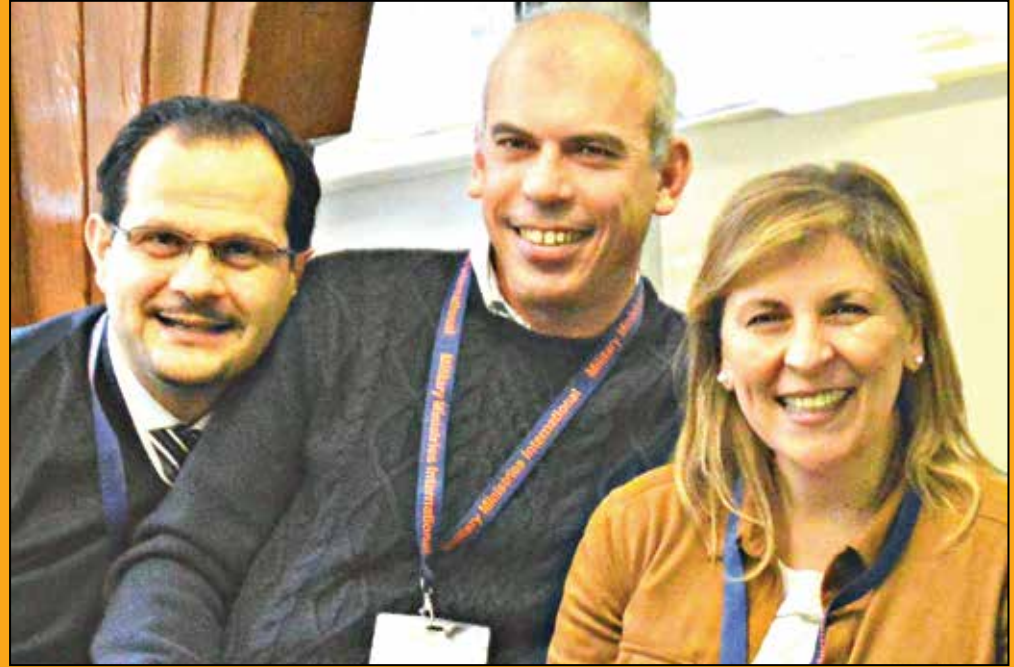


All Tribes and Peoples

"...behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb..." Revelations 7:9

Slovakia, Laos, Russia, Malaysia, Myanmar – diverse nations with at least two things in common: each has military Christians, and each is included in reports inside this newsletter. Thank you for your interest in, and love for, the international body of military believers. Your support is valuable to them, and to us.



Military Christian leaders from Italy, Portugal, and Spain.



OUR MISSION: To assist in the development of Christian leaders in the armed forces of the world and in the establishment and growth of military Christian fellowships.

FAITH, GRACE, AND SCRIPTURE: A Report from the European MCF Leaders Meeting

In February, representatives from 22 European military Christian fellowships (MCFs) attended the AMCF Leaders Meeting in Germany, which was co-hosted by ACCTS and our partner, Military Ministries International (UK). The conference theme was "Not Ashamed of the Gospel" and, as this year is the 500th anniversary of Europe's Protestant Reformation, participants discussed the theme in the context of three Reformation principles: *Sola Fides* ("faith alone"), *Sola Scriptura* ("Scripture alone"), and *Sola Gratia* ("grace alone").

Attendees represented a variety of Christian faith traditions that exist in Europe, including Russian Orthodox, Protestant denominations, and Roman Catholicism. Instructional sessions were balanced with time for individual and group discussions and opportunities for relationship-building.

Prayer was an integral part of the conference. Many group prayer meetings ran well past their allotted time, and individuals met spontaneously for one-on-one prayer. These times of prayer drew participants closer to each other and spilled



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Faith, Grace, and Scripture

continued from page 1

over into sharing other ministry needs and opportunities. ACCTS' deputy director, Bernhard Kaltenbach, reports, "By the end of the conference, participants were inviting attendees from other nations to their own national MCF events. The conference leadership team has been praying that this would happen, and we sense that new doors of cooperation and support have been opened among the MCFs of Europe."

