Let Us Engage & Run Together — Col Mike Fligg, USA (Ret)

Because it’s time for a reproducible approach to discipleship!

… & let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus… (Hebrews 12:1-2)

Continuous/combat operations, frequent deployments & personnel turbulence require simple ideas, simple tools, low overhead activities, and personal initiative. Let’s tailor how we follow Christ & how we train others so it works in any environment. The enemy of our souls is looking to devour isolated soldiers/sailors/airmen & families … many get at most an hour a week of spiritual input and think they have no need for more! As we Engage & Run TOGETHER we can include them in small groups, draw them to Christ, and train them to Engage & Run Together wherever they go.

Perhaps initiated by a CMF leader or a Chaplain, small groups organize and direct themselves in cooperation with Chaplains/Pastors, … and CMF leaders. The key idea is that each participant should see, live, and learn these seven reproducibles well enough to begin reproducing them at their next duty station:

- Inductive Bible Study
- Conversational Prayer
- Scripture Memory & Meditation
- Excellence in all Things
- Grow Together
- Pray and Plan
- Lead by Example

Future articles will briefly discuss these aspects of a self-reproducing integrated life of faith. For an E&RT overview briefing & further descriptions see https://www.CMFHQ.ORG/ert.zip

While a curriculum is something you start, follow for a while, and finish, E&RT is a framework, a philosophy of ministry, a set of basic tools and attitudes …something to be taught by example, lived individually and in small groups; a way to help us and those we lead to press on toward the mark. After Bible Study of three sets of foundational verses and the seven reproducibles, subsequent study topics should be prayer-and-planned by the group in coordination with Chaplains/Pastors and leaders.

ERT 1: Live the Essentials — Col Mike Fligg, USA (Ret)

Live the essentials as we Engage & Run TOGETHER!

Following Christ in a demanding environment calls for simple ideas, simple tools, low overhead activities, and personal initiative. Inductive Bible Study, Conversational Prayer, and scripture memorization, the three individual / small group “Reproducibles”, help us continue steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. (Acts 2:42)

The Holy Spirit is our primary counselor as we study and pray. He also uses a group as part of Proverbs 11:14’s “multitude of counselors”, confirming or overriding human insights which may come up, directly or by bringing up the appropriate Scripture for teaching, reproof, correction, or training in righteousness…. (2 Tim 3:16)

Inductive Bible Study (IBS) is the study of a limited portion of Scripture by a small group in an informal, discovery style. It emphasizes hearing from God, devotion, and obedience (“what do I do with this?”) in context of all of Scripture, while not trying to force acceptance of controversial doctrines or denominational distinctives. The basic guidelines are: Stick to the passage; All who want to may participate; No one dominates; Answer 3 questions: What does it say? What does it mean? What does it mean to me? The traditional who/what/where/when/why/how questions can be useful for understanding what it means; the CMF DTOs offer Bible study tips and a study form to provide additional structure. The DTOs and verse cards at the link below are a good place to start.

The leader’s role is primarily administrative, rather than “teaching”, involving start/stop times and helping the group follow the guidelines. It’s normally best to stay in the agreed passage so those with less experience aren’t intimidated; at times it will be important to refer to complementary or balancing scriptures for “the rest of the story.”

A group as small as two (The Holy Spirit plus one) can engage in Inductive Bible Study!

Conversational Prayer (CP) is clearly not the only way to pray. It is presented here because many national Military Christian Fellowships have found that it produces an increased consciousness of God’s presence, resulting in greater group vitality and unity. CP follows the normal rules of polite conversation … only one speaks/prays at a time … 2-3 sentences or a short paragraph as the others pray along silently. Someone else prays next. At least one person follows up the current topic before a new topic is started, perhaps praying about other details or from a different perspective. Who is the next to pray? Anyone else! Silence in between is fine; it leaves time to hear God speak. Include adoration & praise to God, confession & petition for ourselves, intercession for others. Leave “who’s next” to the Holy Spirit rather than “going around the room.” And consider conversational prayer as a group of two…God plus one!

