



# Christian Report

To Win...To Disciple...To Equip...To Win

Volume 9 Issue 7

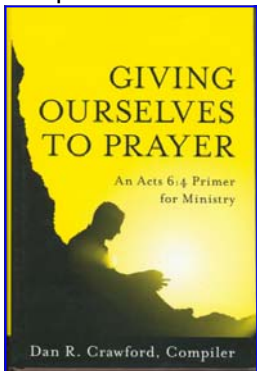
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## God's Unchanging Plan — Where Do I Fit? — by Bob Flynn, President/CEO

**How we praise God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we belong to Christ. Long ago, even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. His unchanging plan has always been to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. And this gave him great pleasure....God's secret plan has now been revealed to us; it is a plan centered on Christ, designed long ago according to his good pleasure. And this is his plan: At the right time he will bring everything together under the authority of Christ—everything in heaven and on earth. (Ephesians 1:3-5, 9-10 NLT96)**

We have been designed from before the foundation of the world to be a **perfect fit** in God's plan. The problem arises when we do not see or experience this perfect fit. Generally speaking, in our culture of comfort, we are looking for a prize in the box of Cracker Jack rather than searching for the Pearl of Great Price! It is this same mindset that perceives prayer as a change agent useful only in effecting alteration in our circumstances. Thus we miss out on the true character of prayer—that can transform us for God's glory while at the same time changing us so that we fit His plans. So when, in our instant societal expectations, we fail to

receive an immediate answer, the fire goes out in our boiler, our passion sputters, and we falter in our intercessory perseverance. Our prayers are ultimately effective because of our intimacy and communion with God—which also enables our success in the completion of the plans He has for us. Because of this, the enemy of our soul will be resolute in persistently injecting error into our understanding. His goal is to force our commitment to wane in this vital ministry of which we are to be our own first fruit. King David exhorted his son Solomon to, "learn to know the God of your ancestors intimately" (1 Chronicles 28:9) because "this is the way to have eternal life—to know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, the One You sent to earth" (John 17:3 NLT). David goes on to explain that we should "Worship and serve him with your whole heart and a willing mind." This is where our failure begins to be seen: in the absence of righteous works that He has ordained for us to perform—because we are not willing of mind. It is this lack of true intimacy with Christ, our Savior, that leads to our overt rebelliousness and failure! For how could we truly worship and serve a stranger or mere acquaintance? When Paul spoke to the Corinthians about the Macedonian churches he said their "first action was to **dedicate** themselves to the Lord and to us for whatever directions God might give them" (2 Corinthians 8:5b NLT96).

**53.48 εαυτὸν δίδωμι: (an idiom, literally 'to give oneself') to dedicate oneself to some activity in a completely willing manner, usually implying service on behalf of someone**

**or something—'to give oneself to, to dedicate oneself to.' (εαυτὸς εδωκεν πρὸς τὸ κυριο καὶ εμὴν διὰ θελημάτων θεοῦ) 'they gave themselves first to the Lord and to us by God's will' 2 Corinthians 8:5. (Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament)**

**1 Chronicles 28:9-10 And Solomon, my son, learn to know the God of your ancestors intimately. Worship and serve him with your whole heart and a willing mind. For the Lord sees every heart and knows every plan and thought. If you seek him, you will find him. But if you forsake him, he will reject you forever. So take this seriously. The Lord has chosen you to build a Temple as his sanctuary. Be strong, and do the work.**

When the Lord Jesus Christ has drawn you into the Holy of Holies by the intimacies of your prayer life, you will begin to understand that He is conforming you to His blessed will. Then no matter how high the mountain of your trials, or how low the valley of your circumstances, and how impossible life's travails become, you will begin to see through Christ's eyes; and the attitude of your heart will have changed. This is all important because in the flesh, our righteousness is still like filthy rags! We can no more do the work of the eternal Gospel than fly. If we look to those who have gone before us in whom God has chosen to accomplish great things, perhaps we will also find time-honored truth that can be applied to our present

## Would Your Church Like to Strengthen Its Ministry to Military Families?

Attend the 2009 North American Regional AMCF "Helping Military Families" Conference.

