



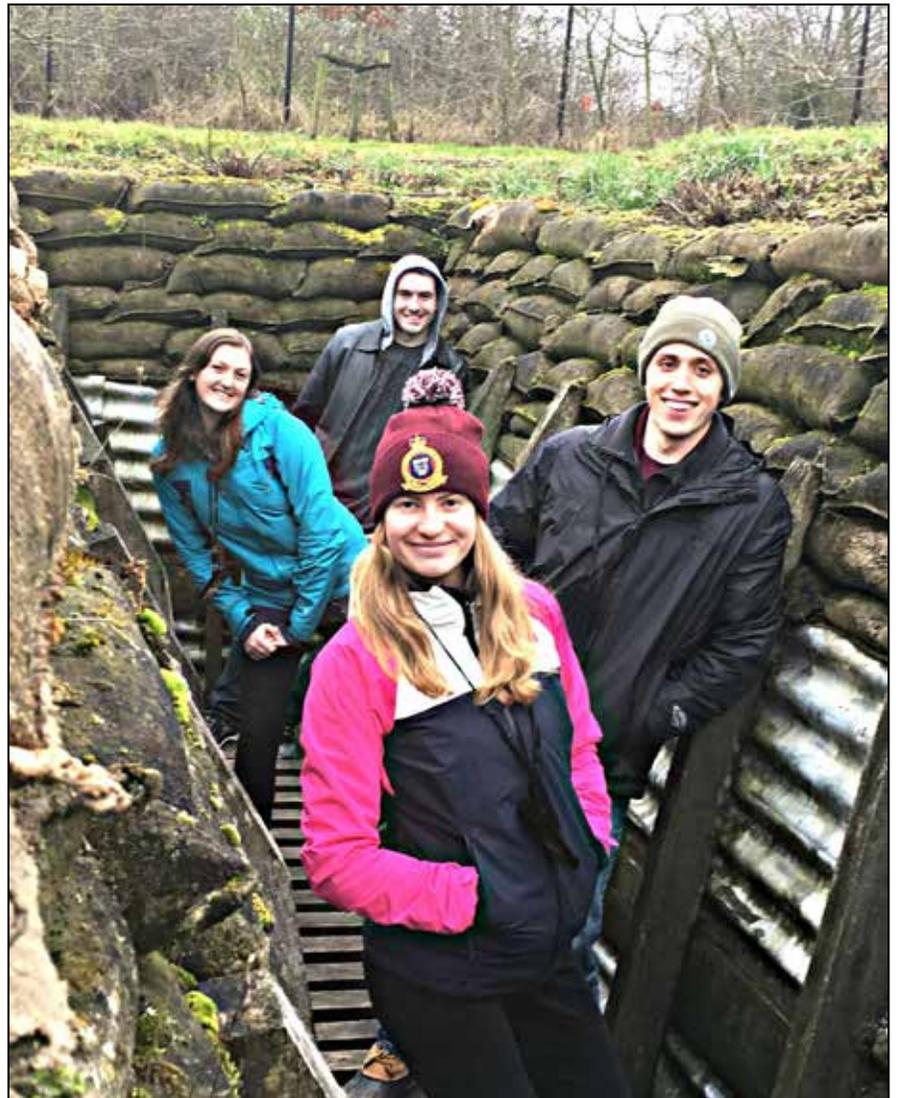
OUR MISSION: To assist in the development of Christian leaders in the armed forces of the world and in the establishment and growth of military Christian fellowships.

THE POWER OF FAITH: Battlefield Tour Teaches Leadership and Faith Lessons

“I came on this trip to better understand the power of faith and the effect it has on people, and to help me in my future career in the military,” wrote a military cadet after participating in ACCTS’ Waterloo to World War II. “But to my delight I found my own faith and have come to some realizations about humanity and how we need faith to explain the things we do and decisions we make.”

Two US Military Academy cadets and two British cadets joined ACCTS’ director Phil Exner on the annual Waterloo to World War II trip in March. Visiting over 30 historic sites in Belgium and France, they explored battlefields, trenches, tunnels, cemeteries, and towns where they discussed the military, political, physical, and spiritual facets of what happened at each place. They reviewed strategic, operational, and tactical lessons, and talked about Just War theory, but also explored the deeper human and spiritual aspects of warfare and leadership through stories of those who made a difference at each site.

