



Christian perspectives on life in the military

COMMAND

FALL 2018

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AN OCF CHRISTMAS

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CENTERS CALL THEM 'TRUE
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Building Christian military leaders, families, fellowships...*for a lifetime*

Leaders: Don't lose sight of biblical mandate

“Senior military officials sanctioned for more than 500 cases of serious misconduct”

“IG: Personal misconduct by senior military leaders spiked 13 percent”

“Army looks for new ways to handle misbehaving generals”



**DAVID
WARNER**

Executive
Director

Straight out of the headlines, these stories should shock and disappoint you. As a military leader, I am outraged at what I read in these articles. Leadership is a sacred trust. Having the lives of others placed in your hands should both excite and humble us. Taking care of those in our charge is not only an honor and privilege but a biblical mandate. So how do we do it well and avoid the traps so many leaders seem to fall into?

In the last issue of *COMMAND*, we introduced the Integrated Faith (IF) Project. The IF Project is OCF's foundational teaching that provides a biblical framework for the integration of faith in Christ into all aspects of military life to encourage and equip members to serve “on-mission” for Him. Intended for all OCF members, the IF Project is also for any believers desiring to live the coherent and integrated military life God has purposed for us.

The five studies consist of an introductory session plus four domain sessions, as we call them—personal transformation, family, profession, and community relationships. I believe that diligently seeking to integrate your faith in each of these domains will help guard you from the temptations staggering many senior leaders these days. Let's unpack the IF Project by talking about what integration really means, exploring the faith aspect, and then discussing its application to you.

“Integration” comes from the word “integer,” meaning to be whole. Christians believe the only path to true “whole”ness is a relationship with Jesus Christ. As Rick Warren states, “Integrity means my whole life is integrated together—no secular, no spiritual.”

Consider for a moment the opposite of integration, which, according to Merriam-Webster, is disintegration—to tear things apart, many times to destroy to uselessness. That definition certainly makes sense, but I contend that for many of us, the enemy of integration is compartmentalization.

Compartmentalization within your mind and heart can lead you to a state of frustration, disharmony, and conflict. Some compartmentalization is healthy, such as in urgent military work where it's imperative to focus on the task/mission at hand. But taken to the extreme,

compartmentalization leads to a duplicitous lifestyle of double-mindedness, such as those we've all seen on Sundays who act differently the rest of the week.

As for the faith we're integrating into every part of our lives, Scripture defines faith as “the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen” (Hebrews 11:1, KJV). The word substance comes from the Greek word *hupostasis*, which means that which you stand upon. So faith can be described as that which forms the basis of what you believe, act on, trust, and are loyal to. In Hebrews 11:6 it says, “...without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.”

While it is said that everyone has faith, the real question is: what do you put your faith in? While the world tells us to put our faith in what we can see, touch, and in most cases control, the key for the Christian faith is trusting God in “the evidence of things not seen.”

The integration of faith means being whole in your relationship with Christ by what you know, understand, and believe through the Scriptures about Him. That relationship with Christ, or lack thereof, forms the foundation of who you are, what you think, how you act, and how you treat and love those around you.

When I put on the star, I was wisely counseled not to believe my own press clippings—that just because I put on the rank, it didn't make me any better looking, funnier, or wiser. But, I was further cautioned, there would be those surrounding who would try to convince me that those things were true. The antidote was to surround myself with those who knew me well, held me accountable, and spoke truth into my life—all while keeping myself immersed in prayer and Bible studies.

The Integrated Faith Project tackles those issues head on. In my next article, I will discuss what it looks like to integrate faith into your personal life.

I am so proud of each of you and excited by where the Lord has placed you. As the OCF Vision statement declares, OCF will make a positive impact on our military through you, our Christ-like leaders. ~~✱~~

Pensacola OCF

Chet & Michelle Arnold // OCF Field Staff

Occasionally flight students will ask us to host a “winging party” at Hillview. Most of them live in small apartments and have lots of family and friends they wish to attend. We are happy to do this and we feel privileged to meet their parents and extended family. At such an event recently, we were particularly pleased to meet the wife’s parents who had adopted her and other children and are walking down a path similar to ours—so encouraging to meet with our brothers and sisters and particularly so when they share similar passions and experiences. The newly-winged aviator’s performance in flight school was exemplary. In receiving the highest awards for his efforts, his genuinely humble countenance before God and others was evident as he graciously received the honor bestowed upon him by his command and congratulations from others. This Christian military leader is having a positive impact in the military society!

USMA OCF

Colin & Amy Wooten // OCF Field Staff

Our outreach team is led by two upper class cadets—one focused within the West Point installation and one beyond. The firstie focusing beyond USMA, CDT Amy Yang—a Rocky Mountain High alum—wanted to help the orphans at St. Basil’s Academy, a Greek Orthodox non-profit ministry near West Point where we conduct our annual February retreats. The cadets jumped at the chance to help out, with 19 cadets and 2 captains giving up the better part of a Saturday to help with the ministry’s Walk-A-Thon and encourage the orphans. Interestingly, the Lord brought cadets not associated with OCF on this trip, such as one plebe accidentally getting on another trip’s van. It turns out that this cadet is a Muslim and was asking Captain Sack all kinds of spiritual questions on their way back to St. Basil’s. Several of the cadets who went on the trip indicated they would be coming to “check out” OCF.



USFA OCF photo

USFA OCF

The Lord is blessing our fellowship and Bible study time on Saturday nights. People are coming, momentum is growing, and it’s really great to have so many fourth class cadets attending. We are teaching a series on Jonah, and the cadets are loving it and the time spent together. After about 30 minutes of teaching, the cadets break out into discussion groups, which provide much needed interaction to process the study and encourage one another.

Steve & Rita Wade // OCF Field Staff

USCGA OCF

Carl & Christy Crabtree // OCF Field Staff

It was a good start to the year. more firsties are engaged; the team is bigger and seems more committed; and there’s a great vision for reaching others and sharing Christ. Many relationships were formed between the upper and lower classes at a retreat. An after party at Shepherd’s Fold ensued one Sunday afternoon until Monday night, filled with the usual fun, and a record 68 cadets. Of course, the capture the flag on the water between two islands continues, with me

being flipped over two times this year. I was betrayed by my own team mates! Chaplain Rupe did a great job of discussing stories from the Bible and relating them to movie themes; three LTs, and a LCDR were there to assist. There were some great discussions!

USNA OCF

James & Juli Baca // OCF Field Staff

We have had an extraordinary turnout at Tuesday’s general meetings this year

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so far, as well as at our Bible studies. There are more attendees at each Bible study this year than at any point last year, with as many as 40 attending a Bible study. Other activities this semester have included supporting many OCF mids in their sports activities and leading studies, which has provided opportunities to dig deeper while learning how to lead a community. In a nutshell, midshipmen caring for each other has had a profound effect.

