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GARRISON CHAPLAIN'S OFFICE  
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY GARRISON, FORT RILEY  
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FORT RILEY, KANSAS 66442-7000

IMRL-RS

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MEMORANDUM THRU Chief of Spiritual Development, 2560 Trooper Dr, Fort Riley, KS  
66442-7000

SUBJECT: Fort Riley, KS Spiritual Development Strategy

1. References.

a. Lane, Timothy S., and Tripp, Paul David. 2003. *How People Change: How Christ Changes Us By His Grace*. Greensboro, NC: New Growth Press.

AR 165-1 (Army Chaplain Corp Activities)

b. ADRP 1-03 (The Army Universal Task List)

c. FM 7-22 (Holistic Health and Fitness)

d. FM 1-05 (Religious Support)

e.

2. Purpose. This memorandum outlines the Fort Riley, Kansas (FRKS) Religious Support Office (RSO) Spiritual Development Strategy (SDS) to engage service members and their families, DA Civilians, and Retirees. The SDS is a framework written from a Christian perspective, but various faith groups can adapt the SDS for their needs to include changing terms, names of sacred scriptures and key role models in their tradition.

3. Background. FRKS leaders continually address behavioral and moral problems among their service members and the community. Arrests for DUI, physical assault, domestic violence and other crimes reduce force readiness and significantly reduce trust between leaders and subordinates, between peers, and between family members. Behavior is best improved by influencing the motivations, values and beliefs of a person. Similar to washing dishes, when the inside of a cup is clean the outside will become clean as well (Lane and Tripp, iv).

4. Definitions.

- a. **Live, Learn, Love, Lead** is the guiding statement of the strategy. It reads, “To support the Fort Riley community to LIVE like Jesus and LEARN His Word so that we will LOVE others as He loves us and LEAD His people to do the same.”
  - i. **Live:** monthly meal where Life Groups come together to Eat, Meet, Pray.
  - ii. **Learn:** Life Groups meet twice a month to study the Bible.
  - iii. **Love:** Life Group participants engage in a mission project with their congregation every quarter.
  - iv. **Lead:** Life Group participants lead one person to faith in Christ annually.
- b. **Life Groups** (LG) are a group of 6 to 12 people coming together to fulfill Live, Learn, Love, Lead.
- c. **Life Group Host** (LGH) is a leader in the LG responsible for the monthly meal for their LG.
- d. **Bible Study** is when Life Groups come together to explicitly study the Bible (or other sacred scriptures for other faith groups).
- e. **Bible Study Teacher / Facilitator** (BTF) is responsible for leading the Bible study.
- f. **Life Group Leader** (LGL). Senior pastors of chapel worship services will assign a chaplain or volunteer to coordinate the LGs supported by that congregation.

#### 4. Life Group Meetings.

- a. The LGH is the primary lead of the LG. The BTF is the secondary lead. Both will work together to ensure the best interest and success of the LG. The LGH starts the LG in coordination with a chapel congregation’s LGL.
- b. Groups are made up of mature Christians and those newly seeking Christ from a specific chapel. Participants must understand the purpose of the LG is to help each other grow in their faith. Non-believers can attend if the group agrees and with the intention of reaching them for Christ (or aiding them grow in the tenets of other faith groups). Chaplains and their Families CANNOT be a part of a Life Group with another Chaplain and their Family.
- c. Groups will meet once a month for a meal. Purpose of the meal is to meet, eat, and pray. Monthly meals will be announced at the current meeting. Cancellations and rescheduling should be avoided.

d. Groups will meet twice a month for Bible study with the exception of the week of the monthly meal and DONSA weekends. Bible study cannot take the place of the monthly meal. Groups may reschedule as needed.

e. Auxiliary ministries can be considered Life Groups if they incorporate the purpose and elements of the SDS. LGs work best when family units participate together. Families are encouraged to participate in a LG, but the SDS will not take the place of the auxiliary ministry. Auxiliary groups should be connected to a chapel service for reciprocal support.