As Phil explains, “When you look at the whole picture of a battle or campaign from a Christian perspective, you can readily see how God can use anyone -- from a lowly private to the



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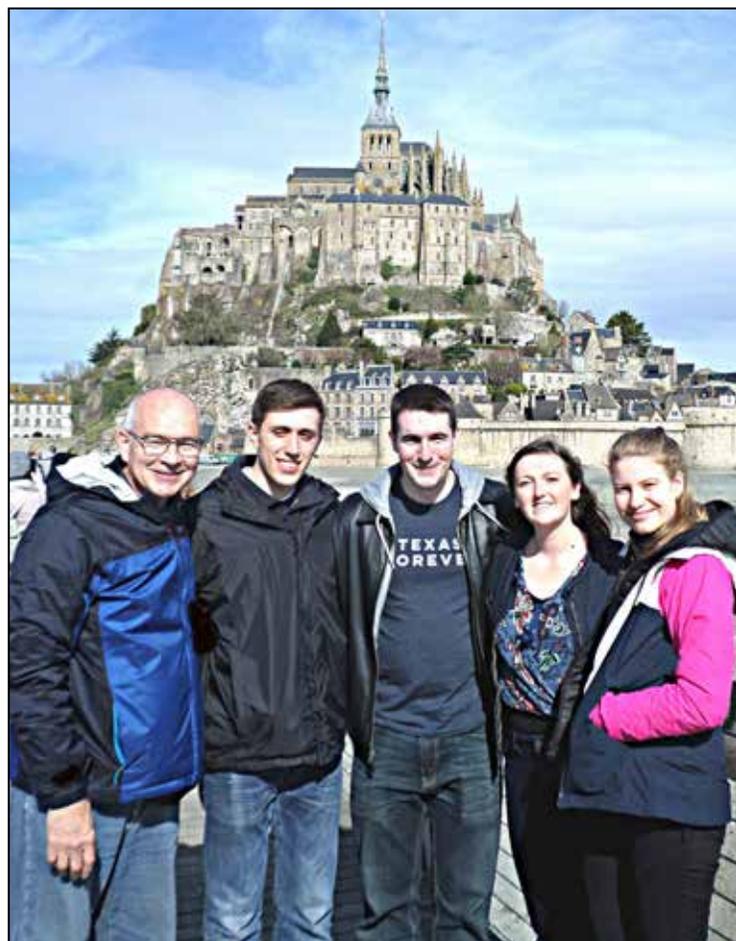
most senior commander -- to change the destiny of countries and empires and work out His plan for history. We looked at stories of individuals whose initiative or inaction, courage or cowardice, diligence or laziness, trust or doubt, faithfulness, fear or obedience, turned the tide at a critical moment and literally won or lost wars and kingdoms. We also talked about the imperative of good character and challenged each cadet to consider which qualities they saw in different leaders that they wanted to emulate as they develop their own leadership substance and style.”

Although it was only 130 years from the Battle of Waterloo to World War II, the group actually visited sites spanning over 1200 years of history. More than half of the stops were tied to British history, so it was an added blessing to have the British cadets along. They added a perspective and personal interest that injected energy and relevance to the places the group stopped, and their interaction with the US cadets resulted in a lot of laughs as the group discovered different and often-humorous ways to express the same idea. “This was a great group of cadets who quickly bonded together, and we were extremely thankful that the UK cadets were able to join us, thanks to a connection with MMI, our UK ministry partner,” Phil states.

The terrible carnage, personal loss, and waste of war hit hard at several places. This gave the group a perfect setting to talk about biblical views of war and its ultimate cause -- sin. The trip was an occasion for deep reflection on the necessity of faith in the transcendent Truth of a loving, purposeful God in order to make sense of the chaos of history and strengthen our hope in Christ.