Scripture Memory and Meditation help us live Joshua 1:8’s “… you shall meditate in it day and night, that you... (Continued on page 2)
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may observe to do according to all that is written in it.” (NKJV) Learn the pas-
sage (with its “address” before and after), and understand the context. Hide/ treat it in your heart that you may not sin against Him (Ps 119:11). Meditate on it as you review, prayerfully asking “what does it say/mean/to me”, sing it, chant it, pray it ... let the Word transform / renew your mind, your reactions & relationships. Some printable verse cards are available at the link, along with a template for making your own.

Conclusion: IBS, CP, & Scripture memory/meditation are practical forms of individual and small-group worship reproducible in even the harshest, most primitive environments. They’re simple ideas, simple tools, low overhead activities.

This is the second article in the “Engage & Run Together (E&RT)” series. Article #3 will address “Excellence in all Things”, “Grow Together”, and “Pray and Plan”. For the overview article, briefing, & further resources see https://www.CMFHQ.ORG/ert.zip

Let’s invite others to join us in living this self-reproducing integrated life of faith!

ERT 2: Excellence in All Things — Col Mike Fligg, USA (Ret)

While our adversary prowls around ... seeking someone to devour (1Pe 5:8), we resist him, strengthened in The Lord by praying for each other, supporting each other as the Proverbs 11:14 multitude of counselors, living the seven “reproducibles”. Inductive Bible Study, Conversational Prayer, and Scripture Memory were outlined last month. Here we’ll consider Excellence, Growing Together, and Pray-and-Plan.

Excellence in all things. “Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.” (Col 3:17) Part of an integrated life, this is an attitude to be lived, modeled, encouraged. Military duties, marital and family relations, social life, recreation ... everything reflects who we are and how God is working in us, so everything deserves to be excellent, high-quality, ... an act of worship (cf Col 3:17,23). In addition to making “even his enemies to be at peace with him” (Pr 16:7 NKJV), such worship reveals God’s transforming, empowering Life in us!

Finding an “excellent” solution involves understanding the problem and balancing solution approaches and quality with expectations and such realities as resources and time available...a second opinion often helps me recognize traps like perfectionism (late at best, maybe impossible) or laziness ("just get something out the door"). Whether that opinion comes from my wife, friends/co-workers, or the guys I pray with, it’s an example of encouraging one another unto love and good works (Heb 10:24)

Pray and Plan, below, is an excellent way to find our way to excellence individually, as families, as groups/teams, etc.

Grow together. We “Run Together” because we value and need each other. Interacting, learning from, and strengthening each other we move beyond anonymity and isolation, beyond dependence to empowerment, to finding the way forward through prayer and Bible study together, guided by the Holy Spirit. Often this means regularly getting together face-to-face, but we can maintain the connections by a hand-shake as we cross paths at shift-change, etc, or from a distance by messaging app’s, cell-phone, etc. Far beyond “another meeting to go to,” this can lead to the Jesus-centered lifestyle, unity, and joy of Acts 2:42-47, to favor with all the people, to The Lord adding to those who are being saved!

We’re in this together! We benefit from whatever leadership experience or Biblical background anyone brings to the group, while respecting the IBS guideline that “All who want to may partake; No one dominates.” This lets us all explore together with “awe-inspired fear and trembling” how to “bring (our salvation) to full effect” (Phil 2: 12, Amplified). Check out the Australian MCF’s “Small Group Code of Conduct” at the link below.

In between meetings there’s a low-tech approach to growing together: “journal” by screenshots inside a smartphone Bible app or DTO study form and “text” it to your buddy (see the briefing at the link). There are printable cards at the link to use with your pocket Bible in a no-electronics environment; pray for a buddy on the same outpost or “inside the same fence”.

The key is staying centered on learning and living the Word, connected with each other to grow together, to recognize and resist the enemy’s lies and distractions together, to build up one another. Use simple ideas, simple tools, low overhead activities...SIMPLE ENOUGH

THAT THEY GET USED!

