

BIOGRAPHY



Lt Col (Ret) Noel and Mrs Meryl Dawes coordinated ACCTS' (www.accts.org) Central and Eastern European Ministry from 1994 to 2004. They also consult in living according to biblical standards, are involved in healing prayer ministry and advise about reconciliation and conflict resolution.

Noel was appointed on 1 Jul 04 as the first National Director for Alpha for the Military (A4M) for the US Armed Forces.

Noel and Meryl's latest initiative, an extension of the Alpha course ministry, is as co-administrator and military coordinator of the Welcome Home Initiative (www.ckcenter.org/welcomehome). This Initiative, an outreach of the Episcopal Diocese of Albany, aims to bring welcome, comfort, understanding and relief to Wounded Warriors and their families returning from war duties in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere including on the home front. Many Wounded Warriors are suffering in body, mind and spirit and a significant proportion are diagnosed with PTSD. The Initiative is extended to any combat veteran, regardless of which war they were involved in, as a 3 day get away at a beautiful conference center, called the Spiritual Life Center in the rolling hills of north east New York State. Spouses and close family members are also welcome if healing is aided by their presence.

Now 63 years old, Noel was born in England. He became a career infantry officer in the British Army in 1966 after intensive training at The Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst. Commissioned into The Staffordshire Regiment, he retired from active duty after nearly 30 years service in February 1994.

Noel considers he has been a Christian all his life. However, he came into a deeper, re-born relationship with Jesus on Good Friday, 1966. Early in 1979, Noel experienced the work of the Holy Spirit in his soul in a powerful and deep way. Ongoing personal renewal has been a feature of his life in differing ways ever since.

Noel has command, staff and operational experience at all levels of national, joint and international military organizations and served in many different countries. His background as a leader and trainer of soldiers is complemented by time spent instructing on the faculty of the UK and Ghanaian Infantry Schools, the Ghana Military Academy, and in computer simulation development. Noel enjoys reading, sailing, skiing and keeping up to date with current affairs.

Married in December 1970, Noel and Meryl have two married adult sons. Charles, 35, (with Sarah) lives and works in England and is passionate about sailing. Toby, 33, married JoAnn in 2001. They live near Albany, New York, USA. Noel and Meryl have two granddaughters, Charlotte, born in July 2007; and Evelyn, born in February 2008. A grandson is anticipated with joy in England in February 2010.

Meryl also comes from the Birmingham area of England. She has a degree in Art and Design. She is a qualified teacher and is experienced in other jobs including church administration. Meryl became a Christian as a teenager. Her main role is to support Noel in their ministry, especially logistically. She has the spiritual gifts of friendship, hospitality and homemaking. Meryl accompanied Noel to most of the places he was assigned and still does so, ministry funds allowing. Noel and Meryl became US citizens in May 2002.

Their contact details are as follows:

Noel and Meryl Dawes

22 Davis Street, Glens Falls, NY 12801-2647, USA; Tel: 518.824.5863

Email: noeldawes@alphausa.org; noel@dawes.net; Web: www.alphausa.org/military