

# **BRIEF #1**

## **Orientation**

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## I. INTRODUCTION

- A. **BACKGROUND:** We are keenly aware of the need to communicate clearly what CMF is working to accomplish and how we intend to do it. We want to ensure that our members and leaders share a common vision.
- B. **PURPOSE:** The purpose of this “Orientation” brief is to give you the information you need to make a well-informed decision regarding your involvement with CMF.
- C. **OBJECTIVES:** When you have completed this brief you will be able to:
  - 1. Demonstrate a working knowledge of the “Great Commission” (Matthew 28:18-20);
  - 2. Demonstrate your understanding of the mission, objectives, philosophy, and organization of the Christian Military Fellowship;
  - 3. Apply for and certify your leadership involvement if that is your interest and calling.

## II. THE MINISTRY OF THE CHRISTIAN MILITARY FELLOWSHIP

- A. **OUR COMMISSION** - (Matthew 28:18-20)
  - 1. By “commission” we mean our authority to minister; our reason for existing as an organization.
  - 2. God has called CMF to help fulfill the Great Commission of our Lord Jesus Christ, who said, ***“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”*** (Matthew 28:18-20, NIV)
    - a. Our Lord Jesus Christ, following His resurrection, gave this commission to His eleven remaining disciples (see Matthew 28:6-7 and 16-18a). We are convinced that the assignment He gave them also applies to us because it was meant for them to carry out, but also for us to continue until the “end of the age” (sometimes translated, “end of the world,” or “end of time”).
    - b. The main Greek verb of the sentence in Matthew 28:19-20 is “make disciples.” It is an imperative—a direct command.
    - c. The participles, “Go”, “baptizing”, and “teaching” are all connected to the main verb and describe what is entailed in the commanded work of discipling; they express the way making disciples is to be carried out. It is something we are to do wherever we are and whatever we are doing at any given time. The going is anywhere, whether to another country or next door, baptizing others into the Christian faith, and teaching them to live as obedient followers of the Lord Jesus Christ.

- d. We also remember that we are commissioned by the One who has, “All authority in heaven and on earth”; who comforts us with His presence as we are obedient to His command.

## **B. OUR MISSION**

1. By “mission” we mean what we perceive to be our task if we are going to be faithful to our “commission.”
2. Our mission is to evangelize the United States Armed Forces and to disciple Christians who are in the military society.
  - a. Our seemingly twofold mission really has but one purpose: to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the entire military society.
  - b. By “military society” we mean that larger community of people including not only personnel of all ranks, but also their dependents, and those civilians who work at military installations. Considering the make-up of the military society, we emphasize the larger enlisted population.
  - c. Within the military society, our mission extends to motivating, training and encouraging Christians to live their personal, family, community, and professional lives as obedient followers of the Lord Jesus Christ.

## **C. OUR OBJECTIVES**

1. By “objectives” we mean the goals we want to attain by carrying out our mission; that which our mission is meant to accomplish.
2. The objectives of CMF are:
  - a. To build spiritual maturity in individual members and assist them in their walk with God.
  - b. To be an instrument through which individual members are helped to lead other military people to:
    - ◆ commit their lives to Jesus Christ;
    - ◆ grow in their spiritual maturity;
    - ◆ work toward these same ends in the lives of others.

## **D. OUR PHILOSOPHY OF MINISTRY**

1. By “philosophy” we mean the way we intend to fulfill our mission; our method of operation.
2. We are a PEER ministry TO military people BY military people WITHIN the military society.

- a. Our leadership comes from people within the Armed Forces who have decided to serve the Lord and who demonstrate an evangelical witness within that society.
  - b. In CMF, we are dedicated to encouraging, training, and supporting one another in ministries as the Lord leads.
3. We adhere to the following operating principles:
- a. Encourage and help individual members establish and maintain personal Bible study and prayer, and obedience to God in every area of their lives;
  - b. Foster in all members a primary concern for the spiritual well-being of their own families, and the recognition of God's economy of the family as the basic worshipping community;
  - c. Encourage members to perform their military duties in a professional manner consistent with obedience to God's commands;
  - d. Encourage and assist members to form and maintain local fellowships consisting of regularly scheduled Bible study, prayer and personal sharing.
  - e. Motivate members to support local chaplains by prayer and personal encouragement, and to participate actively in chapel program;
  - f. Conduct conferences for teaching Scriptural truth, imparting training in the practical applications of spiritual principles and encourage and enjoy fellowship with one another;
  - g. Evangelize every segment of the military society by any means which honors Christ;
  - h. Encourage individual members and local fellowships to minister to the spiritual and temporal needs of the allied military society;
  - i. Foster throughout the fellowship the practice of ministering to individuals on a personal basis;
  - j. Promote "Pray and Plan" sessions among the local leadership in order to seek God's guidance in directing the local CMF ministry;
  - k. Encourage participation by friends and relatives in support of the activities of the fellowship through associate membership.