### Equipping Churches & Mobilizing Nations to Pray for & Minister to Military Families

You are invited to participate in this unique conference which features inspirational international speakers who will equip you to minister to and to pray effectively for military personnel and their families. Participants will also hear Steve Green in concert, attend military ministry workshops, and enjoy the beauty of God's creation in Estes Park, Colorado!

This one-of-a-kind event is sponsored by the Christian Military Fellowship (CMF), the Association for Christian Conferences, Teaching & Service (ACCTS), Officers' Christian Fellowship (OCF) and others.

Join the Wall of Prayer; go to the map at: <http://www.accts.org>

### A Conference to Equip Leaders & Mobilize Churches to Pray for & Minister to Military Families

**Where:** YMCA of the Rockies in Estes Park, CO – 900 acres of Rocky Mountain grandeur with outstanding conference facilities ([www.ymcarockies.org](http://www.ymcarockies.org))

**When:** 17-21 August 2009. Check-in on Monday afternoon. Closing Ceremony Friday morning. Daily conference sessions - 9:00-11:30, 1:30-3:30, 7:30-9:00

**What:** Inspirational Speakers, a Steve Green Concert, and Workshops on Prayer & Military Ministry. This conference will equip you to help military families through the pre-deployment, deployment, and post-deployment phases of military life.

**Who:** Conference speakers include:

Dr. Myles Munroe, Bahamas – internationally renowned author, lecturer, teacher, life coach, government consultant, and leadership mentor who has written over 80 books

Dr. Richard Blackaby, USA - Pastor and President of Blackaby Ministries International, and the author of numerous books on Christian living

Pastor Rob Parker, Canada – Founder/Director of Canada's National House of Prayer

Gen Lee, Pil Sup, Korea – President, Association of Military Christian Fellowships (AMCF)

LtCol (JDF, Ret.) Nestor Ogilvie, Grenada – Vice-President, Association

of Military Christian Fellowships (AMCF)  
LCDR (USN, Ret.) Cal Dunlap, Executive Director, Association for Christian Conferences, Teaching & Service

MG (USA, Ret.) Bob Dees - Executive Director of Campus Crusade for Christ Military Ministries

Ch (MG, USA) Doug Carver – Army Chief of Chaplains (Tentative)  
BG (CF) Dave Kettle – Chaplain General, Canadian Forces

Rev. Prince Bodie, Bahamas - Chaplain RBDF, President of the Association of Caribbean Military Christian Fellowships

LTG (USAF, Ret.) Bruce Fister – Executive Director of Officers' Christian Fellowship

BG (CF, Ret.) Larry Lashkevich – President of Military Christian Fellowship of Canada

ADCS (USN, Ret.) Bob Flynn - President/CEO, Christian Military Fellowship

**How:** Register at (<http://accts.org/naramcfc/>) or call the ACCTS home office at 1-800-487-8108.

**How Much:** There is a \$50 per adult non-refundable registration fee. The cost (lodging and meals) is between \$310 and \$420 per adult depending upon which lodging you select. Children 6 - 12 will cost \$72 each. Children 5 and under are free.

#### Important Information to Know:

- Fly to Denver. Drive, or take the shuttle bus to Estes Park (Estes Park Shuttle, phone: 970-586-5151)
- Rooms have queen or double beds, private bath, & Wi-Fi. Many are handicapped accessible. Take the picture tour link from our web
- Daytime temperatures average about 80 F,

nighttime lows about 50 F

- Daily rate includes 3 buffet style "all you can eat" meals. Breakfast 7:00-9:00; Lunch 11:30-1:30; Dinner 5:00-7:00
- Dress: appropriate summer casual
- ATM, Snack Bar, and General Store/Gift Shop on premises

### Four Workshop Tracts: FAMILY

Assisting military families during pre-deployment, deployment, and post deployment:

- Spiritual care for families
- Post-traumatic stress disorder and combat trauma care
- Military Spouses
- Financial Issues

### LEADERSHIP

Bringing Christian leadership to all aspects of life:

- Building national military Christian fellowships and military leaders
- Leadership development principles
- Positional and personal leadership
- Leadership resources
- Spiritual leadership in families

### CHURCH

How churches can assist:

