

United States Military Academy Officers' Christian Fellowship Ministry Update

USMA OCF *UPDATE*



CLASS OF 2012 IS 'IN THE HOUSE'

June 30th brought the largest class in West Point history to the banks of the Hudson and OCF was there. We get so excited each year we watch these kids arrive and see how God is using them and the upper class to shine for HIM in this place. We are privileged to participate in the Wednesday Night Protestant Chaplain's Time and also to worship with the New Cadets Sundays at Trophy Point. Through these two experiences each week we begin to make friends. Each Wednesday we offer the opportunity to take a digital picture and send it to the email they provide. We add a cover letter to the recipient (mostly parents) and attach the headshot, which has been cropped to print as a 4x6, and also attach a copy of our most current newsletter. Usually this project is completed late in the night and we awake to email after email expressing the great JOY that is felt when moms and dad and friends and relatives see a posed, close up of a smiling new cadet. This project also gives us contact information to begin building relationships with both cadets and families. As time allows we also send notes of encouragement to the PO Boxes of these cadets. this year we had a few siblings join our ranks. Above you can see on the left, Cadet Amy Sexauer, class of '09 and our CO CIC for OCF and her now Plebe sister, Jessica. This project allowed us to contact over 400 new cadets.

QUOTES

I've never responded to these emails before, but I wanted to let you know that I really appreciate them. I know I don't talk to you guys that often, but I genuinely appreciate everything you do for God and for cadets. One of the most dangerous things you can do is love people because you never know if you'll get anything from them in return. They could just laugh in your face, blow you off, or take your love for granted. I think that cadets (especially myself) are particularly bad about taking for granted people who love them. I just wanted to let you know that I don't take what you do for granted and the time that you spend writing these encouraging emails is well worth it. I'm sure that I am not the only one that benefits from them and my week is a little brighter when I read them. I appreciate everything that you and Barry faithfully do for us.

from a Yearling male cadet.

**LET'S KICK OFF THIS
OCF CLUB YEAR WITH
A BASH!**

Rain can't keep this group away. We moved in to a wonderful huge room in IKE Hall and had a great time of fellowship, lots of food and of course, music.



This is a family affair! The small group leaders came with their kids and had the first opportunity to meet their cadets for this year. If they were plebe leaders we helped leaders and plebes find each other. We are beyond blessed to have over 30 small groups led by Officers, couples, civilians and Firsties meet every Tuesday. Most Tuesdays we see over 200 cadets staying for small group study. We also welcome first timers from all classes. We are known on campus as a very welcoming club. Tuesday CLUB is the heart and soul of what we do each week. Barry and I cannot begin to thank all of the volunteers who make this possible each week.



SATURDAY NIGHT ALIVE!

Three times during football season we host an after-game gathering at the house. During the week leading up to SNA we buy, prepare food for 100 hungry cadets and their guests. We set up transportation to get them to the house. If pictures are worth a thousand words, then you can see from this picture page just how SNA looks! There is no 'forced' agenda, One thing cadets don't get here at USMA is much time to just 'hang out' with their friends and we provide this time. We celebrate monthly birthdays and make the cadets and other guests have a taste of home. It also is a great way for cadets not yet involved in OCF to 'try us out'. You can see it work



"Thank you so much for your kindness during our visit to OCF. Love, grace and humility are a few words that come to my mind as I think of your spirit. The OCF fellowship after the game was great. These young cadets are really ministered to at this place. May God's love and grace continue to be shared in this wonderful ministry.

From a Plebe dad

Quoted in a note from a visiting girlfriend

"And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith" Galatians 6:9-10



PICTURES ARE WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS!

Enjoy a 'look' at some of the ways we do life and ministry here.

Top row you can see another sibling set, this time Shige and Zach who are both Plebes. Next are the Men's Ministry crew who helped at the house for a Fall Work Day. **Row Two** you find more sibs...Diana and Kelly..Di is the firstie and Kel is the Plebe..but we think of them as 'twins'. Beside them are the upper class girls at the Cadet Women's Study Kick Off...and then who else but **Barry** making his famous Willey Chili for the final Saturday Night Alive.....