Puget Sound OCF

Larry & Bobbie Simpson // OCF Field Staff

Snapshots from some of our ministry efforts this year include five faithful JBLM McChord Field officers sharing leadership lessons discerned from the Book of Proverbs, as well as insightful discussions and personal applications from Naval Station Everett participants at a biblical soldiering series on how Joseph handled failure and success. The annual area picnic with more than 60 men, women and children from a cross-section of military branches was another time of great Christian comradery. A spirit of cooperation and joy pervaded our time together as plans and testimonies of God's working in their lives were shared. Sadly, we said good-

bye to some great friends, but in God's providence, we hailed new families and individuals.

WSS OCF

Paul & Dawn Robyn // OCF Field Staff

One of the retreat weekends of the fall season included two interesting groups: the McLean Bible Church Seniors and the Penn State Men's Lacrosse Team. For about four years now, 100 senior citizens from the McLean church have been coming here on that weekend. Former OCF Executive Director Art Athens, who mentors the team's coach, suggested WSS when the coach mentioned looking for a retreat venue for his team. There was fascinating dichotomy with these two groups in the dining room, but such a sweet spirit of welcome and genuine kindness from the McLean Seniors to the Penn State young men. The Penn State players were truly affected by the way they were being treated by these senior citizens and the WSS staff. At the final meal, the coach asked if his team could sing their alma mater song for us. One of the McLean women, a Penn State alum, was excited about being invited to join the team in song. She later explained to

me that she had never been able to have children of her own and felt a special connection with these young men. She exchanged contact information afterwards with the coach so she could follow up by doing something kind for them. I know some seeds were planted in the minds and hearts of some of the Penn State crew. We are praying the Lord brings someone to water and harvest them!

Ministry News

OCF Council Fall meeting wrapup

On a beautiful and brisk October weekend, 18 OCF Council members, field staff, and home office staff descended on OCF's Spring Canyon Conference and Retreat Center for the annual fall meeting. The council had the opportunity to reconnect and focus in prayer and devotion while hearing what the Lord has in store for OCF as it celebrates its 75th anniversary on 31 December. As with all council meetings, members first sought guidance from the Lord as RDML Donna Cottrell, USCG, led the council in a Pray, Discover and Obey session. Brig Gen David Warner, USAF (Ret.), presented his executive

BIRTHS

Ethan James Kawamoto, born 2 July 2018, son of **CDR Robin Kawamoto, USCG**, and **LCDR Hannah Kawamoto, USCG**, Alameda, CA.

Cecilia Joy Lake, born on 8 April 2018, daughter of **LT Leo and Jenn Lake, USCG**, Bolling AFB, Washington, DC.

William Joshua Handley, born 25 June 2018, son of **LT Edwin & Angie Handley, CHC, USCG**, Twentynine Palms, CA.

Benjamin "Jack" Scripture, born 11 September 2018, son of **LT Luke and Sarah Scripture, USN**, Pensacola, FL.

Micah David Toms, born 11 August 2018, son of **Rusty and Lt Col Kate Toms, USAF**, Colorado Springs, CO.

WEDDINGS

LTJG Paul Puddington, USCG, married **LTJG Meredith Figgatt, USCG**, 7 October 2018. Their home is Coral Gables, FL.

TAPS

Maj Karlton Bakke, USAF (Ret.), 18 July 2018, husband of **Eunice Bakke**, Roseville, MN.

CDR Dale Brock, CHC, USN (Ret.), 26 June 2018, husband of **Marian Brock**, Goshen, IN.

Patsy Carden, 4 January 2018, wife of **Dr. Arnold Carden**, Cottdale, AL.

COL Earl Casner Jr., USA (Ret.), 8 August 2018, husband of **Sue Casner**, Alexandria, VA.

Miriam "Pud" Freimark, 25 July 2018, Leesville, LA.

LTC John George, USA (Ret.), PhD., 21 August 2018, husband of **Judy George**, Forest, VA. He served from 1979-1990 as the first OCF Field Staff rep at USMA OCF.

Carol Kalmbacher, 9 October 2018, wife of **Greg Kalmbacher**, Bemidji, MN; mother of **LT Kirk Kalmbacher, USCG**, Chesapeake, VA.

COL Wesley Loffert, USA (Ret.), 31 August 2018, husband of **Mim Loffert**, Fayetteville, NC.

COL Eugenia Petrou-Karabakakis, MC, USA (Ret.), 18 July 2018, Flushing, NY.

HONOR FUND

As the year draws to a close, a donation to the OCF Honor Fund helps the ministry in its kingdom work for God to military men and women. You can give a gift in memory of a deceased loved one or friend, or in honor of someone, an achievement, or an event. OCF will send a letter to that person or their family letting them know of your gift of memory or honor. And the name of your loved one or friend will be listed in a future issue of COMMAND magazine. For more information, visit ocfusa.org/honor-fund

director report and highlighted OCF's Integrated Faith Project (IF Project) and OCF's Crosspoint podcast program. He also highlighted the Council's Strategic Lines of Efforts of the Strategic Framework to include: 1) Engaging Members, 2) Growing Christian Military Leaders, 3) Delivering Ministry, and 4) Stewarding Resources. The meeting continued with updates from the council committees to include stewardship, governance and talent. The council also prayerfully considered and deliberated about where God is leading OCF to invest in its members following a very generous gift to the ministry. The weekend was very productive and demonstrated responsible stewardship to the OCF membership. Please prayerfully consider nominating fellow OCF members for the Council election in March.

—COL Steve Berger, USA

OCF Council nominations, elections in 2019

The nomination period for candidates to run on the ballot for OCF Council elections in March will start on 1 January and run through 15 February. At least three OCF regular members (present/former officers, officer candidates, midshipmen and cadets) must submit an endorsement

online for each nominee. The Class of 2022 elected by our membership during the month-long election will serve on the Council for a three-year term beginning 1 June. The OCF website will have comprehensive candidate information in preparation for elections in late February. For more information, contact heidi.martin@ocfusa.org or 800-424-1984.

OCF 75th anniversary starts 31 December

On 31 December, OCF will officially celebrate its 75th anniversary. Throughout 2019, we will celebrate what God has done through the ministry, the countless lives powerfully touched by Him for all eternity. Share your story of His story—how God impacted your life perhaps through an OCF small group Bible study, a conference center retreat, at the service academies or in ROTC. How has OCF impacted your life (mentor, location, event)? What can we individually or corporately do to impact future military leaders for Christ? **Send your story to comms@ocfusa.org.**

OCF staff transitions

Several transitions have taken place

among the leadership ranks throughout OCF. Director of Finance Dean Millard retired after 19 years of service, with Dave Osborn hired to take his place. Director of Field Operations Tom Schmidt retired after 20 years of service, which included serving as field staff rep couple with his wife, Jean at Fort Leavenworth. Replacing Tom is Hous Waring, who served at Maxwell-Gunter AFB as field staff couple with his wife, Tami. Now serving at Maxwell-Gunter as the interim associate field staff couple are Tim and Kim Tormey. Director of Stewardship Chris Blake is now the Deputy to the Executive Director with Royce Bervig coming on in December to head Resource Development. Finally, Greg and Lucy Lane are now onboard as Associate Field Staff leading ROTC ministry (see page 8).