- Chaplain/pastor support for families
- Church military support programs
- Church ministry near bases
- Church ministry to National Guard families
- Korean-church ministry to military families

### PRAYER

How to bring the power of prayer to meet military family needs:

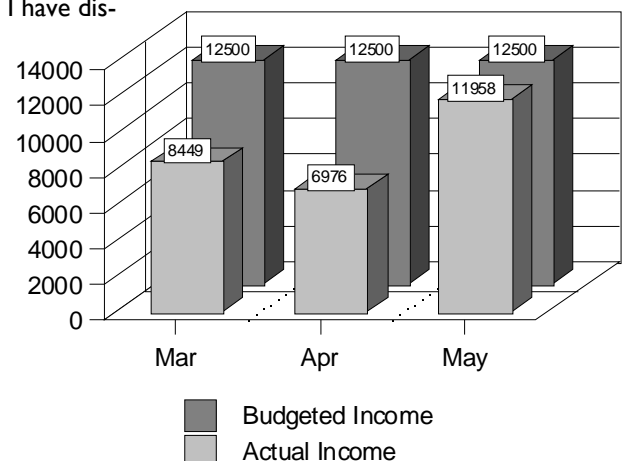
- Available prayer resources
- Adopting a soldier/family for prayer
- Corporate prayer opportunities
- Local, state, and national prayer for the military
- Mobilizing nations to pray for the military

## Financially Speaking—We Need Your HELP!

After walking with the Lord Jesus for over thirty years I have discovered that the greatest opportunities to invest in the Gospel of His Name come when the temporal circumstances are at their worst. The widow gave her mite when it was all she had.

I am sure that we all could look at our budgets with a certain amount of fear and trepidation. However, bringing the Gospel to the military society is an investment worthy of sacrifice. Become a regular giver!

Operating Fund



## Armies in the First Century A. D.—by CH (CPT) Steve Satterfield, USA 4th Special Troops Battalion, 4IBCT, 4ID

In May we celebrated the 234th birthday of the United States Army. Because of this I wanted to look at Biblical references to armies. The Old Testament references are too numerous to list here, so I will mention only the New Testament references.

In the Gospel of Matthew, 22: 7 it says, “but the king was enraged and sent his armies and destroyed those murderers and set their city on fire.” This has happened many times throughout history, as armies have fought armies. It continues today in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

The Gospel of Luke, 21: 20 states, “But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then recognize that her desolation is at hand.” This reminds me of when Israel became a nation in 1948. Some say that was a pivotal time in history and biblical prophecy. Do not be surprised if we continue to see Israel in the news. It is mentioned three times in Revelation (2:14, 7:4 and 21:12). Jerusalem is also mentioned three times in

Revelation (3:12, 21:2 and 21:10).

The author of Hebrews 11: 34 wrote, “put foreign armies to flight” We did this in Iraq, and we are currently doing this in Afghanistan with the Al Qaeda and Taliban “armies.” Matthew 24: 6 states “You will be hearing of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not frightened, for those things must take place, but that is not yet the end.” The 2008 Army Posture Statement includes an Information Paper on Persistent Conflict, which says, “The future security environment will be an era of persistent conflict.” (www.army.mil). We will be at war for a long time.

John wrote the apocalyptic book of Revelation. There are many different interpretations of what it means. I close with its references to armies:

Revelation 9:16 “The number of the armies of the horsemen was two hundred million.” Talk about a huge Cavalry! This refers to the end-times armies.

Revelation 19:14 “The armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white

and clean, were following Him on white horses.” It appears the Cavalry is in heaven as well, and they wear dress mess uniforms. Will they need dry cleaning? ☺

Revelation 19:19 “And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies, assembled to make war against Him who sat upon the horse, and against His army.” To quote Mr. T, “I pity the fool” who challenges Christ! Evil has fought against good since the beginning of time. But we see who wins:

**Revelation 20:10 “And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.”**

Because of the army of the Lord, good triumphs over evil. As we celebrate the birthday of the United States Army, be assured that we, too, will eventually triumph over evil. Happy Birthday, US Army!