The Power of a Word Spoken

On the cover page of this newsletter you see two sisters. Let me share with you a bit about the older sister, Amy. Amy is currently our CO Cadet-in-Charge of OCF along with Ben Pinner. Together Amy and Ben lead our cadet CORE TEAM, but if you had met Amy 3 plus years ago you may not have predicted this would be the case. Amy came to West Point seeking something better for her life. She was from a 'good family' and even a 'good military family' but she wasn't very interested in spiritual things. She decided to attend the Chaplain sponsored Plebe Retreat her first summer and there she began her journey back to the Lord. One of our OCF leaders was there as a musician and small group leader and Amy was in his group. She was troubled about her life on many levels and chose to talk to him about it. He listened and gave her sound scripture and counsel but felt it best for her to see a female. He sent her to me. I will forever remember my first encounter with Amy. Here was a young gal, clearly seeking God in her life. She wept as we spoke and I gave her one of my Bibles and asked if we could continue to meet on a weekly basis. Thus began an amazing journey and an amazing friendship. Amy recommitted her life to the Lord and began her walk with Him. She started to faithfully attend OCF and in her small group she began to develop Christian friendships. She took every opportunity to ask questions and dig deeper into what it meant to live for Christ. Along the way she was encouraged by other Christian cadets and mentors and a few weeks

ago during our OCF large group time Amy shared, publicly for the first time her 'faith story'. All I can say is that it was an inspired moment. She was able to encourage both the Christians in the room and those who, like she had been, were seeking to find this 'Jesus' talk about so much. Amy had had a really challenging week leading up to her sharing and later when we spoke she very humbly shared these words with me..."I really believe I was BORN for that moment Tuesday night, to share what Christ means to me". Amy would want me to say that she is 'not perfect' that she still 'struggles in so many areas', but I would want to reply to her and to you....'don't we all?' So together we encourage, love, teach and reach so many can come to know Him and walk with Him.

Amy just branched MP's so many of you out there in the 'real Army' will soon meet Amy and the

class of '09 as they join the ranks in May! Be praying for them now as they use these last few months to cement the relationships they have built here at USMA.



HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Each week we are asked by ministry partners and parents and friends what they can do to help us out in a more tangible way. Here are some ways you may feel led to help.

- 1. If you already are a ministry partner and give monthly to allow us to do God's work here, please consider continuing and perhaps you would even want to increase your giving by a percentage. The costs of doing ministry have risen dramatically in the past year*
- 2. If you are not a monthly ministry partner and would like to become one, please email us and we can discuss how this happens. virginiabarb@aol.com or bewilley72@aol.com**
- 3. If you would like to make an 'end of year' donation to a specific project we have a need. Our old Dining Room Table and Chairs are in great need of replacing. We are using our personal table and it is about to 'die'. We would like to purchase a new set that would belong to the ministry. We have researched sturdy, quality sets that will last for many years and stand up to the multiple uses here at the house. To purchase a table and 12 chairs we need to raise \$5000. That sounds like a lot, but if many friends gave a gift toward this goal it could happen this year. **If you are interested in giving a ONE TIME gift so we can have a new table and chairs, please mail your check HERE to OCF West Point, 49 Mountain Ave, Highland Falls NY 10928 and make checks out to OCF/USMA and in the memo line state..end of year project. All donations are 100% tax deductible.****



MOST IMPORTANTLY...PRAY....PRAY....PRAY...PRAY....

ON A PERSONAL NOTE.....

This is the first newsletter that we are doing by ourselves, so bear with us as we learn how to use the many features of our new MAC computer.

We cannot begin to thank you all so much for your faithful support and friendship. Some weeks it's a bit overwhelming here and we wonder if we can make it...but then God gives us the encouragement we need through an email or a note from YOU and/or our cadets and we, again, realize that we are right where HE wants us. Thank you.

We Remain HIS Servants here at West Point,

***Barry and Barb Willey
OCF Staff at West Point
Philippians 1: 3-5***