#### **E. OUR ORGANIZATION**

- 1. By "organization" we mean the structure through which we intend to fulfill our mission; the system in which we operate.
- 2. Membership
  - a. Our REGULAR members are present or former active duty members of the United States Armed Forces and their spouses.

- b. ASSOCIATE members are those not eligible for Regular Membership, but interested in the objectives of the CMF.

### 3. Leadership

- a. The CMF BOARD OF DIRECTORS is a standing board of up to twelve REGULAR members who are nominated by the membership for three year terms. It is a self-perpetuating board that is tasked with governing the legal, financial and business operations of CMF as well as providing oversight of the staff and budget. They meet quarterly at the CMF Home Office.
- b. The CMF STAFF are responsible to the Board of Directors for administering the organization and exercising leadership that will motivate, train, and encourage members to live as obedient followers of Jesus Christ.
- c. LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES are CMF members who are involved in a formal CMF ministry in their area. They also serve as liaisons between their CMF group, area Chaplain(s), other military ministries and the CMF Home Office. They lead local CMF activities. These are people who are actively involved in CMF and are convinced of their calling to serve the Lord through this ministry. Their responsibilities also include coordinating and organizing staff visits, or other local CMF events.
- d. AREA COORDINATORS are selected from among the Local Representatives in areas where two or more formal CMF ministries exist. In addition to serving as Local Reps, these people coordinate activities between the other Local Reps in their area and the CMF Home Office.
- e. CONTACTS are CMF members who have volunteered to serve as “link-ups” where no formal CMF fellowship exists. They serve by referring newly-arrived individuals or families to Christian activities that will provide fellowship and nurture. They may also be Christians involved in other ministries who are willing to serve as referrals for U.S. military personnel.

### 4. Finances

- a. We are supported by the voluntary gifts of members and friends. Some churches and military chapels arrange for occasional designated offerings, but we receive no endowments or government support.
- b. We believe in the scriptural instruction of putting God first regarding finances (see Matthew 6:30-33). We inform our members of our ministry opportunities and our financial status, and we trust the Holy Spirit to lead members in their giving to support this ministry.
- c. Since 1982 we have been a member in good standing of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA), an organization whose purpose is to assure the responsible handling of income.

### **III. SERVICES PROVIDED BY CMF INCLUDE:**

- A. CMF exists as a fellowship of like-minded believers who are committed to ministering within the military. As a fellowship we desire to edify, equip, encourage, help, motivate and pray for one another. There is no reason, other than your own choice, to go without the help of your fellow missionaries in uniform.
- B. CMF can provide a number of helpful resources as follows:
  - 1. PRAYER PARTNERS. Send your prayer requests to the Home Office. The staff will pray as well as publish your requests in the "Battle Plan" so the entire fellowship can intercede specifically for you.
  - 2. LITERATURE. CMF prints or purchases literature designed for your personal edification and to equip you for effective ministry. Most of it is free.
  - 3. LINK-UPS. CMF will put you in touch with fellow CMF members or other Christians when you travel or transfer.
  - 4. STAFF. A team of full-time staff are dedicated to serving you in any way possible at your request. They are available to visit and assist you wherever you are and whenever they can.
  - 5. CMF BRIEFS. A number of free "briefs" have been published by CMF that are specifically designed to provide guidance in establishing your own local ministry.
  - 6. RESOURCE GUIDE. CMF publishes this free list of ministry resources that are available to you at your request.
  - 7. CONFERENCE SCHOLARSHIPS. CMF provides scholarships for enlisted members and their families who want to attend selected retreats or conferences. These subsidies are intended to maintain an equality between members who are in pay grades up and down the military scales. The amount of the subsidy is determined according to rank.
- C. Please write or call to let us know if there is any specific way we can serve or pray for you.