OCF's Cars for Cash Program

Whether by land, sea, or air—donating your used car, RV, or boat will help OCF in its vision to see the military community positively impacted through Christ-like leaders. For more information on our no-hassle free pick-up and tax-deductible

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HONOR

Jim Barrack

By COL & Mrs. Gregory Barrack, USA (Ret.)

Alan Leonard

By Mr. Canon Maggi

Carl and Christy Crabtree

By Ms. Mary Stone

CDT Deborah King, USCG

By Mr. & Mrs. Rod King

CDT Perry Reed Jenkins Jr., USCG

By Mr. & Mrs. Perry Jenkins

Col Houston Waring V, USAF (Ret.)

By Mr. Josiah Caprino

Dr. Martin Carlisle

By Mr. Reagan Mullin

Jada Lester

By Mr. & Mrs. Willie Bryant

Joshua Steele

By Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Steele

LTC Tom Austin IV, USA (Ret.)

By 2LT John Hadley, USA

MAJ Chelsey O'Nan, USA

By Mr. & Mrs. Gerald O'Nan

Mark Stubenhofer

By COL & Mrs. David Batchelor Sr., USA (Ret.)

Matthew Kim

By Kwang Kim

MG Clay and Clara Buckingham,

USA (Ret.)

By COL Albert Romaneski, USA (Ret.)

By Mr. & Mrs. Hugh Cardon III

USCGA Class of 1968, 50th Reunion

By Mr. David Powell

USMA Class of 1978

COL & Mrs. Kim Kadesch, USA

Will & Peter Harrod

COL & Mrs. Timothy Harrod, USA (Ret.)

MEMORIAL

Betsy Teuton

By LT Patrick Weaver, USCG

By ENS Jonathan Dillard, USCG

By Mr. Robert B. Sanford

By ENS Justin Sherman, USCG

Andrew Baer

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

By CDR Joseph & CDR Kristi Chiaravallotti, USN (Ret.)

By LTC & Mrs. Michael Bigelow, USA (Ret.)

By COL & Mrs. Robert Baer, USA

By CAPT & Mrs. Samuel Tate, USN (Ret.)

By Capt & Mrs. Scott Campbell, USAF

Anna Barry

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

Barbara Doyle

By Mr. Brian Doyle

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vehicle donation program and other ways to give, go to: <http://www.ocfusa.org/donate/>

A no-cost estate planning resource from OCF

Stewarding all God has entrusted to us and then determining where those resources go when we step into eternity is at the heart of estate planning. From self-help tools to personalized assistance and phone seminars, no-cost assistance with estate goals is available to members through OCF's partnership with PhilanthroCorp, a trusted estate planning firm. For more information: <http://www.ocfusa.org/estate-planning/>

OCF Day of Prayer and Fasting

OCF leadership is asking OCFers to join in a season of fasting and prayer—one day a week—as the ministry seeks the Lord's vision and favor for ministry plans, especially with the execution of the Strategic Framework. See page 18 for more information.

Winter Retreats

Christmas is a wonderful time to experience

meaningful spiritual teaching and the joy of celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ with a community of like-minded believers. With a wondrous array of winter adventures, come experience why so many have made an OCF conference center retreat a holiday tradition. Don't miss out on what God has for you this Christmas at Spring Canyon and White Sulphur Springs.

Spring Canyon Winter Sports Retreat #1 19-26 December

SPEAKER | Col Scotty Nowlin, USAF (Ret.)

TOPIC | Why the Christmas Story?

The biblical Christmas story is well-known and oft-repeated, but how often do we consider its context, its prophetic roots, and its impact on our lives apart from the holiday season? Join us for a great week of Bible study and fellowship as we explore several key aspects of the Nativity: Why a baby? Why a virgin birth? Why Bethlehem? Why 2,000 years ago?

Winter Sports Retreat #2 27 December—3 January

SPEAKER | LTC Colin Wooten, USA (Ret.)

TOPIC | The Jesus Example: An Integrated Life

To learn how to lead like Jesus better in whatever phase of the race the Lord has us running, we will delve into some of OCF's new Integrated Faith Project. By laying a foundation through the example of Jesus and His power, the IF Project provides a guide for living an integrated life of growth in personal transformation, profession, family, and relationships within your community.

White Sulphur Springs Winter Retreat #1 21-26 December

SPEAKER | LTC Dan Gade, USA (Ret.) & LTC(P) Kevin Bouren, USA

TOPIC | Exploring the Christmas Story and Opening Its Wonderful Gifts

We'll explore the multiple accounts of the events concerning the birth of the promised Savior of the world. We'll deepen our understanding of what we believe and why, test the historical record and critics' claims against the Bible, and then open the wonderful gifts God has graciously given His children as a result of the Messiah's birth, life, death and resurrection!

Bob and Bertha Hougnon

By COL & Mrs. James Hougnon, USA (Ret.)

CAPT Irvin Lindemuth, USCG (Ret.)

By Mrs. Carolyn Lindemuth

Capt Mark McDowell, USAF

By Capt Christopher Peterson, USAF

CAPT Michael Dallam, USN (Ret.)

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

Carol Kalmbacher

By Ms. Phyllis Hooyman

CDR John Dale Brock, CHC, USN (Ret.)

By Mrs. Marian Brock

Cleo Buxton

By CAPT & Mrs. Steven Tinsley, USN (Ret.)

COL Dennis (Jack) Harron, USA (Ret.)

By Mrs. Betty Harron

COL Earl Casner USA (Ret.)

By COL & Mrs. W. G. Willis, AUS (Ret.)

By Mrs. Lynn Williams

By Anonymous

COL J. Wesley Loffert, USA (Ret.)

By Dorothy Walker Living Trust
By Mr. & Mrs. Robert Clark
By LTC G. U. Loffert Jr., USA (Ret.)
By Mr. Frank Dunsmore
By West Point Association of Graduates, USMA

By CH(MAJ) & Mrs. David Bobbey, USA (Ret.)

COL Richard Grube, USA (Ret.)

By SFC & Mrs. Steven McGibney, USA (Ret.)

COL Scott Salyers, USA (Ret.)

By CW5 & Mrs. Alfred Rice, USA (Ret.)

CW4 Ralph Thompson, USA

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

Earline Johnson

By Ms. Sheree Everhart
By Mr. & Mrs. John Cress Sr.
By Mr. Terril Penn
By Mr. & Mrs. Glen Eastridge

Maj Ronald and Earline Johnson, USMC (Ret.)

By Mr. Darrell Johnson

Geraldine Satterfield

By CH(MAJ) Steven Satterfield, USAR

Henry Scott Yocum

Wayne Calloway

Bill Rogers

Maynard Steinman

Sam Sheppardson

Clyde Hunt

JoAnn Bottoms

Patti Dumas

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

Winter Retreat #2**26-30 December**

SPEAKER | Ray Reuter

TOPIC | A Life Unfettered — If Not Now, When?

A life unfettered is a life of freedom, focus, intention, joy. It's one that's aligned with God and your calling, your mission, your talents, and your gifts. Looking deep within, we'll discover a renewed sense of life's purposes by identifying goals and priorities, developing a "traction plan" for life, while learning practical tools for an intentional and fulfilling ongoing journey.

Winter Retreat #3**30 December-2 January**

SPEAKER | VADM Dean Lee, USCG (Ret.)