Please pray with European military ministry leaders as they minister together to further Christ's kingdom. Pray that younger military believers throughout Europe will become involved in outreach to their coworkers and in Europe's military Christian fellowships.



Upcoming Events:

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| 27 April-7 April | Chaplains Interaction leadership training program, Wright-Patterson AFB area, Ohio |
| 15 April-7 April | Mongolia/China Staff Ministry Trip |
| 21-23 April | ACCTS Board Meeting |
| 17-21 May | AMCF/ACCTS Quinquennial Ministry Pray and Plan, Sri Lanka |
| 18-29 May | Colombia Ministry Mission Trip |
| 2-10 June | China/Japan Exploration Asia Mission Trip for U.S. mids/cadets |
| 19-26 June | Mission Evangelism Observation training, South Korea |
| 28 June-13 July | Interaction-Rocky Mountain High, Colorado; leadership training for young international military personnel |

Knit Together in Love in Southeast Asia

*"That their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ."
– Colossians 2:2*

In a nation like Laos, where less than 2% of the population are Christians, spiritual encouragement and training events are vital to the lives and faith of believers. This past January ACCTS staff members Melissa and Rick Ryles helped lead a Discipleship Training course for 22 military and civilian Christians in this southeast Asian nation, along with South Korean staff members from Mission Support Organization.

MSO staff members and Rick and Melissa also led a Discipleship Program course in Myanmar, with over 30 delegates who were eager to learn and full of love for Christ.

In both nations, the Ryleses gave audio Bibles in local languages to MCF leaders, who will distribute them to military Christians. These were provided by Faith Comes by Hearing, a U.S.-based organization which has audio Bibles in over 920 languages.