“These four young cadets are at a stage in their lives when they will make many

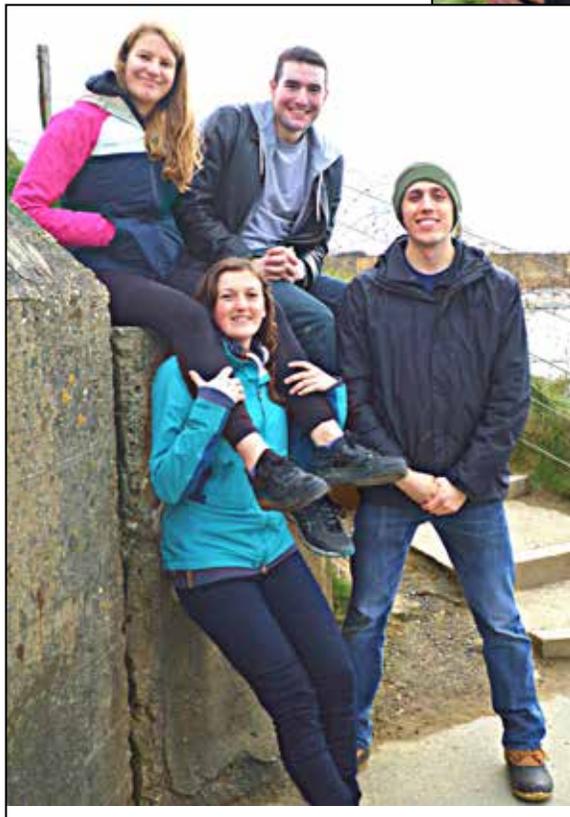
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decisions that will determine the direction of the rest of their lives. They will also soon be leading young men and women who will be trusting in their leadership and character. It is my hope that all Waterloo to World War II participants will recognize the importance of integrating their faith into their careers as military leaders,” Phil concludes. “They saw how human nature exhibited itself, but also how they can make a significant difference, especially as they follow Christ’s example as the perfect leader.”



Taiwan: International Military Student Follow-Up

ACCTS staff members Dave and Karen Wittman, who minister to international students who attend the Defense Language Institute English Center (DLI) in Texas, visited several former DLI students during a recent trip to Taiwan in order to renew their friendships and encourage the young officers in their military careers and spiritual lives.

During this trip, the Wittmans met with AMCF Vice President Andrew Tzeng and his family and introduced the former DLI students to key members of the military Christian fellowship of Taiwan. They also met with the extended family of a Taiwanese Air Force F16 pilot who died in a training crash while in the U.S.

The Wittmans also hosted a reunion for all DLI graduates, as Dave shares: “The reunion was split into three different luncheons and dinners. At these reunions, I introduced the the idea of the AMCF and military Christian fellowship, and introduced them to Andrew Tzeng, who also encouraged the active-duty officers and invited them to local and regional events.”

Karen presented a lecture on the history of music therapy to the Department of Psychology at the Military Medical Center in Beitou, which is also known as the Military Suicide Prevention Center. Karen’s lecture came at an important time, as Taiwan’s armed forces are beginning to implement music therapies to military mental health patients. They also met with Dr. (LTC) Tony Chow, Director of Neurology at the Tri-Service Hospital of Taiwan.

“Karen and I cannot tell you how honored we felt to be hosted in Taiwan and how important this trip was to re-kindling relationships, doing follow-up work with the active duty military and bringing the MCF to their lives,” Dave concludes.



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“While Karen and I estimated that there were about 10-12 Christians from this group of over 40 military officers, many of these folks are open to the Gospel and the MCF. Planting seeds and developing relationships is so important. We must invest in the lives of the young active-duty officers to keep the work of the Gospel going throughout the world.”



Upcoming Ministry Events

May:

Mongolia – Conclusion of English language training program for Mongolian officers.

June:

Exploration Asia – ACCTS staff interaction and encouragement with military Christians and non-believers in Japan, friendship visit to China.

Interaction-Rocky Mountain High – leadership training and wilderness experience with young international military men and women

July:

Ukraine and Moldova – ACCTS staff ministry trip, interaction with and encouragement of military believers.

Ukraine – English language training program for military-related people with MCF of Ukraine.

Moldova – English language training program for military-related people.

August:

Ukraine – English language training program for military-related people with MCF of Ukraine.

May Prayer Items

Pray with an ACCTS team as they finish up an English training program in Mongolia from 1-5 May. Pray that their efforts will result in more ministry opportunities in Mongolia, and that the military Christian fellowship of this nation will be strengthened through this.

Pray with ACCTS staff members who minister to international military students in the U.S., asking that God open doors for them to reach students who are open to the Gospel.

Pray for preparations for this June's Interaction-Rocky Mountain High program. Ask that

the young international military members who attend will be inspired to further serve Christ during their military careers and become leaders in their national military Christian fellowships. (Scholarships for the participants are still needed – if you would like more information on how to contribute to this leadership training program, contact Emanuela at webmaster@accts.org.)

Pray for ACCTS' leaders as they seek God's will for future ministry plans. Pray for our partnerships with other military ministries, including MMI in the UK and MSO in South Korea.

In This Newsletter:

Leadership Lessons for Young Cadets



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