TOPIC | Applying the Gospel to Today's Challenges

In a deep and fresh look at the gospel, we'll explore knowing, defending, spreading, and living its truths and what they mean for us in today's challenging environment. You'll be encouraged and better equipped in your walk and service to the Lord for 2019 and beyond. 🙌

*White Sulphur Springs photo***EXSEL internship applications due**

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

Lt Col Ward Graham, USAF (Ret.)

By Lt Col & Mrs. Jeffrey Silliman, USAF (Ret.)

LT Roy Seaman, USN

By Mr. & Mrs. Delbert Elliott

LTC John George Jr. USA (Ret.)

By West Point Association of Graduates, USMA class of 1958
By Ms. Jane Drisko
By COL & Mrs. J. D. Norwood, USA (Ret.)
By Mr. & Mrs. Steve Nygren
By Dr. & Mrs. A.R. Hendricksen
By Ms. Charlotte Waters
By Mr. & Mrs. Robert Rencher Jr.
By Mr. George Everson
By LTC & Mrs. Robert Metheny, USA (Ret.)
By LTC & Mrs. Charles Hendrick,

USA (Ret.)

By Mrs. D. Lorraine Pettijohn
By Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Ginther**Maj Karlton Bakke, USAF (Ret.)**

By Ms. Kelly Mattison
By Mr. & Mrs. Lee Anderson
By Mr. Gerald Backlund
By Mr. & Mrs. James Baxter
By Ms. Helen Desjardins
By Mr. & Mrs. Kelley Dutcher
By Mr. & Mrs. William Francisco III
By Mr. John Freed
By Ms. Sandra George
By Mr. & Mrs. Berton Greenside
By Mr. & Mrs. Mark Gregory
By Mr. & Mrs. Matthew Halseth
By Mr. & Mrs. Charles Hedenstrom
By Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Henry
By Mr. & Mrs. E. J. Hovey
By Ms. Rachel Jackson

By Mr. & Mrs. R. D. Jore
By Mr. & Mrs. William Kendle
By Mr. & Mrs. John Lane
By Mr. Walton Mahlum
By Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Morse
By Mr. & Mrs. Mark Mueller
By Mr. James Nash
By Ms. Pat Ose
By Mr. & Mrs. Robert Pankonin
By Ms. Carol Powers
By Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Rickenbach
By Maj. & Mrs. Peter Swanson, USAFR
By Mr. & Mrs. Carl Vaagenes
By Mr. & Mrs. Philip Wold
By Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Wyant
By Twin City River Rats
By Mr. David Ciminski
By Mr. Brian Tang
By Rick & Connie Shand

MAJ William Hecker III, USA (KIA Iraq 2006)

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

MG Charles Sniffin, USA (Ret.)

By LtCol & Mrs. Jonathan Wort, USMCR (Ret.)

MG Robert Buker, USA (Ret.)

By Mrs. Ethel Buker

Ralph Phillips

By LtCol & Mrs. Paul Gillikin, USMC

Robert Robinson

By LCDR Patsy Robinson, USN (Ret.) 🙌



OCF ROTC Ministries photo

Greg Lane (left) is shown skeet shooting with the ROTC cadets he mentors. Along with wife Lucy (not pictured), they serve OCF as the Associate Field Staff couple for ROTC ministries. His encouragement to OCF members, especially retired military - "Realize that the Lord has work to be done and wants you involved in it!"

SERVING THE YOUNGEST MILITARY MEMBERS AMONG US

BY OCF COMMUNICATIONS

What if college students interested in military service could find a thriving military Christian community on their campuses? A united fellowship that is student-led, equipped by mature Christians, and dedicated to equipping future military leaders for service to our Lord and our country? Perhaps one of the greatest dreams shared in OCF is a branch of ministry dedicated solely to the mentorship and development of ROTC cadets and midshipmen across the nation. Efforts within this broad mission field have been faithfully conducted for many years by LTC Greg and LTC Lucy Lane, USAR (Ret.), who have also served on OCF Council and as Fort Campbell, Kentucky, team leaders.

In January 2018, Greg and Lucy were appointed as the OCF Associate Field Staff representative couple for ROTC Ministries. It is the first time in 17 years that OCF has had staff reps dedicated to ROTC matters. This ministry effort was first created by the late LtCol Tom Hemingway, USMC (Ret.), who served at OCF's Spring Canyon Conference Center as its director—and may be better known as the architect of Rocky Mountain High, the outdoor leadership program for young officers.

The Lanes have dutifully opened their hearts, homes, and lives to answer the call and disciple ROTC students—continually

working to fulfill the OCF vision of a military community positively impacted through Christ-like leaders by serving the youngest military members among us.

OCF Executive Director, Brig Gen David Warner, USAF (Ret.), has sensed that it “appears to be God’s time to exploit [the growth in ROTC] in order to achieve His fuller intent. Greg and Lucy are premier examples of the scores of OCF members who have served ROTC fruitfully over the years.” Warner explains that, “Through them the ministry has grown. The Lanes have the vision, experience, heart, and energy to lead us forward.”

With the goal of “a Bible study/fellowship in every ROTC detachment that engages cadets and midshipsmen and exposes them to OCF retreats and conference centers,” the Lanes envision having “increasing numbers of retired military seeking to devote time, wisdom of experience, and resources to be military missionaries to our officer candidates in training.”

Greg is passionate about the mentorship components of OCF ministry in ROTC communities. “OCF members who have served in the military while walking with Christ are valuable and badly needed in the OCF ROTC ministry,” said Greg. “They already both know the military culture and language and can devote themselves—time, talent, and treasure—to ROTC cadets and midshipmen. They can equip these future officers to be ambassadors for Christ on campus now and in the force and fleet after commissioning. The rewards of this are rich, both now and in eternity.”

The Lanes themselves, who met at an OCF Bible study while on active duty, know the enduring, pay-it-forward power of being mentored as cadets by mature OCFers. Lucy first heard of OCF in college while attending Army ROTC Advanced Camp. After commissioning, she linked up with OCF via Howie and Janet Richards at Fort Huachuca, Arizona, where Lucy attended BOLC. Greg’s first encounter with OCF was as senior Army ROTC

cadet participating in a small group Bible study led by a staff member at the college he attended.

Greg and Lucy are also intimately familiar with the power of staying plugged into OCF throughout the duration of a career in the military. Greg explains that he and Lucy were able to stay plugged into the OCF Bible studies and related fellowship opportunities that provided encouragement from the “more senior OCFers on how to apply the Bible in the military unit environment.”

Serving ROTC communities cannot be done in a silo—collaboration is essential for maximum impacts to be reached. In their experiences of co-laboring missions to ROTC cadets and midshipsmen, “several outstanding examples come to mind of retired OCFers making a big impact, either in ROTC or at active duty installations,” explains Greg.

“The Vaughns at Ohio State University, the Falconers at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, and the Wisemans at East Carolina University are very effective in reaching their ROTC cadets/midshipmen for the Lord.” He also mentions the “big impact for Christ” retired OCFers at active duty installations are making, such as with “the Haddicks at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, the Hugglers at Joint Base San Antonio, and the Robinsons at Fort Bragg.”

