS, Director of Communications

Nearly 200 people attended the 26 May dedication of the newly constructed Fort Shine Lodge and re-commissioning of the original lodge—now renamed Cornerstone Lodge—marking the sixth time a Memorial Day ceremony has taken place at OCF's Spring Canyon Conference Center in Buena Vista, Colorado. Both the newest and the existing lodges honor the Christian legacy of 1LT Jonathan Cameron Shine, USA, who paid the ultimate price with his life in October of 1970 while leading his rifle platoon in Vietnam.

"This is the only legacy that lasts, the only one that really counts. Long after our history books are gone and our monuments have fallen, many believers who may never have seen Christ in action, if not for Jon's legacy, will hear the words, 'Well done, good and faithful servant.'"

COL Barry Willey, USA (Ret.)

COL Al Shine, USA (Ret.), 1LT Shine's brother, attended the event with his wife, Sandra, and family and friends, some of them 1LT Shine's West Point classmates. During the original Fort Shine's re-commissioning ceremony, COL Shine said, "I don't know exactly why the ROACT board decided to name the building in Jon's memory, but I suspect it was to highlight his life, testimony and service as an example and inspiration encouraging those who would come to the Canyon to faithful Christian service in uniform."

USMA classmate COL Barry Willey, USA (Ret.), described 1LT Shine's impact on his life, "Jon's life was a testimony to Jesus, which is obvious by all the fruit that Jesus continues to bear through him. Jon probably never foresaw the far-reaching impact that his protégés would have on so many others and on me. And how one day I may have the opportunity to closely mentor a fellow Timothy, who will then mentor others. This is the only legacy that lasts, the only one that really counts. Long after our history books are gone and our monuments have fallen, many believers who may never have seen Christ in action, if not for Jon's legacy, will hear the words, 'Well done, good and faithful servant.'"

"We are thankful for those who uphold the Constitution. Freedom is not free," said Maj Kathryn Vseth, USAF, speaking at the dedication ceremony. "We hold a deep debt of gratitude to those who paid the ultimate price for our freedom—and their families. We do not celebrate their loss, we celebrate their nobility."

As he re-commissioned the original Fort Shine, OCF executive director, Brig Gen David Warner, USAF (Ret.), commented, "Since 1972, America has sent its sons and daughters into harm's way in more than a dozen conflicts. Like Jon Shine, they gave their last full measure for their nation. As we gather today and remember Jon and the many others who have given their all, we also know that many more will step forward, raise their hand, and say, 'Here am I, send



Memorial Day Events at Spring Canyon Conference Center

The dedication of Fort Shine Lodge marked the sixth Memorial Day dedication event to take place at Spring Canyon since 1972. A look at the other events:

- 1972** Original Fort Shine dedication
- 1973** Hartley Holmes Lodge groundbreaking
- 1974** Hartley Holmes Lodge dedication
- 2008** Hemingway Operations Complex initial dedication
- 2013** Veterans Memorial Lodge dedication
- 2014** Re-commissioning of original Fort Shine; dedication of the new lodge

Continued on next page →

Winter retreats: A chance for more ministry

With the newly built Fort Shine Lodge's first summer season at Spring Canyon now completed, where better to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ this upcoming Christmas season than at either of OCF's conference centers?

Come to either Pennsylvania or Colorado and celebrate Christ's presence with other military Christians. Step away from life's busy clamor to be encouraged by inspiring speakers in rich, warm Christmas settings. Sample a broad array of free time activities, including sledding, skiing, and snowshoeing.

Don't miss what God has for you this Christmas!

At White Sulphur Springs

Register any time between 1 Sept-1 October for a 10% early-bird discount, good for any of the three winter retreats. **First timers to WSS get an additional 10% off your stay!**

Winter Retreat #1: 19-26 Dec

Speaker: TBD

Winter Retreat #2: 26 Dec-30 Dec

Speaker: Pastor Joe Batluk Jr., Harvest Bible Church, TX

Winter Retreat #3: 30 Dec-2 Jan

Speaker: Pastor John Crotts, Faith Bible Church, GA

→ For more information or to make reservations: www.whitesulphursprings.org/programs/winter_retreat.php



White Sulphur Springs photo

Winter sledding at a recent White Sulphur Springs winter retreat.

At Spring Canyon

Winter Sports Retreat #1: 20-26 Dec

Rate: \$510 per person

Winter Sports Retreat #2: 27 Dec-3 Jan

Rate: \$585 per person

→ For more information or to make reservations: www.springcanyon.org or call us at 719-395-2328.

Spring Canyon Alive!

