



# Christian Report

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

Volume 7 Issue 7

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### Special points of interest:

- Don't miss this month's book offer.
- Check out the all new CMF website.

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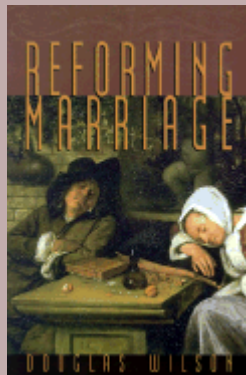
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## The Pioneers—CMF Beginnings—Thirtieth Year Anniversary

The following is an article that was published in the January 1978 edition of the CMF Newsletter. It was written by our founding Executive Director, Ernie Miller. It remains vividly contemporaneous. Ernie and Maggie Miller traveled the globe sharing the CMF dream with those who wear the uniform of our nation. Because of their tireless efforts, tremendous courage, and caring hearts, CMF has continued from launching to shake-down and continues on today.



This promises to be a great year for CMF. First of all, there is much excitement in Christian circles everywhere as the Gospel is broadcast to literally every part of the world. Secondly, the personnel of the Armed Forces make up a very important segment of the present world-wide thrust of evangelism. Very often the military population seems hard to penetrate with the claims of Christ and generally resistant to evangelistic efforts of many outside agencies. These agencies encounter two difficulties— inaccessibility to military persons and the extreme mobility of the military population. If you can't reach 'em, you can't win 'em, and if they won't stay around you can't effectively disciple them.

We in CMF are blessed with some definite advantages to over-

come these problems. We are on the inside, in the barracks, in security areas, on submarines and ships at sea (Wow, what a captive audience!) on deployments, overseas assignments, bivouacs or bowling alleys, at work or play, we are there. Wherever lonely military men and women need the message that God loves them and has a plan for their lives, we have Christians in the Armed Forces right on the spot.

So this is why CMF members are getting very excited about our ministry these days. First, we have a vast mission field of approximately two million men and women plus their families— at least ten million people. That is a good slice of the population of our country. Second, we have an exciting number of Christians everywhere who are anxious to serve the Lord and follow His leading for their lives.

What do we need to put it all together? Dr. Cho and the members of one of the largest churches in the world, in Seoul, Korea, have won thousands to Christ through establishing small "cell" groups in apartments, in the block, in the factories, wherever people live and work. The CMF small Bible study group can work in exactly the same way. In the barracks, in the housing area,

wherever we work. The small group ministers where people are and goes where people go.

There are only two reasons I can think of which have slowed the growth of the Bible study group (BSG) idea in CMF. First, some of us don't understand the idea yet well enough to believe it. We have been brought up on the philosophy that the only place to get religion is in the church. So if we can't drag them along to church firsthand, we just give up. However, the small group study is the perfect answer for the anti-religious person who would not be caught dead in a church.

The other reason the BSG idea is slow catching on is because too many of us have the misconception that one must be a theological scholar to lead a BSG. This is just not the case at all. In fact, if any one individual dominates the group discussion by a display of knowledge of the Bible, he will throttle participation by the others in the group. It is desirable for the group leader to be somewhat mature as a Christian, but he does not need a lot of Bible knowledge.

*Do you have an exciting and rewarding Christian fellowship where you are standing? What is preventing you from starting one? All it takes is faith and obedience! Everything else you'll need you can find on our website! Check out the Become a Leader, Bible Studies, Resources, and Training pages.*

## Reforming Marriage

Reforming Marriage does what few books on marriage do today: it provides biblical advice. Douglas Wilson points to the need for obedient hearts on the part of both husbands and wives. Godly marriages proceed from obedient

hearts, and the greatest desire of an obedient heart is the glory of God.

Most marriage books address the mere externals of marriage, without seeking to understand the heart issues. Godly marriages proceed from an obedient heart, and the greatest desire of an obedient heart is the

glory of God, not the happiness of the household.

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.

## CMF Operating Principle Number Two—Bob Flynn

**2** Foster in all members a **primary concern** for the spiritual well-being of their own families, and the recognition in God's economy of the family as the basic worshipping community.