Greg has found that of the approximately 330 ROTC host campuses, “there may be 50-60 campuses with aspects of ROTC Christian fellowship—either through OCF, Campus Crusade for Christ Valor, or Navigators.” That number is slowly growing as all three ministries reach out to ROTC cadets who indicated during Army Cadet Summer Training they were interested in leading or being involved in Christian fellowship on their campuses.

“We are thankful that the Navigators have an ROTC ministry, as does CRU with its Valor movement,” Greg said. “The work is huge; no one ministry can do it alone! In John 17, Jesus prayed that we would

Tips for OCF member military retirees

Realize that the Lord has work to be done and wants you involved in it! Pray for and then reach out to the local college or university ROTC department heads for permission to offer Bible study and fellowship, which can yield surprising opportunities and open doors. Before you know it, you are a wonderful example of “And even when I am old and gray, O God, do not forsake me, until I declare Your strength to this generation, Your power to all who are to come” (Psalm 71:18, NASB).

For more information

Please prayerfully consider how you can get involved in OCF’s ROTC effort, which is in need of godly OCF members to volunteer, contact Greg and Lucy Lane at ROTC@ocfusa.org or visit ocfusa.org/ROTC.

all be one, even as He and the Father are one. We are thankful for the unity of effort with the Navs and CRU Valor.” This collaboration is perfectly demonstrated through annual OCF ROTC retreats that are orchestrated and led by couples such as the Lanes and many others. Additional retreats, as many as seven per calendar year, are organized by each of the three campus ministries.

“College campuses vividly display Luke 10:2, ‘The fields are white unto harvest,’” said Greg. “The opportunity is short-lived—at most four years in ROTC for each cadet/midshipman.” He passionately offers encouragement to retired active duty OCF members, calling them to “Realize that the Lord has work to be done and wants you involved in it!”

But involvement in ROTC ministry is far from limited to retired OCFers. “Cadets, midshipmen, officers—anyone who has been steeped in the Bible, walking in obedience to Christ, can join in this important work,” explains Greg.

He continues, “ROTC represents the future of our military. Don’t be like Israel, where ‘everyone did what was right in his own eyes’ (Judges 21:25) May our battle cry to ROTC cadets and midshipsmen be ‘remember also your Creator in the days of your youth’ (Ecclesiastes 12:1).”

“As we recently heard the Navigators ROTC director Larry Sherbondy say, ‘God is interested in and is moving in ROTC!’”



White Sulphur Springs photo

These twenty-five leaders and retired military at the first OCF ROTC Leaders Conference earlier this year represent a portion of those who passionately minister to ROTC cadets and midshipmen.

RETIREES HAVING KINGDOM IMPACT ON ROTC MINISTRY

BY OCF COMMUNICATIONS

LTC Greg and LTC Lucy Lane, USAR (Ret.), who head OCF's ROTC Ministries, point out that "Army ROTC is the largest single commissioning source of Army lieutenants in America, commissioning more officers than all service academies combined." Add in the significant numbers of ROTC ensigns and lieutenants from the other military branches also commissioning, and suddenly Jesus' words of "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few" (Luke 10:2) shine a spotlight on the tremendous need for more harvesters in a field ripe to reap.

Including the Lanes, a number of retired military OCFers have been serving God for years in this rich mission field, such as COL Gwynn and Kit Vaughan, USA (Ret.)—who quickly point out that it's only because of God and His blessing that their efforts are successful. MAJ Brian Downs, USA; Capt Joe Inkrott, USAF; and Army cadet Jordan Brandt talk about the impact God has made on their lives through these mentoring couples. Their remarks provide a sampling of ongoing work by OCF retired military and illuminate the urgent need for more to join in.

In what ways have your OCF mentors influenced you—spiritually, professionally, personally?

Brian: Although I was a Christian, the Vaughans were the first Christians in my life who taught me about having a personal relationship with Christ. By inviting me to my first OCF study, they brought me into a group of like-minded Christians that helped teach me about that relationship, and how it would impact my life going forward.

Joe: I was very fortunate to meet with Gwynn and learn from his experiences both as a military officer and as a Christian who has been guided by his faith throughout his career. One of his biggest influences on me was that the person you marry is the most important decision you will make in life. The Vaughans were

one—with a few other ROTC cadets. He personally extended our knowledge while challenging us to dive more deeply into God's Word, and used our sessions to teach us how to mentor others and grow the Church. They mentored me to be the OCF Bible study leader, which allowed me to hone and refine my knowledge and spiritual walk in order to lead other cadets and midshipmen. But the most influential thing I got from the Vaughans was their showing me daily how the love of Christ is supposed to work within a godly marriage.

Joe: The Vaughans have a faith that is more visible and apparent than any two people I have met. Their love for one another, their family, and the Lord is very evident—inspiring me to work on my faith and relationships the way they

“Because of the Bible study, I have more of a sense of accountability, so I can be an example to fellow cadets in our program.”

—Army cadet Jordan Brandt

extremely influential on me and my wife, Gillian. They helped guide us through college by supporting and mentoring us, instructing us in the Word, and keeping us grounded during a time when many people face temptation and make bad decisions.

Jordan: The Lanes have taught me and other cadets to stay true to our beliefs, to be a light wherever we go in a career path in an environment that is not commonly associated with Christian faith and beliefs. As retired military officers, the Lanes can give personal insight on military questions. Mr. Lane took time out of his schedule to give an in-depth OPORD class to ensure we were successful at this year's Cadet Summer Training camp at Fort Knox. The Lanes also influence us personally, by how they present themselves—they are some of the humblest people I've ever met. It rubs off on the entire program.

How did they influence you? What are some the things you learned or observed from them?

Brian: It would be hard to list them all. Gwynn invited me into a small men's group—an accountability and leadership

have. His stories of leading a platoon in Vietnam were inspirational. He allowed his faith to guide him in his decision-making and stuck by his decisions, even if they were unpopular, because he knew what was right.

Jordan: I interact mostly with Mr. Lane because he works in our ROTC department, but Mrs. Lane has helped some of our female cadets with Bible studies, as well as helping us all to act modestly in our walk with God. I really admire Mr. Lane's motivation and how much effort he puts into everything he does. Just this morning, he was standing outside our classroom with a giant smile handing out invitations to our military formal. The Lanes are some of the humblest people I know.

As a result of time spent with your OCF mentors, how is God working in your life now that might have not happened otherwise?

Brian: The two big ways in which the Vaughans impacted me is that I am a better husband to my wife, Christie, because of their example of marriage, and that my service to the Army and my spiritual life are not mutually exclusive activi-

ties. I can be a strong officer in the Army while still living, acting, and sharing my faith daily and trying to serve as an example and role model for others.

Joe: Attending OCF during my college years helped me to solidify my Christian faith and stay on the right track when it would have been easy to do otherwise. Since finishing college, I have made church a priority, and I have worked with my family to find Bible studies with others to grow in the Word. I would not have met my wife had it not been for the Vaughans. The blessing of being able to work with them and meet my wife will impact me positively for the rest of my life.