To find out how you can participate in God's Kingdom work, or view video clips of the Fort Shine Lodge dedication and re-commissioning ceremonies: <http://springcanyonalive.ocfusa.org/2014/06/16/fort-shine-dedication-at-spring-canyon/>

Continued from previous page

me.' And so, it heartens me to know that since that day in 1972, more than 100,000 souls have occupied this place, being forever transformed for Christ."

More than ninety percent of the audience at the ceremony raised their hands to indicate that they had stayed in the original Fort Shine—living witnesses to the many lives impacted for Christ, and who have gone on to reach others for Him.

An OCF retreat launched the weekend's festivities leading up to the Memorial Day ceremony. Former OCF executive director, Lt Gen Bruce Fister, USAF (Ret.), challenged

guests to live a life worthy of their calling and to reach out to those around them—whether a stay-at-home-mom, business executive, a general, church worker or laborer. He said, "We all have a huge responsibility to our children and grandchildren. As a pastor said, 'Young people need to know God's plan and His will for their lives. Many will live eternally without God because they refused to live with Him here on earth.'"

So in these difficult times when we see attacks on our faith and lives, where can we as Christ followers receive encouragement being in the world, but not of the world? LtGen Fister said, "That is one of the purposes of our OCF conference centers, to receive encour-

agement. In addition, they provide a great place for family vacations in the middle of God's creation; they teach biblical leadership; and they equip and encourage us to leave the mountaintop and return to the valley where the Lord is asking us to do the real work for His Kingdom."

The newly built Fort Shine features eight family-sized rooms with four handicap accessible. Guests will have time for spiritual and physical renewal from the daily rigors of military life—and enjoy the shops, restaurants, adventure sports, and sightseeing in the Arkansas Valley at the foot of Mount Princeton in Colorado's spectacular Collegiate Peak Range. ♦

A choice of drinks—Living Water or sand?

Three biblical responses to overcoming the challenges of our will



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

“Water,” I cried, but it came out as no more than a whisper. “Can I have some water?” The nurses at the surgical hospital in Can Tho, Vietnam, looked at each other questioningly. The doctors shook their heads, “No.” Everyone was concerned about internal injuries, some clearly identifiable, others only suspected. Finally one of the doctors slipped a tiny ice cube into my mouth. A small risk on his part; the equivalent of diving into a waterfall on mine!

I understand physical thirst: “The Spirit and the bride say, ‘Come!’ And let him who hears say, ‘Come!’ Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life” (Revelation 22:17). It took another fourteen years for me to confront my spiritual thirst. Spiritually, the issue isn’t that we have to beg for an ice cube. Living water is free! But like Jill in *The Silver Chair* from *The Chronicles of Narnia* series, we cannot get to the stream without confronting Aslan, which poses two challenges of the will.

First, denial—we can convince ourselves that we’re not as thirsty as we thought; we don’t have to deal with Aslan at all! **Second, rebellion**—we can assure ourselves there is certainly another way to quench our thirst. We can drink the sand of possessions, addictions, overindulgences from food to athletics to work, affairs of the heart, and a myriad of other false gods and dry holes. “If I have put my trust in gold or said to pure gold, ‘You are my security,’ if I have rejoiced over my great wealth, the fortune my hands had gained, if I have regarded the sun in its radiance or the moon moving in splendor so that my heart was secretly enticed and my hand offered them a kiss of homage [i.e., worshipped the creation], then these also would be sins to be judged, for I would have been unfaithful to God on high” (Job 31:24-28).

Obviously, there are better, biblical responses. **First, surrender**—from Psalm 34:8, “Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man who takes refuge in him.” **Second, disciple**—raise up godly men and women worthy of being followed, watched and emulated. **Third, lead**—call out, raise up and send out men and women like those giants of Issachar “who understood the times and knew what Israel should do” (1 Chronicles 12:32). OCF’s fourth Spiritual Pillar speaks directly to this:

Lay-led. OCF is a lay-led movement of Christian officers within the U.S. Armed Forces. The central thrust of OCF is to motivate, equip, and support active duty, reserve component, and retired officers of all branches, and their spouses to lead dynamic, Christ-centered ministries of outreach and service throughout the military, seeking to capitalize upon the unique opportunity God gives to all officers to witness to and spiritually encourage their comrades-in-arms in the military society. The OCF staff focuses on motivating, equipping, and supporting the members who are Christ’s ambassadors in military communities.

How well do I steward my time, talents and treasure? Am I an active, participating OCF member? Am I leading in the traditional sense of a small group or community leader and in the broader sense of an ambassador? Am I living as if God owns it all—and God is enough?

“Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share” (1 Timothy 6:18).

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