#### 5. Life Group Host and Bible Study Teacher / Facilitator Requirements.

a. Their moral character will be above reproach. Their life must reflect a life committed to Christ and growing in Him (or strongly adhere to the values and teachings of other faith groups).

b. They are committed to helping others be more like Christ. They love people, and desire to model a mature Christian faith. Their primary responsibility is to connect their group members to the Body of Christ and keep them connected. They will pray for their group members daily, and encourage them to serve Christ. Other faith groups follow the intent of these objectives, adapting them to their belief system.

c. They will meet regularly with their chapel's LGL to ensure they have the training and resources they need to best serve their group. LGLs provide senior pastor guidance, spiritual support, conflict resolution. LGLs coordinate with the Fort Riley Community Chaplain and Director, Religious Education for material support, purchases and training.

d. Positions are a six month to one year commitment with the understanding that deployment and other circumstances may arise. In the event of an absence, the group will nominate an individual to fulfill the role either temporarily or permanently upon each chapel's LGL approval.

#### 6. Monthly Meal.

a. The LGH ensures an adequate and accommodating place for the LG to meet and that enough food is prepared. The LG does not have to meet in the LGH's home, or that the LGH is to provide all the food. A LGH will involve all members of the Life Group in meeting these needs.

b. LGH contacts all LG members for an accurate count for the meal, childcare needs, and dietary issues. LGH has the freedom to organize and delegate according to their group dynamics.

c. LGH will ask everyone to bring something according to their ability. This makes everyone feel a part of the group. Food selection should be left to the LGH, but the group can partake in the decision-making process. LGH will be aware of diabetic, allergic, or dietary concerns.

d. LGH will be sensitive to what the group does when they meet. There will always be a time when the group forms a circle to share and pray. LGH will take time developing relationships with the members in order to know what they are needing most in order to grow their faith.

e. LGH will make prayer the highest priority. There is liberty in how this is conducted. Each Chapel's Life Group Leader will provide Scripture to share, and/or prayer prompts. It is up to the LGH on whether to utilize them. Sensitive information is often shared in the group. Participants must protect this information and not discuss it outside the group. LGH will select someone to record prayer requests and answers to prayer in a prayer journal. LGH is responsible for the prayer journal between meetings. Respect will be given to anyone who does not want their information written down. Everyone will be given the opportunity to pray, but does not have to. LGH will establish their own "house rules" before the prayer time begins. Any difficult requests or situations should be communicated to the LGL.

f. Attendance will be taken, and a digital copy of attendance, time, and place for the next monthly meal will be sent to the LGL within 7 days after. LGH will attach notes explaining why any person(s) were absent along with any other questions or concerns. Everyone is to be accounted for. A LGH always needs to be aware of one of Satan's greatest strategies to destroy believers...isolation.

## 7. Bible Study.

a. Curriculum used must be approved by the Community Chaplain. Emphasis will be put on all chapels using the same curriculum. BTF will commit to finishing the curriculum of the class once it is started.

b. BTF will guide the group to learn from God's Word and one another. BTF will avoid one-way communication. BTF will facilitate discussion. BTF will come prepared, having studied the Scripture being used so they are able to anticipate where the discussion might go, and help keep the study doctrinally sound.

c. BTF is responsible for praying regularly for the members of the group, remind them of Bible study times, and checking on those who are absent. Attendance will be taken, and a digital copy of attendance, time, and place for the next Bible study will be sent to the LGL within 7 days after. BTF will attach notes explaining why any person(s) were absent along with any other questions or concerns. Everyone is to be accounted for. BTF always needs to be aware of one of Satan's greatest strategies to destroy believers...isolation.

d. Locations for Bible study can be but not limited to: chapels, houses, private rooms at restaurants, conference facility, outdoors. For use of chapel facilities, contacting the garrison RSO will be required to reserve meeting space. LGL will help in obtaining a meeting space if desired in a Fort Riley location.

8. Support Chain

a. Life Groups are carried out under the authority of the Garrison Commander (GC).

b. Supervisory Chain starting at GC in descending order is as follows: Garrison Commander, Command Chaplain, Community Chaplain, Senior Pastor, and Life Group Leader.

c. Senior Pastors will supervise the Life Groups. Coordination and reporting to the Senior Pastor, DRE, and Community Pastor will be facilitated by the Life Group Leader.

d. Overall concept of the Life Groups and its implementation in the chapel services will be overseen by the Community Chaplain and DRE.

e. DRE will also lead in finding and/or creating curriculum. DRE will train incoming Chaplains, and new and existing LGHs and BTFs. Training will enhance knowledge and understanding of the program. Best practices and things learned will be included as well.