Jordan: Mr. Lane offered me and few other cadets the opportunity to participate in a video interview about prayer and similar topics. This was a chance for me to express my insight on these topics, and possibly to help someone that is struggling through something. Without OCF and the help of Mr. Lane, I wouldn't have had a chance to spread the gospel to fellow cadets around the country. Because of the Bible study, I have more of a sense of accountability, so I can be an example to fellow cadets in our program.

What is your greatest takeaway of their mentorship?

Brian: In order to maintain a close relationship with Christ, you need a stable faith foundation to withstand the trials of life. You need surround yourself with a community of like-minded Christians, and to have accountability partners to stay the course. I'm grateful that Gwynn and Kit remain lifelong friends.

Joe: The importance of having a firm foundation in the Word—to know what you believe and defend it when challenged. Our knowledge of the Word will influence how people feel about Christians and Christianity, so I need to be prepared to explain what I believe. The Vaughans know the Word and provided great insight during our OCF group discussions.

Jordan: Being a light in your profession. The military is not the friendliest of places, and being a Christian in such a profession is not an easy task, but they are perfect examples of being a light and example. I've learned that if you place God first, and live holy and modest lives, people will notice. And this helps us as Christians to spread the gospel. ✚



The Solace of the Winter Solstice: Conference Center Winter Programs

‘True havens in the midst of the storm’

BY OCF COMMUNICATIONS

For our nation’s military men and women, what being home for Christmas means is as uniquely varied as each snowflake of a winter snowfall. Because of their service, “home” is often where they are at the moment—aboard the steel of a ship, in the tents of deployment, or surrounded by the bare four walls of their duty station. This means it’s a holiday season spent apart from family and friends.

For legions of OCF members and those with families who've attended retreats at OCF's White Sulphur Springs and Spring Canyon Conference Centers over the years, "home" is those very two places. By making OCF winter retreats a part of their Christmas tradition, they are returning to a safe place for the holidays—which for Ryan and Sarah Cross, is Spring Canyon.

"It is the place that I wanted to spend time at as a young USAFA cadet, where I took Sarah soon after we met during my firstie year," says Ryan. "And it's our chosen place to seek refuge during significant trials in our lives." Such as in 2012, as the couple struggled with Ryan's six-month TDY that would leave Sarah—recovering from cancer surgery—at home with their two children. Or in 2016, when Ryan was evacuated from deployment for brain tumor surgery and a long recovery stateside. Removed from flying status, denied a flight waiver, and in the midst of Ryan's medical evaluation board, the Cross family again returned to Spring Canyon "to seek the Lord and to have our family at Spring Canyon pray for us."

"Defeated, broken down, and bare, our masks were off," says Ryan. "And as we drove past the 'Welcome Home' sign, we knew we were. The Normans wrapped their arms around us and prayed that God would make it abundantly clear to us where we should be and His purpose for our lives." Although he was soon notified he would be medically retired by the Air Force in 2018, Ryan says "the Lord has continued to open doors throughout our transition into civilian life."

For the Jeff and Libby Ginther family, who have been attending OCF's winter retreats since 1984, the retreats are "true havens in the midst of the storm." With Jeff's busy schedule as an Army surgeon increasing, their family tradition became attending the first retreat week for Christmas Day so "Jeff could be with us," said Libby. "If he was home, he was working and rarely had a Christmas breakfast with us."

Joe and Kristi Chiaravallotti and their family have consistently attended winter retreats at White Sulphur Springs since 2006. The former Navy commanders savor ringing in the new year "in a family environment surrounded by other Christians." They also find that the teaching sessions are "vital to 'putting on the armor of God' in preparation for our own spiritual survival and advancing God's kingdom in the secular, fast-paced, and sometimes oppressive environment of the National Capital Region," says Joe.

Joe and Kristi credit "the fellowship they experience with fellow OCF brothers and sisters and most importantly, with the WSS ministry team" as catalysts energizing them "to leave the 'spiritual mountain top' to go back down into the 'valley' with full hearts for the LORD," which has included years of support "through the joys and trials of raising our children, and transitioning from active duty to the civilian world."

OCF winter retreats find singles, newlyweds, young families, and families with teens, from new military members to retired generals coming together for a week of biblical inspiration from speakers. "The goal of the retreats is to refresh and equip military members and their families and send them back out inspired to serve our God," says Libby. She says that between cross-country skiing, Christian fellowship, and biblical teaching, her family found they were truly refreshed. "God used other people there, the speaker and staff to guide us in some of our life journeys."

Say Rob and Joanna Hemp, "God uses a mix of teaching, fellowship, recreation, and natural beauty to strengthen and encourage our faith. Being led in deep exploration of biblical truths has helped us focus on the meaning of Christmas and equipped us to better serve as we journey through different challenges."

At Jason and Jennifer Faunce's first White Sulphur Springs' winter retreat in 2007, OCF legend "Mr.

"Of course, the best part of Christmas is the coming of Jesus. And we never fail to find Him during the winter retreats at White Sulphur Springs."

—Jason Faunce

Tok"—Charalambos Tokatoglou—"preached Jesus among us, the sister of one of the Ecuadorian martyrs told missionary stories to the children, and I appreciated fellowship with two Naval Academy classmates," said Jason.

There are fellowship opportunities at meals or over coffee with other military families navigating similar roads. And activities to enjoy, including skiing, soaking in hot springs, relaxing by a fire, playing games—or sledding, where the Gintners and little ones have spent hours "trudging up the hill with tubes and laughing on the way down." Or Jason's fond sledding memory with "video footage of Jennifer sledding down the icy slope between Buckingham Field and the horse stables with our one-year-old son on her lap as Jennifer was screaming, 'How do you stop this thing?'"

But the high point of OCF winter retreats, especially for families, are the classes for kids "that help them grow in Christ," says Libby. The Gintners' daughter cherished bonding and keeping in touch with other Christian military kids, and as a teen, "was challenged in my faith by role models who came along side me and who taught me what it truly meant to live for Jesus."

The Chiaravallottis echo that the retreats' greatest impact has been "encouraging the faith of our children." Their sons' attendance at WSS's summer programs for children and teens, as well as serving on support staff and senior staff, have nurtured them to now serving as "as young adults leaders in their faith communities," said Joe.

"I believe that because of the OCF retreat center programs, our children have chosen to serve in the military also," said Libby, whose son adds that the winter retreats "help me to re-center on what matters most in life and fortify my resolve to be a Christ-like leader in the military."

Jason's family enjoys continued laughter over a helium-assisted rendition of "How Great Our Joy" by the men's choir at one WSS retreat. But as he says, "Of course, the best part of Christmas is the coming of Jesus. And we never fail to find Him during the winter retreats at White Sulphur Springs." ❧



Photo from iStockPhoto

The National Center for PTSD says “the key precondition for moral injury is an act of transgression that shatters moral and ethical expectations that are rooted in religious or spiritual beliefs, or culture-based, organizational and group-based rules about fairness, the value of life, and so forth.”

