



**ocf australia**  
Overseas Christian Fellowship

# OCF Alumni Update

(+ On-Shore Returnees' Training Partnership)

15 Jan 2006 beta release



# What is OCF Alumni?

## VISION

**TO PARTNER** OCF Australia as its alumni in prayer, support, world missions and discipleship and mentor roles. (including Returnees' Training)

**TO UNITE** past, present and future generations of OCFers to strengthen OCF and edify one another for His Kingdom's purpose

**TO TESTIFY** to God's grace to us through the vessel of OCF



# Why OCF Alumni? (1/3)

- OCF Australia needs **GREATER RESOURCES** and more **MENTORS / ADVISORS** in **this age** of more challenging campus ministry environment
  - Strategic improvements in OCF need strategic support
- Greater OCF **RETURNEES SUPPORT** needed to stem fall-out rate amongst graduates
- OCF returnees **GROWING** not **FLOATING**.
  - We want to see returnees become servant leaders in their home countries and wherever they are, not 'lost' and unable to integrate into church



## Why OCF Alumni? (2/3)

- Returnees WANT TO HAVE A LONG-TERM ROLE, esp. Aus PR 'Returnees' such as those in Perth who have been very active in major support projects such as the "OCF Coach" scheme since 2003.
- Alumni BASE of **7000**: 3000 (M'sia), 2500 (S'pore), 500 (Aus), 1000 (other) (including associates)
- **120 - 180** OCF Returnees Annually need follow-up, another 100 - 200 graduates annually may be associated with OCF but not regular, or may be close friends of graduating OCFers.
- Every successful organisation has a strong alumni



# Why OCF Alumni? (3/3)

- **Every returnee is a testimony of our ministry to future students**
- **Spans centres and generations**
  - A weakness of previous individual centre efforts was its lack of critical mass and inability to span centres and generations
    - Some returnees only know each other through previous conventions – “spans centres”
    - Returnees that support a centre may “span generations”
    - Returnees that attend a gathering or convention, or who through church networking, may span “both centres and generations”



# Isn't it a contradiction? (1/2)

**OCF Alumni COMPLEMENTS our vision. For example:**

## •Reach Out

- Emergency support for struggling centres
- Logistical support during orientation
- Referrals, pre-departure talks

## •Build Up

- Discipleship and mentoring
- Advisors and resource persons from alumni
- Speakers and visitors from alumni
- Prayer support

## •Send Back

- Returnees' support – reintegration training, keep in contact
- Inspiration for mission work
- Testimony of God's work in OCF
- Edify the church & student groups overseas (FTP)
- Alumni are trail blazers in local churches, inspire one another



## Isn't it a contradiction? (2/2)

**Alumni project complements and integrates:**

- Returnees' program
- Convention – alumni participants
- Fellowship Twinning Project (FTP)
- Mission partnership and mission trips
- Pre-departure outreach efforts
- Mentor support for OCFers
- Prayer and fasting (who better else to know how to pray for OCF than ex-OCFers?)