Foster—To feed; to nourish; to support; to bring up. To cherish; to encourage; to sustain; to promote growth. (Noah Webster)

Marriage—The act of uniting a man and woman for life; wedlock; the legal union of a man and woman for life. Marriage is a contract both civil and religious, by which the parties engage to live together in mutual affection and fidelity, till death shall separate them. Marriage was instituted by God himself for the purpose of preventing the promiscuous intercourse of the sexes, for the promoting of domestic felicity, and for securing the maintenance and education of children. In a scriptural sense, the union between Christ and his church by the **covenant** of grace. Rev 19. (Noah Webster)

"As I passed by again, I saw that the time had come for you to fall in love. I covered your naked body with my coat and promised to love you. Yes, I made a **marriage covenant** with you, and you became mine.' This is what the Sovereign Lord says." (Ezekiel 16:8 TEV)

"Because the Lord has been a witness between you and the wife of your youth, against whom you have dealt treacherously, though she is

your companion and your wife by **covenant.**" (Malachi 2:14 NASB)

The quote from Malachi is in response to man's cry as to why the Lord will not accept his weeping and tears. **The way we treat our wives, MEN, is here revealed as the single reason why the Lord refuses to answer our prayers!**

I borrowed the following thoughts from Focus on the Family's Guiding Principles:

We believe that the institution of marriage is a sacred covenant designed by God to model the love of Christ for His people and to serve both the public and private good as the basic building block of human civilization. Marriage is intended by God to be a thriving, lifelong relationship between a man and a woman **enduring through trials, sickness, financial crises and emotional stresses.** Therefore, Christians are called to defend and protect God's marriage design and to minister in Christ's name to those who suffer the consequences of its brokenness.

We begin a new "family worshipping community" when we enter into the marriage covenant. Unfortunately married life, according to the Gnostic intellectuals of this fallen world, has the expectation for a safe and predictable cocoon that is governed by exacting laws and rules where we can see everything

past, present and future in the here and now. This is diametrically opposed to a Christian world view wherein the Father, Son and Holy Spirit says through James, "You don't even know what your life tomorrow will be! You are like a puff of smoke, which appears for a moment and then disappears." (James 4:14 TEV)

Pastor Douglas Wilson nails it in the introduction to his book, *Reforming Marriage*, "How would you describe the spiritual aroma of your home? When visitors arrive, before virtually anything is said or done, what is one of the first things they notice about your family? Do they feel as though a bad attitude crawled under your refrigerator and died? Or do they think someone has been baking spiritual bread in the kitchen all afternoon?"

"Your life must be controlled by love, just as Christ loved us and gave his life for us as a sweet-smelling offering and sacrifice that pleases God." (Ephesians 5:2 TEV)

The aroma of our marriage covenant tells the real story of how we are within. Our trust in Christ and obedience in the Faith empowers us to live a life in a perilous world where our faces can brightly reflect the glory of the Lord and our aroma can be like the Rose of Sharon.

No matter how sweet the current aroma of your home, I know that this month's book offer will be an encouragement for you. Make time to read it together as a couple!

### New Members

- Mr. John Ayoub
- COL Doug & Camie Braendel, USA (Ret)
- Mr. Joseph & Junghee Sung Brown
- MSgt Jim Cooke, USAFR
- Mr. Lee & Kim Evans
- Ms. Brenda Gallagher
- TSgt Tony & Darcy Gunter, USAF
- Mr. William & Linda Marvin
- ENS Matthew & Mariah Meinhold, USCG
- Mrs. Jesse Meyer
- Ms. Linds Michelle
- LtCol Joe Miller, USAF
- SSgt Jonathan Palsma, USAF
- ENS Brian & Shannon Re, USN
- Capt. Rob & Kelley Sexton, USAF (Ret)
- PFC Blake Steely, USA
- Cpl. William & Jessica Uhler, Jr., USMC

### Financially Speaking—We Need Your HELP!

As you can see on the chart, the Operating Fund Income is well below that required to meet our budget needs. The distance between the Red and the Blue represents ministries that will not be funded in order to pay the energy bill, salaries, insurance, etc. Our entire operating fund income for last fiscal year was provided by the sacrificial giving of 332 of our members. **We need your financial participation!**

Remember the promise you made when you joined CMF? "I intend to participate actively and prayerfully in the ministry of the Christian Military Fellowship with my time, talents, spiritual gifts and **financial resources.**" Please consider a gift today!