THE SCARS OF MORAL INJURY

BY OCF COMMUNICATIONS

How familiar are you with moral injury? Episode 14 of the OCF Crosspoint podcast dealt with this topic during an interview between LTC Tom Schmidt, USA (Ret.) and COL Dave Batchelor, USA (Ret.). While moral injury is similar to PTSD in some ways, it's very much a different type of psychological trauma. The National Center for PTSD describes it this way: “Moral injury is a construct that describes extreme and unprecedented life experience, including the harmful aftermath of exposure to such events. These events are considered morally injurious, if they transgress deeply held moral beliefs and expectations.” Following is an excerpt and adaptation of the podcast interview between Schmidt and Batchelor, who details some of his personal struggle with moral injury during a deployment to Iraq.

Why is this subject important?

It's very important to me personally for several reasons. First, I watched my own soldiers from the battalion and the brigade and eventually other veterans struggle with this idea of behavioral health, moral injury, and even PTSD in some cases. And then I struggled personally in my experience coming back from Iraq with regard to my own behavioral manifestations in the Army, and now in civilian life, and even in dealing with the VA.

For me specifically, I struggled for a while with bouts of anger. In retrospect, probably bouts of depression as well, but I was too embarrassed to talk about it with anyone. It wasn't until my wife got my attention, pointing to our children, and telling me that what

I'm witnessing with them are direct reflections of me. That's what it took to get my attention that something was not the way it had been before.

What are some things about moral injury that people might not know?

Research shows that people like me, who have a strong value system, who are Christians or even just very religious, or values-based, can be more susceptible to moral injury.

I read *Achilles in Vietnam* by Dr. Jonathan Shay, who was on the cutting edge of understanding or differentiating moral injury from PTSD and other behavioral health issues. It gets to a Greek term called *themis*, which is a better way to describe what we would say here in North America is your body, mind, value system, the seat or core of what you believe to be right.

What was groundbreaking for me was the understanding of the root causes of PTSD compared with the root causes of moral injury. PTSD is usually defined as a behavioral or a mental or psychological issue associated with a traumatic experience.

On the other hand, moral injury is different, because it's based on your values. Something, or a series of things, has occurred to someone that is so egregious to their core values, or what they think is right, that their behavior changes, subconsciously and many times unknowingly, when there's some set of stimuli that challenges them in the same manner.

In my familial value system, we kind of worshiped the state and the Army, and we value patriotic service as being one of the most important things a young person could do.

I confess as a Christian that many times, in my own career, and my 32 years of service, I idolized the institution. And then, when I was placed in a traumatic situation, where I felt like the institution was turning on my subordinates, my soldiers, that's when my *themis* began to be cracked, when I felt like the organization was not taking care of my people. It was a sense of betrayal, a sense of betrayal by the very thing I had idolized.

What's one example of how you thought your values were supremely violated in combat?

We, the Battalion Task Force, had been in a significant firefight that went about six or eight hours the day before. It was our first day in that part of Baghdad, and we had really taken it to the enemy, so to speak, but we did have casualties.

The next day, we were to lay out our equipment and inspect it, repair, refit, refuel, do maintenance on all of our weapons and systems, and then return to the fight. My brigade commander said, "Hey Dave, that was a great fight yesterday, and I need you to get back out there and get after it, but the division commander is coming by, and I think it would be powerful for him to spend a few minutes with your soldiers during your pre-combat inspections of your equipment. So just let him walk around, make sure he sees the extent of the firefight yesterday, through your damaged equipment and vehicles."

As I'm walking the division commander over to a squad of infantry men and a platoon of tankers, the commanding general walks over to talk to them, and as they're laying out their equipment, he notices the damage to the equipment. Ball bearings from IEDs stuck in helmets, ball bearings stuck in armor plates, plates and kit with blood on it from the fight the day before, and damage to combat vehicles.

Then suddenly, and almost inexplicably, the division commander began shouting, my perception was at the top of his lungs, turns his back to that platoon of soldiers and starts screaming at the brigade commander about why he led our soldiers in combat the day before in that portion of the city.

I'll tell you that that left a deep-seated sense of betrayal by the institution, or by my profession, that I thought would have praised and lauded my soldiers for their brave actions, but instead gave the appearance of doing just the opposite. It was inexplicable and almost unrecoverable for my soldiers, that sense of betrayal, because they thought they had done something noble and brave, courageous and duty centric, only to hear the division commander

take another tack, probably for a different reason.

It's one thing to have soldiers injured or wounded in combat—you kind of expect that—and as ugly and as egregious as that can be, for me personally and my value system, it paled in comparison to what I perceived as the institution turning on my soldiers.

What are some tools you have employed to help in your struggle with moral injury?

Self-awareness is a big deal. In fact, that might have been the first step to my healing. My wife got my attention by pointing to behaviors of my kids, where they were mimicking my behavior. Then I began to read a little bit, and in particular I read Dr. Shay's work.

When I read the first two chapters of that book, I realized that these were mainly men who had done dangerous things, and yet they were struggling with something they didn't understand. That went very far in helping me see myself, and realizing I wasn't by myself in this struggle.

Spiritual awareness is another tool. During times of conflict, I began to pray specifically that the Lord would give me time to stop, go back to a more rational self, and then craft a response if necessary, as opposed to flying right into anger. I found that praying about those two things—time and space, and which problems are really mine and which ones weren't—has helped me a lot.

Finally, the third thing I did was I went and talked to somebody about it. What I was challenged with, specifically, was this concept of survivor guilt, and this concept that as a commander I was responsible for everything my unit does or fails to do. And while that is absolutely right, and a great part of the war ethos, and part of leadership, in the Kingdom, taken to the extreme, that is not a godly response.

For me, though, the biggest thing is going back to my Lord in prayer and asking for that help which is beyond me. I acknowledge that my experience is unique, and my means of dealing with it is specific for me as well. ✝



THE SCARS OF MORAL INJURY You can hear more of COL Batchelor's story of his struggle with moral injury in episode 14 of the OCF Crosspoint podcast by pointing your browser to ocfusa.org/crosspoint

Top to bottom:

NCR OCF, Area 6 Study Montgomery County, MD

"We often open our house up to get together socially, much like a Navy ward-room on a ship," report Joe and Kristi Chiaravallotti, both retired Navy commanders (center right, back row) who serve as the area coordinators for OCF's National Capital Region's Area 6. Each week they host a "lively" Bible study group largely of junior officer families who work or study at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. Currently studying the book of Genesis, the group "dives deeply into God's Word and doesn't hold back on the technical/scholarly questions." Other activities include movies, concerts, and helping "OCF members moving into the area by giving them a place stay, advice on where to live, etc."



NCR OCF photo

New London Naval Submarine Base

When LTJG Will and Sarah Parker, USN, turned over the JB Charleston OCF Bible study to LTJG Arne Anderson, USN, and moved to Connecticut, the couple started an OCF Bible study there. Around 20-25 people who come from different ships stationed at the New London Submarine Base attend the fellowship, as well as students at Submarine Officer Basic Course (SOBC), Submarine Officer Advanced Course (SOAC), and the Coast Guard Academy. The group has studied Galatians, 2 Timothy, and Nehemiah.