**The answer therefore is “No, it is not contradictory”**

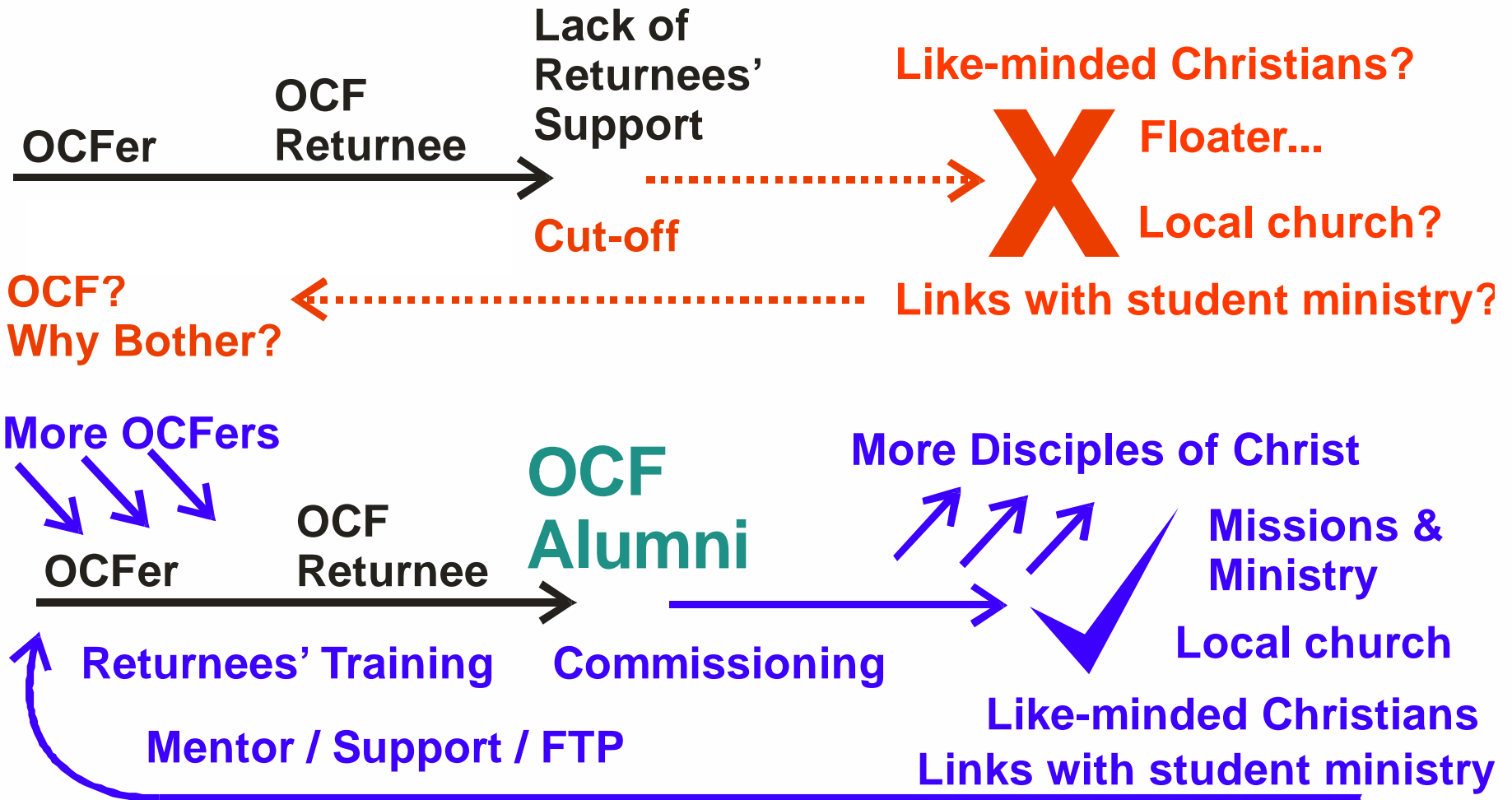


# How does it impact returnees?

- Returnees support from older OCF returnees
- Through OCF Alumni, their Christian walk will have continued emphasis on:
  - Great Commission and World Missions
  - Inter-denominational ministries such as mission and student groups
  - Student ministry whether primary, secondary or tertiary
  - Having ministry ability to span generations, nationalities and cultures
  - Networking churches



# Difference as a returnee



# Safeguards

- Is **NOT** a club, and not a church
- Encourages and ensures **re-integration** into, and **active participation** in **local** churches and ministries
- **Supports local church** activity, not detract from it
- Alumni support to OCF Australia does not detract from or change “student-run, student-led” **ministry model**, and is **accountable** to OCF GC and EXCO
- Will have an oversight committee and **AGM**
- **Inter-denominational**, upholding Christian (OCF) doctrine, no domination by any one church or group



# What has happened so far?

- Officiation at AGM 2004 – unanimous endorsement
- Returnees Meetings in Singapore 2005, 2006
- Discussions with GCF & FES leadership in Singapore & Malaysia





Dec 2004  
&  
Jan 2005





# What are the strategies? (1/3)

- **“One-stop shop”**
  - Returnees Support
  - Alumni participation in future generations
  - Alumni networking for ministry
- **Alumni partner with likeminded groups / churches for Great Commission**
- **Alumni help to increase Campus outreach and follow-up, and through projects such as Fellowship Twinning Project (FTP)**



