



Christian Report

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

Volume 7 Issue 4

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Special points of interest:

- Don't miss this month's book offer.
- The latest edition of the World-wide Link-up Directory is available.

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God's Hand Moving Through Time—Bob Flynn

As we approach that time of year when we pause to remember those who have gone before us and gave that last full measure of sacrifice, it seems only fitting that we, as CMF members, stop and reflect upon our history. By doing so we can see how God's hand is wonderfully reflected through time. We can also give thanks for the many whose faithful service and sacrifice have preceded us in making this ministry a reality. In the Navy tradition we call this pioneering work the "laying of the keel" (which is the backbone of the ship). Those who take part in this action become "plank owners" (those whose hands help to place the first piece of lumber). I chose this nautical illustration because it comes with a rich heritage and is a time-honored tradition. One could argue that since I am

an ol' retired sailor whose brain cells are probably encrusted with salt and barnacles, that it was the only illustration I could muster! Either way, those who serve in ships know that the personality of the vessel (after all, we call them "She") reflects the contributions of all who have walked the decks before and who have left something of themselves behind that continues on in the present. Tradition's most important contribution is that it allows us to look to our past and enjoy all that God has done in our midst, that we might join together in thanksgiving for His faithfulness to us.

It was over forty-five years

ago that one of our "plank owner" members, Janet King (along with her late husband, Jim) began sending prayer requests to yet another "plank owner" LCDR Floyd Robertson (and his wife, Lauralie). Floyd was at that time General Secretary of the Enlisted Men's Christian Union. Out of this beginning (the laying of the all-important keel) that the ministry we know today as the Christian Military Fellowship was launched. Many folks have been on our mailing list since 1960 and before (certainly not an all-inclusive list): Louisa Buxton (and her late husband, Cleo), Grover and Nancy DeVault,

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From the Beginning—by Ernest Miller, Board Member Emeritus

For the past 35 years CMF has ministered to the men and women who serve in the United States Armed Forces. We gladly continue the work that was begun as "Christian Servicemen's Fellowship" by the National Association of Evangelicals. While our membership is open to Christians of all ranks and their families, our emphasis is to the enlisted ranks. CMF's motto continues to be "**To Win-To Disciple-To Equip-To Win**" as exemplified by Christ's "Great Commission" given to His disciples in Matthew 28:19. **To Win:** By our life and witness, to win the lost to Jesus Christ. The Home Office publishes an annual directory of Christian contacts at the various

bases and locations around the world.

These facilitate link-ups with other Christians. Representatives from other Christian Military ministries are included as well. **To Disciple:** Walk beside and encourage one another, especially new Christians. We work through established CMF Local Reps and Staff wherever possible. **To Equip:** Some of the resources provided by CMF are: prayer partners, monthly prayer calendar (known as the Battle Plan), a newsletter (Christian Report), link-ups, staff visits, Bible study materials, and daily devotions (available from our website <http://www.cmfhq.org>). All of these resources, and many others, are made possible by the

free-will offerings from CMF members and friends. The CMF ministry could not continue without them. **To Win:** To be godly examples in the military as we apply the Word of God to be successful and prosperous in our Christian walk (Joshua 1:8). We are privileged to toil together with Chaplains, Cadence International, Campus Crusade for Christ, the Navigators and others, for the sake of the Cross. We have been especially blessed in our partnership with the Officers' Christian Fellowship who have shared with us their facilities and conference centers down through the years. CMF and OCF are mutually blessed and effective as we partner together in the total ministry to the military of the United States and their families.

How It All Began—Ernest Miller, Board Member Emeritus

Here are facts about the history of Christian Military Fellowship. CMF can actually date its beginning from the first organizational meeting of the Enlisted Men's Christian Union (EMCU) on 25 August 1957. The EMCU was the result of the efforts and vision of LCDR Floyd Robertson, USN (Ret) who was then serving as the West Coast Staff Member of the Officers' Christian Union (now the Officers' Christian Fellowship). Only the Lord knows when His people first began to pray about the need of a Christian enlisted men's fellowship. The organized interest of the OCU began on 25 February 1956 when a committee was appointed to study the possibility of an enlisted fellowship. Floyd Robertson was the Chairman.

