



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.

REVITALIZING MINISTRIES IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

In January staff member Rick Ryles (COL, USA, Ret.) spent several weeks in southeast Asia teaching and ministering to indigenous military believers in three nations. Praise God with us for these faithful Christians and for Rick's continuing ministry to them!



Cambodia: MSO associate staff member Colonel (ROKA, Ret.) LEE Jae Yool and Rick were teachers at the annual Cornelius Fellowship Discipleship Program of the MCF-Lao. MCF-Lao is not active outside of the capital city, and the team encouraged the MCF leadership to be proactive in other provinces and conduct more meetings. Persecution of Christians is heavy away from the capital region, but not noticeable in the capital. Pray for the Cambodian Christians as they increase their outreach and pray for full religious freedom in this nation and others in southeast Asia.



Thailand: Rick met with Military and Police Christian Fellowship (MPCF) representatives in Bangkok at the MPCF Cadet Hospitality House. They discussed cadet outreach and Rick taught a class on spiritu

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Revitalizing

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al gifts. He also met with a military Christian in the Royal Thai Navy who is reaching out to sailors at a large naval base. Rick discussed how to help him in the future and hopes to travel back to Thailand for that purpose. Pray that the ministry at this base will increase.

Indonesia: Rick met with leaders of the military Christian fellowship of Indonesia in Jakarta, who are in the middle of a total revitalization of their organization. Two Indonesian Christian businessmen have come alongside to help them establish a foundation for their ministry. Rick and the Indonesian Christians discussed the outreaches to the different military academies, which are the best way to equip Christians cadets as they enter service to their God and country. The MCF has made great ministry strides – please pray for them as they continue God’s work in their nation.



Old Foundations, New Beginnings

“With a large dose of gratitude, it was my joy and honor... to be present at the annual gathering of European military Christian organisations. I can say without hesitation that the majority of encouragement and incentives for what I do came from that place and those people. So a big thank you to all who strive in the Lord!” – conference participant from Bulgaria



“Old Foundations - New Beginnings” (based on Jeremiah 6:16) was the theme of this February’s AMCF European Leaders Conference in Germany. Fifty delegates from 19 countries participated, including regional ACCTS staff members.

Participants met in small groups to pray and discuss how God has worked in their nations and how to develop younger MCF members as leaders. Small groups also focused on future MCF work and the need to ask others for help rather than taking on more than they can deal with. Participants reflected on the rich history of Christian leadership in the world’s military forces and of individuals who stood out as strong military leaders.



Pray that the European military Christian fellowship leaders who attended this conference will continue to stand firm in their faith, striving to share Christ’s hope with their national armed forces personnel.



Participating MCFs: Albania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Great Britain, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Kosovo, Moldova, Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, Sweden, Ukraine



Ministry Opportunity: Director of Chaplain Support Ministries

ACCTS has a staff position available for a former military chaplain who has a heart for ministering around the world to chaplains in other countries' militaries. The Director of Chaplain Support:

- develops and plans ACCTS' chaplain ministries, including international chaplain training programs
- creates and sustains supportive and encouraging relationships with international military chaplains, sharing ministry tools with them
- directs ACCTS staff activities that support chaplains

This is an unpaid position, so the Director of Chaplain Support will need to raise support for ministry expenses (although the position requires more time than funding). Relocation isn't needed, as most ACCTS staff work out of their homes.

The ability to minister to Christians of varying denominations and theological persuasions is essential. If you would like more information on this position, or would like to submit your resume, please contact ACCTS' deputy director, Bernhard Kaltenbach at 1-800-487-8108 or deputy@accts.org.

Conversations in Chile

One of the most important parts of military Christian fellowship conferences is the one-on-one discussions that take place, as staff member Dell McDonald (Lt Col, USAF, Ret.) reports after participating in the MCF of Chile's national meeting in January: "I had about an hour with a young couple who attended. She wants to be part of Chile's military Christian fellowship but wasn't sure about her faith. We talked for about an hour -- her friend was a Christian, and so together we helped her understand how to believe and become a Christian." After the conference, Dell also spent a day with several Chilean chaplains, discussing how they can work with the MCF and how chaplains can minister to service personnel.