## What are the strategies? (2/3)

- Alumni as part of OCF training, and as part of returnees' training and support
- OCF Alumni as launch-pad for world missions and local community outreach and cooperation
- OCF Alumni to complement OCF Australia major events: eg. Conventions and OCF 50<sup>th</sup>
- OCF Alumni two pronged returnees' training:
  - Address issues of those having returned
  - Re-ignite meaning in life through Missions

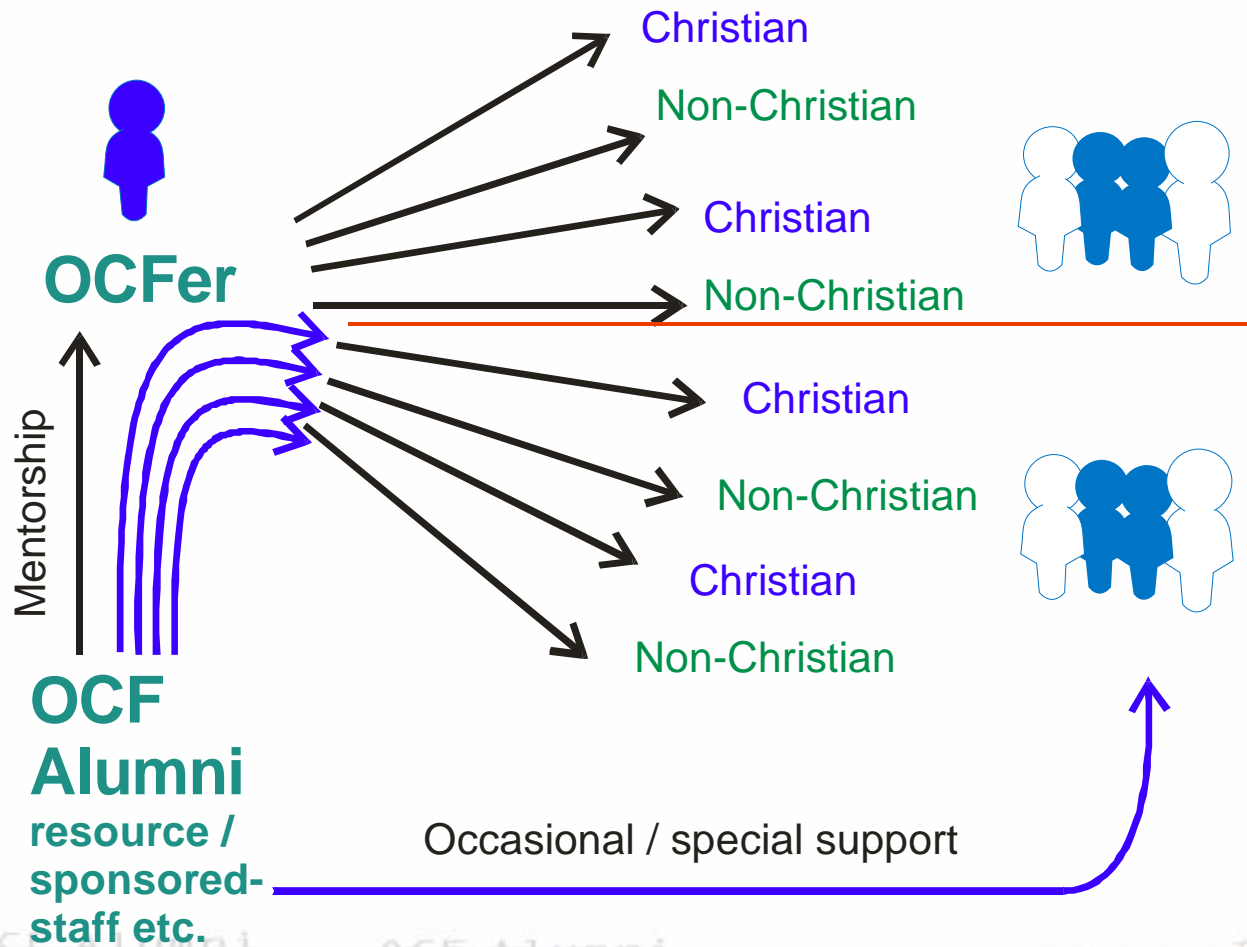


# What are the strategies? (3/3)

- **Low commitment and flexible structure**
  - Not to lock people into additional workload
  - Variable levels of participation
    - from purely social to contact / organiser roles
- **Reduced administrative duties by partnering with GCF/FES to handle admin**