#### **IV. CONCLUSION**

- A. The task of reaching the millions of people in the “military society” is immense. But God is able! Just as He enabled Gideon’s faithful 300 in the face of tremendous difficulties, so He is enabling us to influence the Armed Forces.
- B. If you share this CMF vision and can subscribe to the affirmation of faith on our membership application, we invite you to join us.
- C. If you are interested in establishing a CMF ministry, please write or call the Home Office to request CMF Brief #2 - “Developing a Local CMF Ministry” and CMF Brief #3 - “The Pray and Plan Process,” or download them from the “Resources” page on our website.
- D. If you are a CMF member and would like to serve as a Local Representative you will be required to:
  - 1. Complete the following “Orientation Exam” (Appendix A) and “Leadership Certification” (Appendix B);
  - 2. Sign the following “Statement of Doctrine” (Appendix C);
  - 3. Submit the completed documents (1 & 2 above) to the Home Office (electronic forms are also available on our website);
  - 4. Have your Pastor or Chaplain submit a recommendation to the Home Office.
  - 5. Arrange with the Home Office for a personal or telephone interview with another CMF leader.

## APPENDIX A — ORIENTATION EXAM

Name	First	Last	Date
Address			
	Area	Number	
Home Phone			
Duty Phone			



### DIRECTIONS:

1. Completion of this exam is required only for those who are applying to serve as a Local Representative.
2. There are no “right” or “wrong” answers. The exam is “open Book” and meant to be a tool for you to use in comprehending the material in this “Orientation.”
3. Answers are essay — please use your own words.
4. Please print or write legibly.
5. Mail or Email your completed exam to CMF. The staff will review answers, make appropriate remarks, and promptly return the exam to you.

### QUESTIONS:

1. What does the “Great Commission” mean to you? (Matthew 28:18-20)
2. What is the mission of CMF?
3. What are the objectives of CMF?
4. What is the CMF philosophy of ministry?



5. Describe CMF's position regarding participation in the military chapel program.
6. What are the differences between a REGULAR and ASSOCIATE members?
7. Describe briefly the responsibilities of:
  - a. Contacts:
  - b. Local Representatives:
  - c. Area Coordinators:
  - d. Board of Directors:
  - e. Staff:
8. How is CMF financed?
9. What support and services can you expect as a member of CMF?
10. What support can CMF expect from you?

## APPENDIX B — LEADERSHIP CERTIFICATION

	First	Last	Rank	Branch
Name				
Spouse				
Home Address			Home Phone	
Duty Address			Duty Phone	

### DIRECTIONS:

1. Completion of this document is required only for those who are applying to serve as a Local Representative.
2. Please print or write legibly.
3. Mail or E-Mail your completed form to: CMF. The staff will review your answers, make appropriate remarks, and promptly return this form to you.

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### QUESTIONS:

1. Why do you feel you are capable of fulfilling the position of Local Representative?
2. What is your present involvement with a local CMF ministry?
3. If you are married, what is your spouse's involvement in the CMF ministry?
4. What is your involvement in ministry or activities other than CMF?
5. What is your vision for CMF?
6. Please write a brief (approximately 300 words) testimony describing how you began your relationship with Jesus Christ, how you arrived at your present level of maturity and what you are doing to continue growing in your relationship with Him.

## **APPENDIX C — STATEMENT OF DOCTRINE**

The following is the Doctrinal Statement of the CMF. It is required that the Executive Director, Elected Officers, Board Members, Field Staff Personnel, and Local Representatives subscribe to this statement without reservation:

1. We believe in one God, eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
2. We believe that the Old and New Testaments as originally written are the verbally inspired Word of God, and accept them as the supreme and all-sufficient authority in faith and life.
3. We believe that man was created in the image of God, but that he sinned and thereby incurred not only physical death, but also spiritual death, which is eternal separation from God; and that each human being is born with a sinful nature and cannot by his own efforts please God.
4. We believe that Jesus Christ was begotten by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary and is true God and true man.
5. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ died for our sins as our vicarious sacrifice in accordance with the Scripture, and that all who believe in Him are cleansed of their sins by His shed blood and are justified before God.
6. We believe that all who by faith receive the Lord Jesus Christ are born again of the Holy Spirit and so become the children of God, to live with Him through all eternity.
7. We believe in the resurrection of the crucified body of our Lord and His ascension into heaven, and in His present life there as our High Priest and Advocate.
8. We believe in the bodily resurrection of the saved and lost; the eternal blessedness of the saved; and the everlasting, conscious punishment of the lost.
9. We believe in the personal, visible and glorious return of the Lord Jesus Christ to this earth.

***I affirm the above Statement of Doctrine without mental reservation.***

Printed Name	
Signature	
Date	