Pray and Plan. “Running Together” implies that we’re going in the same direction toward shared goals. Pray and Plan (P&P) engages us together in developing direction and goals as we prayerfully let our insights complement and complete each other, working together in Jesus’ presence to let Him align our wills with His (Mt 18:20), to understand His direction.

Whether it’s a small group deciding what to study next, or a group of leaders planning a large-scale event like a conference, the distinguishing aspect of P&P is how the meeting is conducted. The AMCF Reference Manual (access via the link below) describes the process:

The Process. The essential start point for a Pray and Plan is prayer and praise ... to “take every thought captive to obey Christ.” (2 Cor.10:5) ... mention the subjects for which prayer is needed...explain a bit of background where necessary...prayer for each subject mentioned.

Discerning The Plan. ...The discussion should not be dominated by any one member ... a group of sharing and expectant Christians who are sensitive to the Lord's leading. When there is no agreement on an issue the group should turn to specific prayer and then try again to discern by discussion what the Lord is saying. The characteristic of Pray and Plan should be consensus, but sometimes when seeking to undertake a new initiative a group will have to meet three or four times before the Lord will reveal the fundamental issue, such as the essential aim of the undertaking from which all else depends. The Lord can as easily reveal detail to a Pray and Plan team as He can reveal principles.
Shedding Light on the New World Order — Dan Baerg, CFO

We have all heard the phrase “The New World Order” (NWO) at some time or another. Perhaps you’ve heard it mentioned as “global governance.” What is meant when someone uses that phrase? Is it something ominous, something to embrace or not to worry about at all? George H. W. Bush famously uttered those words in a speech to the joint session of Congress on September 11, 1990, “Toward a New World Order.” Coincidentally the speech was given on 9/11, eleven years before the actual 9/11. Even looking at your one dollar bill on the back, under the pyramid with the all Seeing Eye, it says, “Novus Ordo Seclorum,” roughly translated “New order of the ages.” Seemingly the phrase pops up quite a bit.

“The Economist” magazine predicted in 1988, that there would be a one-world currency in place in 30 years, which is 2018. I believe that when a politician uses that terminology he is referring primarily to the United Nations and/or other world organizations such as the Trilateral Commission and Council on Foreign Relations. Space does not allow me to pursue all of these organizations and what they represent, so let’s concentrate on The United Nations.

Writer Geri Ungurean in a blogpost details that Alice Bailey, the so-called “Mother of the New Age,” wrote extensively about the NWO and stated at least ten things that must happen before the NWO could be brought to fruition. Before we chronicle these steps, know that the pillars on which New Age thinking stands are, Evolution, Reincarnation, Astrology and Meditation. With these in mind, the New Age Strategy and philosophy of the United Nations are as follows:

1) TAKE GOD AND PRAYER OUT OF THE EDUCATION SYSTEM. “If you take God out of education, they [the children] will unconsciously form a resolve that God is not necessary to faced life.” In America, we primarily have Madeleine Murray O’ Hair to thank for this one.

2) REDUCE PARENTAL AUTHORITY OVER CHILDREN. The reason being, per Bailey, is so parents do not pass on their Christian traditions to their children.

3) DESTROY THE JUDEO-CHRISTIAN FAMILY STRUCTURE. One way was to teach sexual promiscuity and make children feel “sexually free.” Purity and abstinence are out the window.

4) IF SEX IS FREE, THEN MAKE ABORTION LEGAL AND MAKE IT EASY. Of course with Roe v Wade in 1973, this one came into existence. Alice Bailey said, “Build clinics for abortions—Health clinics in schools. If people are going to enjoy the joy of sexual relationships, they need to be free of unnecessary fears, in other words, they should not be hampered with unwanted pregnancies.”

5) MAKE DIVORCE EASY AND LEGAL; FREE THE PEOPLE FROM THE CONCEPT OF MARRIAGE FOR LIFE. Of course the Bible teaches a completely different philosophy.