# Ministry Guidelines: Needs-based support (resources & training) centred around OCF Vision & Ministry Model (no change to student-led, student-run)



# What are the development strategies (to set up Alumni)?

## STARTING STRATEGIES:

- Simple networking & getting in touch with old friends
- Developing a database
- Ensuring people are clear about the concept
- Work out relationship between EXCO & Alumni
- Periodic informal gatherings to touch base



# What are the development strategies (to set up Alumni)? (2/3)

- **Facilitating Committees / reps in each country / city where there are sizeable populations of returnees**
- **Team up with existing groups like GCF and FES and local churches in Malaysia, Singapore etc. who will provide admin support**
- **Use of technology - Web Site [www.ocfalumni.org](http://www.ocfalumni.org)**



# What are the development strategies (to set up Alumni)? (3/3)

- **Focal Event: Working towards OCF Australia's 50<sup>th</sup> in 2008/2009 as a major recruiter of Returnees**
  - Small events first – eg. returnees' retreat
- **Local centre ownership of their own returnees**
  - Emphasize returnees training and convention
  - Develop returnees' database
  - 1<sup>st</sup> year remote follow-up



# What is planned? (1/2)

- Now is information phase – need to get info out, answer questions, returnees' database and people to register interest
- Develop returnees / alumni database and church database
- Organise committee & re-start negotiations with GCF / FES (Proposal paper & meetings in Sg & My)
- Small gathering events & info sessions by local alumni committees (and with GCF / FES)



## What is planned? (2/2)

- Returnees' training in Australia & Overseas (weekend retreat / seminar) 2006 - 2007
- Alumni concurrent Convention 2009 (returnees' & missions issues) with OCF 50<sup>th</sup> Convention 2009
- Major Alumni gatherings in 2008 in lead-up to OCF 50<sup>th</sup> year (2008 theoretically already the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary)
- Set up [www.ocfalumni.org](http://www.ocfalumni.org) ASAP



# What is needed now? (Returnees' Training)

- Centres to be aware of OCF Alumni as part of Returnees' Training
- Centres to have Returnees' Officer to link up with the centre's own Returnees and to liaise with OCF Alumni
- OCF Alumni and OCF Australia to jointly work out COMPLEMENTARY Returnees' Program
- OCF Australia Returnees' Training to start even as OCF Alumni & its programs are being set up



# What is needed now?

- **Volunteers to spread the word back to your centres**
- **Volunteers to gather like-minded returnees (of all generations) and share in the invitation**
- **Volunteers to lead an Alumni effort in your home country or city**
- **Volunteers to support EXCO as a current OCFer in the Alumni / Returnees' project**
- **Setting up of Alumni and links with GCF / FES etc.**



# Notes

- This chapter of OCF's history will be written by all those involved, not just based upon this presentation and its plans and proposals – therefore do not withhold your participation because of any differences with this info, or apprehension from lack of clarity
- Overwhelmingly, returnees from all generations have supported the concept and establishment of OCF Alumni.
- OCFers from UK centres welcome and encouraged to join. If possible, to link up with NZ “OCF” as well.



# Contact persons

- **Singapore:**

- Kevin Goh [kevin\\_goh@lycos.com](mailto:kevin_goh@lycos.com)
- Alexander Kong [ttarlin@yahoo.com](mailto:ttarlin@yahoo.com)
- Kimberly Tan [john146@starhub.net.sg](mailto:john146@starhub.net.sg)

- **Malaysia:**

- TBA, please contact the Singapore reps in the meantime



# Q&A

- **Coordinator:**
  - Raymond Tham (OCF Flinders 95-97, 02-05)
  - Email: [alumni@ocfaustralia.org](mailto:alumni@ocfaustralia.org)
  - Phone (Aus): +61 422 274 957
- **Web Site:**
  - [www.ocfalumni.org](http://www.ocfalumni.org) (under construction)
  - [www.ocfaustralia.org](http://www.ocfaustralia.org) (under major repair)
- **Note:**
  - The web site and future versions of this presentation will contain more information