New London Naval Submarine Base OCF photo

Fort Huachuca

LTC(CH) Fred Robinson, USA (Ret.), (center, in blue) leads an OCF Bible study at Fort Huachuca, Ariz., which he reports "is still going gangbusters with 24 in attendance and the help of two chaplains who let us meet in their quarters." Typically, it's difficult to get BOLC and CCC students there in fellowship, but the group has had 10 students in Bible study, including two USMA grads (far right) who graduated earlier this year. The longtime OCF local leader and his wife, Victoria, have ministered in many ways over the years, including marriage/family/parenting events, PTSD support groups, and AWANA leadership.



Fort Huachuca OCF photo

Top to bottom:

New Hampshire

Earlier this year, Peter and Susie Burdett and Hunt and Stephanie Kerrigan hosted the third annual New England OCF Ice Cream Social in Durham, NH. "It's a great time of fellowship among veterans and their families," remarked Peter, a retired Naval aviator and longtime OCF leader. "Remembering and honoring the rich history and the strong legacy of OCF in New England is an encouragement for those serving in the military today."

Japan

Yoshihara Community Roller Slide Park served as one of the locations in Okinawa, Japan, where a trio of OCF families—the Johnsons, Kaisers, and Hodges—enjoyed a reunion. Tripp and Carly Johnson were in an OCF group with Dan and Christy Kaiser in Florida, while he and Charlie Hodges attended Air Command and Staff College at Maxwell-Gunter AFB in Alabama. In addition to going to church where the Kaisers attend, the trio of families also enjoyed together time at the beach and a hike to a waterfall.

Betsy Kealey room

OCF directors and leaders were among those on hand over the summer as the last room in the Fort Shine Lodge at OCF's Spring Canyon Conference and Retreat Center was dedicated—this one in memory of Maj Betsy Kealey, USMC. The Naval Academy graduate, who was deployed three times as a helicopter pilot, lost her life in a training exercise in 2015. Maj Kealey's mother, Christine Thompson (fourth from right), was one of the speakers at the ceremony honoring her daughter and her life of love for the Lord, family, and others.

Send us your Ministry In Action group photo

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



New Hampshire OCF photo



Photo from Tripp Johnson



Spring Canyon photo



Photo by Susan Wallis

Drawing close to God's still, small voice

by **CHRIS BLAKE**

Deputy to the Executive Director

Prayer is the very breath of OCF. From the ministry's very inception, OCF has emphasized the vital importance of praying members and of local fellowships that recognize their dependence upon prayer.

Prayer is one of the eight Pillars upon which the Fellowship stands firm, "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened" (Matthew 7:7-8). We must draw near to God day by day so that His Spirit will provide the qualities of heart, mind, and spirit needed to accomplish His work through us in the Armed Forces.

The absolute wonder of prayer is that our God and Savior, the King of the Universe, longs for a deep relationship with each and every one of us. If we really grasped that, how radically transformed would our prayer lives be?

In the OCF home office, we gather daily before our workday begins for prayer and devotions to lay before the Lord the needs of and requests from our OCF members. We send cards of encouragement and reminders of our prayer support to them, especially our deployed and their spouses.

Using OCF's monthly *Power in Prayer* guide, more than 500 OCF prayer warriors faithfully pray daily for specific prayer requests from members, for ministry events and needs, for new members, and deployed or OCONUS OCF members.

In Scripture, we can find many examples where prayer was coupled with fasting in times of need (Daniel 9:3); when faced with calamity (2 Samuel 12:16); for intercession (Esther 4:16), or as part of devoted worship (Luke 2:37).

Throughout its 75 year-history, OCF has encouraged members to dedicate themselves to periods of prayer and fasting when the Fellowship has encountered difficult circumstances or faced momentous decisions. For example, in 2007, hundreds of OCF members committed to 40 days of prayer and fasting seeking God's will and favor at the start of and throughout the ultimately successful Growing & Building Capital Campaign.

Brig Gen David Warner, our Executive Director, is now calling upon OCF members and friends to commit one day each week to fast and pray as OCF works toward putting into place new plans and programs to achieve God's vision of the military community positively impacted through Christ-like leaders.

Some specific matters for this season include the rehabilitation of Maranatha

Mansion at USNA, where we have experienced significant challenges from local building and land use officials; the Integrated Faith Project, which is equipping local leaders and others for Christ-like service at the intersection of faith, family and profession; the continued implementation of the Strategic Framework, which is propelling OCF Council and Field Staff into new and exciting territory to achieve OCF's Mission of engaging military leaders in biblical fellowship and growth; and for OCF members who are experiencing challenges and opposition, especially deployed or OCONUS and their families.

This is an opportunity to draw near to God through a time-honored and biblically based discipline. Ultimately, prayer and fasting should not be a burden or a duty, but rather a celebration of God's goodness and mercy.

As we draw close to God to hear His voice by this special prayer and fasting initiative for the ministry of OCF, we also want to pray for you.

Send us your prayer requests so the OCF home office staff can pray for you in our daily devotions. And if you would like your prayer request included in *Power in Prayer*—or would like to join in as a *Power in Prayer* prayer warrior, visit our prayer page at ocfusa.org/pray. 🙏

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Member:

Combined Federal Campaign #10531



Captain Jason Faunce
UNITED STATES NAVY

Why OCF: Early in my career when I received orders to San Diego, I had already been struggling with loneliness during a previous overseas deployment, and I did not know anybody in San Diego. I was not in the habit of prayer, but I cried out to God that I would not be lonely. My first Sunday morning at chapel at Naval Air Station North Island, God answered my prayer by sending Steve Hoffman to invite me to lunch afterwards and then to an OCF Bible study. I had never before been in the practice of studying the Bible with other people outside Sunday morning; God worked through that OCF Bible study to change my life in a powerful way.

Why a military life: I am a third-generation military engineer, and I love it!

What's on your bucket list: Taking my wife on a Mediterranean cruise to Turkey and to visit Greek biblical sites.

Best advice given you: Not necessarily advice, but rather what has impacted me most has been the example set by the officers who participated in the OCF Bible study I mentioned. They read the Bible daily—and believed what it said! They prayed daily—and believed that God answered their prayers! Since then, I pray and read the Bible daily, and in doing so, have come to know the Lord in a powerful and personal way.

Life Bible verse: “God will fight for you; you need only to be still” (Exodus 14:14). I read this verse as a short summary of the gospel message. The people of Israel were trapped between the powerful Egyptian army and the Red Sea. Unable to escape of their own power, they only needed to be still and believe God's promise and power to save them. Likewise, I routinely find circumstances entirely beyond my skill and control, which reminds me to be still and trust God.



Merry Christmas to our military men and women,
for your service to our nation—
and for impacting our world as Christlike leaders.

Sharing Christ's love with the local Afghans— “[For me as a Christian] there really isn’t a better thing to do [off duty] on Christmas Eve, particularly in a deployed environment. About 50 of us went, handing out over 200 bags full of food, stuffed animals, clothes, toys, socks, shoes, and coal for heat. The weather was glorious, the kids most appreciative, and travel all around was safe. Many of the participants felt as I did; it was such a blessing that it is hard to describe.”

—An Army colonel, from OCF's *CONNECTED* newsletter, Winter 2008-09