

# BEACH BAPTISMS IN SPAIN

Over 150 police and military Christians gathered in Spain in late 2017 for three days of teaching, training, encouragement, worship, and fellowship. This annual gathering of Spanish Christian police and military also, for the first time, included military Christian participants from Italy, Portugal, Germany, Switzerland, Bulgaria, Romania, Uruguay, the UK, and the US.

"We clearly saw the Spirit of God move among the nations!" shared ACCTS associate staff members Terry and Susan Wichert, who participated in the conference. The Wicherts have ministered to military believers in this region for several years, building strong ties with indigenous leaders and helping them in their outreach to the region's armed forces. At this conference, Susan spoke about their work in the region, and Terry spoke about the magnificence of creation, as seen in the vastness of the universe.

The second day of the conference included the baptism of seven new believers. The Wicherts share, "Prior to the baptism, each country representative prayed briefly over the baptism in their own native language, and then each new believer walked out into the waiting surf." Praise God for the military and police Christians in Spain and their increasing ministry throughout the region!



#### With the Lord Forever

"And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words." 1 Thessalonians 4:18

ACCTS staff member Deena Mills went to be with the Lord on 21 December after nearly 12 years of courageously battling cancer. Deena was a dedicated wife, mother, and grandmother who ministered as a team leader with ACCTS in the area of cadet/young officer ministries. Along with her husband Dean, Deena had also served as an ACCTS board member and was on Officers' Christian Fellowship (OCF) ministry teams at the Air Force Academy. We praise God for the inspiring example Deena gave of joyously living out one's faith during all of life's circumstances.



### **Upcoming Events:**

1-3 February Chile MCF Military Missions Conference1-5 February AMCF European Leaders Meeting, Germany

1-11 February ACCTS Staff Ministry Trip, Asia 10-17 March Waterloo to WWII Exploration Trip

6-7 April ACCTS Board Meeting

23-27 April Brazil MCF Chaplains Conference

#### Welcoming the Stranger

"When did we see you as a stranger and welcome you, or see you naked and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison, and visit you?' The king will answer them, 'I tell all of you with certainty, since you did it for one of the least important of these brothers of mine, you did it for me."

– Matthew 25:38-40

The Moldovan MCF provided Christmas boxes and supplies to refugees in December, and continues to minister to this group throughout the year. Pray that God will bless this work and their ministry within Moldova's armed forces.



### "From This Place, God Helped You"

Military believers in Ukraine met in December to celebrate God's work in their nation and to prepare for future outreach to their nation's armed forces. "From This Place. God Helped You" (1 Samuel 7:12) was the theme of the Ukrainian MCF's (OXBY) prayer and planning conference, in which members from 15 oblasts (administrative divisions) participated. Many of the regional reports highlighted their ongoing and important work of supporting volunteer chaplains in eastern Ukraine, as well as their programs for military families whose husbands and fathers serve on the front lines of the current conflict.

Please pray for the ministries of OXBY and the Orthodox fellowship, Ukrainian Brotherhood, as they reach out to their nation's military personnel. Pray for:

- -- the safety of volunteer chaplains who minister to front-line soldiers in eastern Ukraine -- ask that these chaplains encourage the spiritual lives of military men and women stationed there, and that the supplies they bring will provide for their physical needs;
- -- Ukraine's multi-confessional chaplaincy, which was approved by the Ministry of Defense in July 2017, and that chaplains will work well across denominational lines;
- -- a close working relationship between the two military Christian fellowships as they work with chaplains; and,
- -- peace and unity in Ukraine, stabilization of the situation in eastern Ukraine, and that this conflict would bring the Ukrainian people closer to God.



Valentin K, two Ukrainian chaplains, and Vasily Khimich



Ukrainian chaplain with Gideon Bible



Chaplain Julian with his wife Maria

## Reading the Bible on Moscow's Metro

In February, leaders from Russia's military Christian fellowship, Cornelius, met in Moscow for Bible teaching (with application to military ministry), prayer and praise, informal discussions, and an excursion to Red Square in central Moscow. ACCTS staff member Dick Barnes, who participated in the meeting, also reports, "Following the meeting, I visited longtime friends Oleg and Olga for Orthodox Christmas. Under Oleg's leadership of the previous Russian MCF, some 25,000 Russian language camouflage Bibles were printed and distributed in the 2002 - 2004 timeframe. Two weeks ago, while riding the Moscow metro, Oleg saw a young lady sitting across the car reading one of those Bibles -confirmation that these Bibles are still being read today." Praise God for our brothers and sisters in Russia who share the Word of Life with their compatriots.





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