## CMF Week at White Sulphur Springs July 31 through August 7, 2009

Tell me what your marriage smells like. Is it a sweet savor unto the Lord? Or is it more like something that died underneath the refrigerator? Lives that belong to Jesus have the aroma of the Rose of Sharon. Lives that belong to self have the smell of decaying flesh. This is your opportunity to discover intimacy with the King of Kings and Lord of Lords and see His plan for your life and your marriage. Don't miss out! It seems we can find time to go to the Magic Kingdom for entertainment but can never seem to make time to enter into God's Kingdom for healing, encouragement, correction or training in righteousness.

Register now to attend CMF week at White Sulphur Springs Christian Camp and Conference Center. The topic for our studies will be **“Intimacy or Isolation: Choosing God's Plan for Your Marriage.”** Our speaker will be the Reverend Mr. Larry Hoskins, Th.M, Senior Pastor, Grace Church Aurora, Colorado, Vice Chairman, CMF Board of Directors. Our Mentors-in-Residence will be Dick and Sue Price, CMF Camp Lejeune Ministry.

Summer Family Camp is the primary ministry of White Sulphur Springs. Families, singles, young and old come together for a week or weekend to worship God, listen to His voice, and fellowship with

other believers from the military society. Adults enjoy speakers and relevant discussions during the mornings and evenings, while youth of all ages attend programs geared for their age group. Afternoons are unscheduled to allow families and friends to hike, bowl, canoe, play volleyball, read, or catch crawdads in the streams. Special activities include horseback riding, a hayride and campfire, an afternoon tea, a square dance, a picnic, and “dress-up” theme meals.

Discounts: WSS offers a 10% discount on lodging and meals for officers in grades O1-O3, and a 20% discount for enlisted members, midshipmen, cadets and other single undergraduate college students, and a 20% discount for combat returnees (within 6 months).

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<http://www.whitesulphursprings.org/>  
Click on “Prices & Registration”

## Promotions

CDR Heather Hanson, USCG  
MST2 Jay Kurian, USCG  
CH(LTC) Andrew Zeller, USAR

## Monthly Book Offer

In the business of ministry today, it is easy to spend more time “waiting on tables” than to spend time in prayer, to spend more time doing the task of ministry rather than spend the necessary time communing with the Father, getting instruction and direction and power for ministry. A pastor needs to have a vibrant prayer life to do ministry. He also needs to model prayer for his congregation. *Giving Ourselves to Prayer* is designed to help a pastoral student or pastor to better understand the importance of prayer in his life and the life of the church.

This book is available free **only** to our **ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY CHAPLAINS**. You may order this and other resources from the “Members Only” Resource page of our website or call the Home office.

## New Members

ATCS Stan & Rechelle Baxter, USNR(TAR) (Ret)  
SPC Clay Couch, NG (Ret)  
Mr. Sean & Melissa Crow  
CH(CPT) Frederick & Laura Denning, USA  
ENS Allen & Karie Gilliland, III, USN  
BM3 Sarah Gunderman, USCG  
Mr. Ted & Lori Kaake, Jr.  
SFC Dan & Kate McNeely, Jr., USA  
Mrs. Shannon Moore  
Ms. Meg Wingard

## God's Unchanging Plan — Where Do I Fit? — by Bob Flynn, President/CEO

(Continued from page 1)

world. William Wilberforce, who was instrumental in the termination of the vile practice of slavery, would no doubt say that we are hugging our chains! ***Sensual gratifications and illicit affections have debased our nobler powers, and indisposed our hearts to the discovery of God, and to the consideration of his perfections; to a constant willing submission to his authority, and obedience to his laws....Left to the consequences of our own folly, the understanding has grown darker, and the heart more obdurate; reason has at length altogether betrayed her trust, and even conscience herself has aided the delusion, till, instead of deploring our miserable slavery, we have too often hugged, and even gloried in our chains. (William Wilberforce)***

Now there are some who would with immediate response say that they have no sensual gratifications and illicit affections! For those dear believers I would respond that **deception** is so stealth that it does and has caused true partakers of Grace to think that they are serving the Lord—when all the while they are doing the work of the enemy! It is all too easy for us to assume that it is someone else who is deceived rather than consider that we, like Lot, may be affected by the world in which we live. With much energy we consider the great beginnings of revival, but we do not consider why their demise comes so swiftly! I could stand up and stick out my chin and say, “not me.” But then I would be disagreeing with someone who preached a “Great Awakening” in this land and has the “Jonathan Edwards Center” named after him at Yale University. It is us to whom he refers when he speaks of piteous Zion weltering in the blood of self-inflicted wounds.