In 1960 Floyd took a new job on the staff of the National Association of Evangelicals (NAE) where he was responsible for the Commission on Chaplains in the Public Affairs Office in Washington DC. He continued as the director of the enlisted ministry which was renamed Christian Servicemen's Fellowship (CSF)

under the umbrella of the NAE. A monthly newsletter and prayer calendar (Christian Report and Christian Battle Plan) were circulated from the Washington DC office.

The CSF continued to be nourished by faithful part-time laborers. However, it eventually became evident that no ministry to the enlisted ranks could reach its real potential without a full-time staff to direct the work. Recognizing this need, the Officers' Christian Fellowship Council in 1976 voted to provide a salary for a full-time director and allow the work to use its filing, computer, mailing, clerical services and other office facilities. The OCF Executive Director served on the ad hoc committee which was appointed to select a director. The CSF was given a constitution and by-laws, and in 1977 it was given the new name of Christian Military Fellowship, a full-time Director and an elected governing Council. The OCF provided a significant financial subsidy to the CMF for some years. Today CMF is headquartered in its own building and is a self-supporting organization de-

pending upon gifts from members and friends.

Bob Flynn is the current President, and the Chairman of the Board is Dan Cartwright. Our membership now approaches 3,000 with an additional 20,000 constituents, consisting of commissioned officers, enlisted, and interested civilians. The emphasis of CMF ministry continues to be toward the enlisted community, with our dream of having an active fellowship group at each and every military installation, Veterans Hospital, and Active Duty or Reserve community in the world. The aims and goals of the CMF remain consistent with the purposes established for the original EMCU over 45 years ago. Our Lord commissioned us and promised to be with us (Matthew 28:18-20). In CMF we perceive our task as working to fulfill that commission within the military society by **PRAYING, NETWORKING, AND PROVIDING RESOURCES**. If you agree, we would love to have you join us. We need your help as we pursue our mission: **TO WIN - TO DISCIPLE - TO EQUIP - TO WIN** the members of our population who are tasked with making the sacrifices necessary to protect the freedom we all enjoy.

Anxious for Nothing—Monthly Book Offer

As Christians, we're certainly not immune to the troubles of life. We aren't promised an easy road, and when troubles do come, we're urged to rise above them and experience "peace that passes all understanding." But how, in day-to-day life, does that really happen?

While numerous books have been written on overcoming anxiety, "Anxious for Nothing" moves us beyond pop psychology's temporary cures by returning us to our one true source of comfort and victory—Scripture. Grounded in the Scriptures, author and speaker John Mac-

Arthur reminds us that God understands our struggles and has equipped us with resources to not only face, but also to truly triumph over our anxieties.

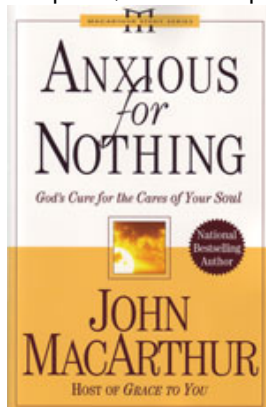
This book is offered free to our membership while they last. You may order this and other resources from the "Resource" page of our website or call our toll-free number: 1-800-798-7875.

We're On The Web
<http://www.CMFHQ.org>

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James and Tommie Eggimann, Marie (Wentz) Hane, Tom and Dottie Hash, John and Helen Joy, James and Franziska Kell, John and Martha Ladd, Darrell and Mary Prentiss, Eunice Richards, Ray and Elaine Snyder, Warren and Rose Stewart, Frank and Harriet Thompson, William and Virginia Whittington, Ross and Joan Wright.

The current organization, Christian Military Fellowship was incorporated in 1977, hence our 30th Anniversary.



New Members

CH(LT) Matt & Amy Berrens, USN
YN3 Tod & Tracy Heberton, USCGR
YN3 Melissa Lewis, USCGR

Promotions

CDR Brent Beabout, USN
MSGT Matt Cook, USAF
RPI Kevin Rumsey, USNR
SSG Mark Stach, NG

We are members of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability, Christian Service Charities and the National Association of Evangelicals in order to maintain the highest standards of excellence and accountability.