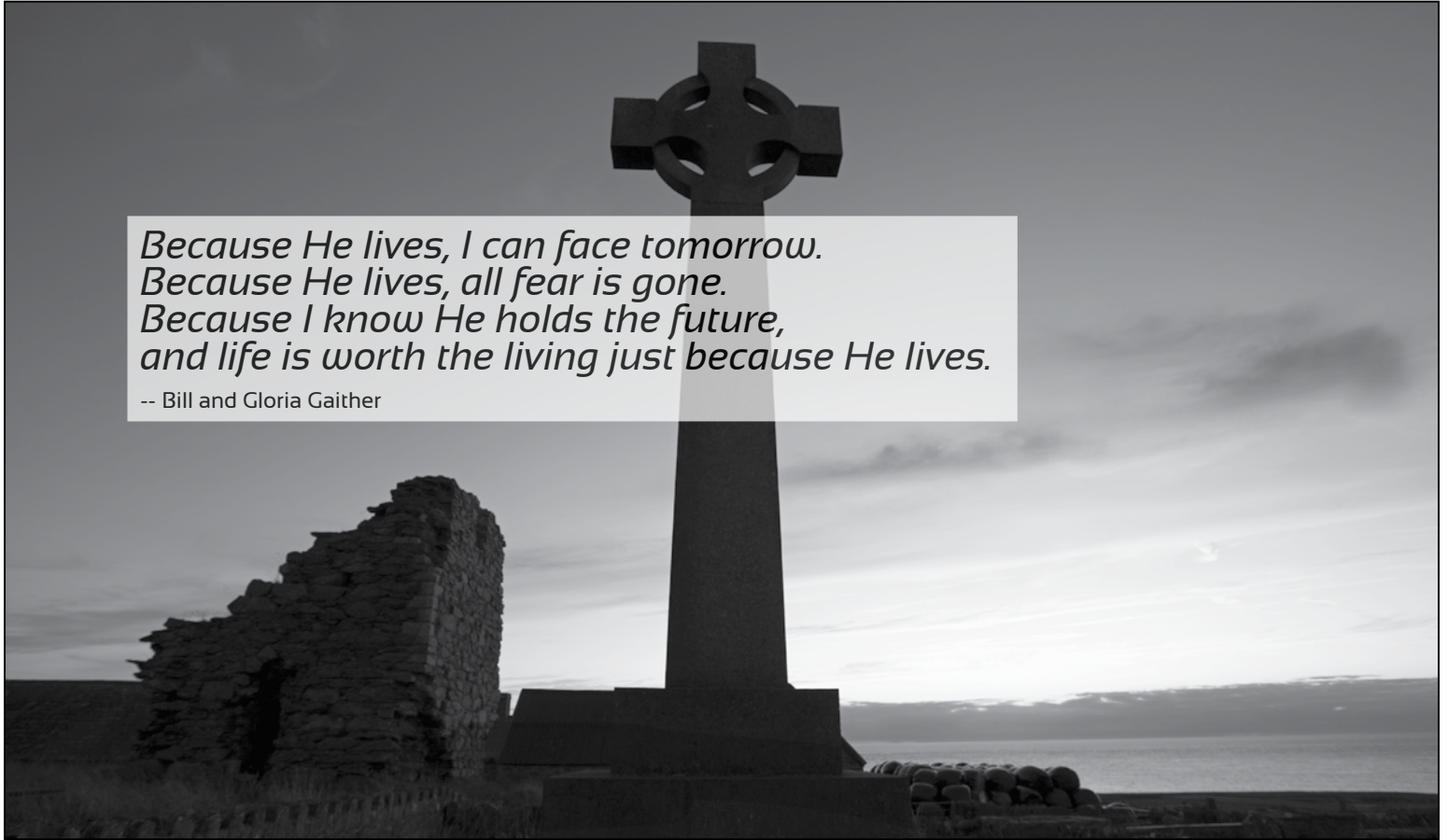
In addition to teaching at these Discipleship Training programs, the Ryleses and a newly-retired army couple, LTC (Ret.) John and Lisa Lough, ministered to military Christian fellowship (MCF) leaders and members in Malaysia, Cambodia, Thailand, and Singapore during their five-week trip.

Please pray that believers in southeast Asian nations will use what they learned during these visits to be rooted and built up in Christ, strengthened in the faith, and filled with thankfulness (Colossians 2:7).



ACCTS Prayer Reminder

April 2017



*Because He lives, I can face tomorrow.
Because He lives, all fear is gone.
Because I know He holds the future,
and life is worth the living just because He lives.*

-- Bill and Gloria Gaither

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1 Today is the last day of two Spring Break trips to Poland and Finland by USAFA Christian cadets. These trips were carried out with ACCTS and Officers' Christian Fellowship leaders to provide Christian cadets and midshipmen the opportunity to meet international military believers, visit military academies in those nations, and expand their worldview. Pray that the cadets' Spring Break experiences will inspire them in their military careers.

2 ACCTS' leadership training program, Chaplains Interaction, is currently taking place near Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio. The program finishes on 7 April. Please pray that the participants will have minds ready to learn what God has for them during this time.

3 Pray with military Christians in the Middle East as they strive to remain faithful to Christ and His paths for their lives. Praise God for their example of Christian commitment!

4 This month, we will be praying for Christians in the ten nations where it is most dangerous and difficult to practice the Christian faith (according to worldwatch-

monitor.org). Today, pray for Christians in **North Korea**, which has the grim distinction of being number one on this list. Pray that believers in this nation will know the hope that Christ gives and feel His presence no matter what they endure.

5 Somalia is the second most dangerous place to be a Christian. Ask that believers in this nation experience God's love for them and the knowledge that God never forsakes them.

6 Uphold in prayer Christians in **Afghanistan**, which is in the third spot on the list of dangerous nations for believers. Ask that Afghani Christian men, women, and children be surrounded and sustained by the Spirit in all they do.