***It is by the mixture of counterfeit religion with true, not discerned and distinguished, that the devil has had his greatest advantage against the cause and kingdom of Christ....By this, principally, has he prevailed against revivals of religion in our nation....And, I think, I have had opportunity enough to see plainly, that by this the devil has prevailed against the late great revival of religion in New England, so happy and promising in its beginning. Here, most evidently, has been the main advantage Satan has had against us; by this he has foiled us. It is by this***

***means that the daughter of Zion in this land now lies on the ground, in such piteous circumstances, with her garments rent, her face disfigured, her nakedness exposed, her limbs broken, and weltering in the blood of her own wounds, and in no wise able to arise; and this, so quickly after her late great joys and hopes: Lamentations 1:17 (Jonathan Edwards, The Religious Affections)***

All too often we make our plans and ask the King of Heaven to rubber stamp them with his blessing. And if we see successes through our eyes we seem satisfied. Or we may not be involved in any ministry whatsoever but rather are basking in the warmth of what would appear to be Plato's celestial plane! On the one hand we display arrogance and on the other we demonstrate passivity—the sinful ditches on either side of the highway of holiness. David told Solomon to “Be strong, and do the work.”

**Jeremiah 29:11 “For I know the plans I have for you,” says the LORD. “They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.”**

Why do we not engage in this work that is perfectly fit for us? For Jeremiah records that these plans are to give us “a future and hope!” Why then do we cling to gold mixed with copper rather than seeking the pure gold of Christ's eternal Gospel? Why does the harvest work languish for lack of harvest workers? We have found comfort in our fallen estate “aided by delusion” with darker understanding “gloried in our chains.” We neither toil in the fields of harvest nor do we fall to our knees and pray! Thus the deeds “we have done” in our righteousness remain the manna that bred worms and stank. The Macedonian churches were up for the task that lay before them because they were fit! They were a perfect fit (round peg, round hole) for God's plans because He made them fit (fitness) to do the work designed.

**When I think of the wisdom and scope of God's plan, I fall to my knees and pray to the Father, the Creator of everything in heaven and earth. I pray that from his glorious unlimited resources he will give you mighty inner strength through his Holy Spirit. And I pray that Christ will be more and more at home in your hearts as you trust in him. May your roots go down**

**deep into the soul of God's marvelous love. And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love really is. May you experience the love of Christ, though it is so great you will never fully understand it. Then you will be filled with the fullness of life and power that comes from God. (Ephesians 3:14-19 NLT96)**

When Paul comprehended the eternal capacity of God's plan there was but one reaction available—he fell on his knees. In the midst of that intimacy with the Savior of the world he realized that the whole purpose of the Gospel was that he would no longer live for himself! Why is it that the harvest fields are white unto harvest? Because the church is still singing Frank Sinatra's song, “My Way!” God created the world for himself so that the creatures of this world would give glory to Him! Then man turned in rebellion and into sin, went his own way, and God sent His son to redeem them. Why? To get the world back on track and do what we were supposed to do in the first place. Our major occupation then is to please God constantly in everything we do. Not to please ourselves! Not to do our thing! Not to pursue our happiness! It may be an American inalienable right to have the pursuit of happiness but it is not a Christian right. Happiness is always a byproduct of pleasing God and giving Him glory!

**2Corinthians 5:15 He died for everyone so that those who receive His new life will no longer live for themselves. Instead, they will live for Christ, who died and was raised for them.**

**Proverbs 16:1-3, 9 We can make our own plans, but the Lord gives the right answer. People may be pure in their own eyes, but the Lord examines their motives. Commit your actions to the Lord, and your plans will succeed....We can make our plans, but the Lord determines our steps.**

Have you completed the three briefs (Orientation, Developing a Local Ministry, Pray and Plan Process) on the Become a Leader section of our website? Have you recognized your calling and submitted yourself to God's plan? Can you see your perfect fit?