6) MAKE ALTERNATE SEXUAL PROCLIVITIES MAINSTREAM. More than 50 years ago Alice Bailey believed people should be allowed sexual enjoyment in whichever way they chose.

7) DEBASE ART – MAKE IT RUN MAD. To people promoting the NWO, beauty in art is no longer needed – it should be dark, the subject of the piece of art unrecognizable.

8) USE MEDIA TO PROMOTE AND DETERMINE MIND-SET. Promiscuity is usually promoted as natural in order to desensitize children and adults.

9) CREATE AN INTERFAITH MOVEMENT. Wow, can anyone say Chrislam? Other faiths must be put on par with Christianity and that there are many ways to Heaven.

10) GET GOVERNMENTS TO MAKE ALL THESE LAWS AND GET THE CHURCH TO ENDORSE THESE CHANGES.

Abortion and Gay marriage are legal now. Sadly, many denominations are getting “on-board” with these laws. All in all I think Ms. Bailey/United Nations accomplished their goals, wouldn’t you say?

To sum it up, if you study Bible prophecy, it is very apparent that in order for the Antichrist to rise to power, there must at least be the framework in place for a one-world government to ultimately control most of the world. For example, if there is to be a “mark of the beast” implemented, that is something that could not happen overnight. In an update from a previous article, the final deadline issued by the federal government to all the states to be in compliance for implementing “Real-ID” (a national ID system) is October 1, 2020. I don’t know about you, but the signs of the times are pointing ominously towards a NWO!

Abide in Christ — by Andrew Murray

So many Christians, instead of accepting God’s invitation to enter His throne room, stand alone outside the door, uncertain and ashamed. Christ beckons them to His banqueting table and offers them a room in His house, but they foolishly give up the glory of the life He has offered. They come to Jesus as Redeemer but never go beyond the doorway to abide in Him and experience the unspeakable joy of dwelling with the King of Kings.

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New Members

Ms. Sherri Kolar
Pray that God would help you have faith in both small and big matters. Read Matthew 6:1-34. reflect on Matthew 6:25-34. In 6:25 Jesus begins a discussion on worry by pointing back (“therefore…”) to what He just said.

How does Jesus’ teaching on worry relate to the accumulation of earthly treasures?

What worries does Jesus mention in 6:25? What aspects of life cause you to worry?

Jesus uses two illustrations from nature to explain why we shouldn't worry:

- Birds don’t store up their next meal, but God provides for them; lilies don’t exert any effort to grow, but God makes them beautiful. Jesus does not say we should neglect planning ahead or being diligent in our work (compare Proverbs 10:4-5).

- Instead, He says worry cannot accomplish anything. What is the relationship between worry and faith (see 6:30; 8:26; 14:31)?

Is it easier for you to have faith in God for big concerns—things like salvation—than for everyday concerns?

Explain your answer.

What does Jesus say we should do instead of worrying (6:32)?

How do we go about seeking the kingdom (compare 5:3-12, 19-20)?

Pray about how you can seek what is important to God’s kingdom and not worry about your own safety or security.

Reflect and pray through these questions throughout your month.

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The Call of Discipleship — Don’t Worry

Pray and Plan works for individuals praying alone, for families, for teams

Conclusion. See https://www.CMFHQ.ORG/ert.zip for the previous E&RT articles, a briefing, resources & links.

Think of the E&RT “reproducibles” as aspects of a single, integrated, Christ-focused life. As they come to characterize our daily lives we’ll realize we’re already leading by example … the topic for next time.

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The Pray and Plan team should close each meeting with a time of praise and thanksgiving that the Lord has given the team His wisdom and discernment.

A small group is likely to P&P about what to study next; how to bring a new member up to speed on E&RT basics; how to serve “where we are” (the needs, how to reach out effectively’); “have we grown to the point where we should become 2 groups (‘divide to multiply’)?”

Pray and Plan works for individuals praying alone, for families, for teams

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ERT 2: Excellence in All Things — Col Mike Fligg, USA (Ret)

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