7 Pakistan is in fourth place on World Watch's list, and it is noted for its extreme level of violence against Christians. Pray that these faithful ones will find fellowship with Christ, and others, despite the persecution.

8 The fifth nation, **Sudan**, is experiencing famine in addition to religious persecution of Christians. Ask for

God's mercy on this land and its people, and strength for believers.

9 Pray for **Syria**, number six on the list of nations where it is difficult to follow Christ. Pray that believers will show Christ's love to others, even those who persecute them.

10 The seventh nation on this list is **Iraq**, which is also fighting to reclaim Mosul from the Islamic State. Pray for justice in this nation, and pray that Christians will stay faithful despite the heavy trials they are enduring.

11 **Iran**, which has been in the news due to its uncertain relationship with the U.S., is eighth on the list of nations where life is difficult for Christians. Pray that believers in this nation will remember, and be blessed by the knowledge, that Christ is their Savior, Redeemer, and Friend. Pray also for peaceful relations with other nations.

12 Pray for believers in **Yemen**, the ninth nation on this list, asking that their present sufferings pass and that their hearts remain focused on their future in Christ. Pray for the nation as it fights ISIS.

13 **Eritrea** is the final nation on the list of the top ten places it is difficult to be a Christian. Pray for all believers in this country, including those who have been imprisoned for their faith, and their families who struggle without them.

14 **Good Friday** *"When he had received the drink, Jesus said, 'It is finished.' With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit."* John 19:30

15 Some military Christian fellowships (MCFs) around the world have had, or will have, Easter-related ministry events this month. Pray that those events will help non-believers see the power of Christ and His saving grace for their lives.

16 **Easter** *"Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?'"* John 11:25-26

17 Last week the Armed Forces Christian Union in the UK held an Easter Camp for 11- to 18-year-olds. Pray that the participants' camp experiences will continue to bless and guide them.

18 Praise God for the outreach programs of Spain's Police Military Fellowship and their large number of young members. Pray that God will guide them in all their work for Him.

19 Now that Chaplains Interaction participants (see Day One) have returned home, pray with them as they put into action all that they learned during the program.

20 Uphold in prayer ACCTS' director, Phil Exner, and staff member Sue Exner as they participate in this weekend's ACCTS board meeting.

21 Please pray for wisdom as the ACCTS board of directors meet this weekend. Today, pray for Ward Bursley, president; Steven Sifers, vice president, Ira Savoie, treasurer; and Stan Mincks, secretary.

22 As the ACCTS board continues to meet today, please pray for these board members: Jody Bursley, Tom Capps, Dave Hall, and Jim Hougnon.

23 On this final day of the ACCTS board meeting, pray for wisdom for these board members: Sue Huggler, Terry Pierce, and Doug Winton.

24 Praise God for all those who participated in Discipleship Training programs in Laos and Myanmar (see newsletter for details). Ask that they be encouraged daily in their faith as a result of what they learned.

25 Please pray for our partner ministry, the Association of Military Christian Fellowships. Pray for its president, General Srilal Weerasooriya; the regional vice presidents; and the international MCFs which are a part of the association.

26 According to Crisis Watch, soldiers mutinied repeatedly across Côte d'Ivoire in recent months. Pray for peace in this nation, and for wisdom and safety for military believers.

27 Pray for the president of the Polish military Christian fellowship, Daniel Krycki, and all who minister to this nation's military personnel. Pray for full healing for Igor Sawicki as he recovers from health problems.

28 Pray with the nation of Gambia as it is under new presidential leadership, and praise God that the transition of power went smoothly, despite initial problems. Pray that military Christian fellowships will flourish in this nation.

29 Pray that military Christians in Cambodia will not be discouraged, but find daily strength to live in a fallen world.

30 Pray that European MCFs will continue to work together toward specific goals and ministry objectives.