Photo courtesy of USDOD



Upcoming Ministry Events

April Events:

China Leadership Training
ACCTS board meeting
Mongolia English Language Training
Romania mission trip
Brazil Chaplains Retreat

May Event:

Mongolia English Language Training

June Events:

Exploration Asia – Japan, China
Interaction-Rocky Mountain High, Colorado
Military Evangelism Observation, South Korea

July Event:

English Language Training camp, Ukraine

April Prayer Items



Photo courtesy Olivia Snow

Week One: Please pray for God's guidance on ACCTS' board meeting, 6-7 April. Pray for wisdom for all our board of directors: Jody and Ward Bursley, Phil and Sue Exner, Jon Gabrielson, Jim Hougnon, Sue Huggler, Chris and Deni Johnson, Stan Mincks, Steven and Deb Sifers, Brad Winsted, and Doug Winton. Pray also for staff member Ed Ward, who will be in China from 2 – 22 April for a leadership training opportunity.

Week Two: Pray with an ACCTS team who will teach English to military officers in Mongolia this month. In addition to the daytime English classes, the team will meet with military Christians in the evenings and weekends. Pray that the English classes will provide a good opportunity for learning and cultural understanding and that the time spent with military believers will be a great encouragement to them. Praise God

for Mongolia's Christians and the strength of their faith in Christ.

Week Three: Pray with associate staff member Jim Ellis as he ministers in Romania this week. Pray for ACCTS staff members who share Christ with international military students in the U.S, asking that staff interactions with these students will lead them to look more deeply into Christ and His role in their lives.

Week Four: This week, pray for a conference in Brazil, which Brazil's military archbishop and the three chiefs of chaplains will attend. Several ACCTS staff will also be involved in discussions about the different roles of chaplains and how chaplains are selected, trained, and organized in the U.S. (since Brazil is interested in the U.S.' model). They will also talk about the relationship and importance of chaplains to commanders and the importance of chaplains to military effectiveness. Pray also for the ACCTS team's visits after the conference with other military believers and visits to the military and police academies.

"Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving."

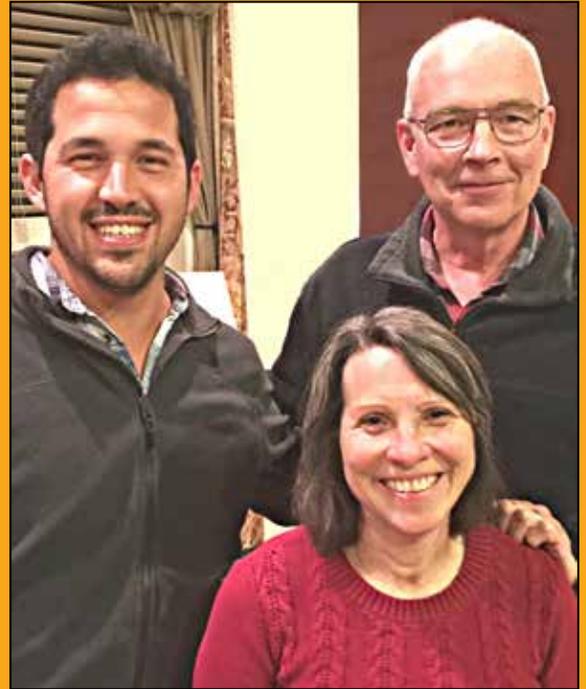
Colossians 4:2

Pressing on in Israel

"I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."

- *Philippians 3:14*

During a trip to the U.S. in March one of the main leaders of Israel's military Christian fellowship (MCF), Matan, spent two days with ACCTS' executive director Phil Exner and his wife Sue in Colorado. They discussed the MCF's ongoing work, including the 17 courses it holds during the year, and how God is leading them to develop future ministries. Some of the MCF's courses for Christians involve helping them learn how to defend their faith and find their identity in Christ alone. A course for non-believers (who are getting ready for their mandatory national military service) involves finding their way out of a wilderness area with only a compass and food supply. Praise God for the contacts God has given ACCTS with military Christians in this pivotal nation and pray as they press forward in the calling Jesus has given them.



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