



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.

A DOSE OF GOD'S GRACE



ACCTS, along with the military Christian fellowship (MCF) of Moldova, led an English program in July for military children which “shared a dose of God’s grace” with the participants and their parents, according to ACCTS’ executive director Phil Exner: “The MCF was asked by the Moldovan Ministry of Defense to carry out this program for children of MOD employees, and we were grateful for the opportunity to help the MCF fulfill that request. The participants ranged in age from 8 to 18, and they were such a remarkable group of kids. They bonded well with

each other and we were able to create relationships with them which shared a dose of God’s grace. We incorporated parts of our English Language Training program with team-building activities, skits, plays, and songs. At the end of the program, the comments by participants’ parents were uniformly positive, and they want their kids to participate again if we hold similar programs in the future.”

Staff member and program teacher Cheryl Kaltenbach noted that one of the Moldovan helpers initially was doubtful

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the program would have enough of a spiritual impact. Because the program was held at the request of the MOD, improving participants' English skills was the primary focus while Bible lessons were optional. Even so, many participants attended the Bible lessons and there were other opportunities to share spiritual matters such as the morning devotional (led by ACCTS staff Dick Barnes), Christian songs and skits, and one-on-one conversations. At the end of the program, Cheryl reports that the helper who was initially doubtful was excited to see God working: "This helper saw that God can work in different ways and use many things for Him, and she saw that God had started sparks of spirituality in the kids' lives because of the program."

Opportunities to share Christ also came at unexpected times, as Sue Exner shares: "I walked to the beach with one girl in my class and she said, 'I want to ask you about being a Christian.' She was curious where I was coming from. I told her how I became a Christian, how to be a Christian, and that Christ gives meaning and a greater purpose to our lives. I asked if her family went to church – they didn't, but she said, 'I think I would like to.' I gave the students in my class my email address and two of them have found me on Facebook. I'm looking forward to staying in touch with them."

The English camp was also an important way to increase the MCF's visibility. "At the end of this program, several of the children's parents said they wanted to join the MCF and become involved in its mission," ACCTS' deputy director Bernhard Kaltenbach shares. "In some European countries, non-church related Christian groups are viewed as too 'radical', but this program showed the MOD and its staff that the MCF is doing good in their nation and for its residents."

"Toward the end of our time in the camp a Moldovan, Jon, was talking with several participants. One of the kids said to him, 'The Americans spent their own money to come over here and teach us English! Why? It doesn't make sense!'

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Jon told them the ACCTS team was there because we loved Jesus and loved them, and we wanted to share that love with them and the nation of Moldova.”

Please pray that all the sparks of spirituality which this program started in participants' lives will continue. Pray also with Moldovan MCF members as they follow up with program participants and their families.

2019 Volunteers Needed!

ACCTS is planning several English programs for 2019 and native-English speaking volunteer teachers will be needed. No experience or formal training is necessary to teach at these camps – ACCTS provides the lessons and basic training in how to teach conversational English skills. Volunteers will be responsible for their own expenses, which are tax-deductible, and need to be available for approximately 10-12 days. If you are interested in more information, contact us at accts@accts.org



Decisions for Christ in Ukraine

God worked mightily through this summer's English camp in Ukraine, with the majority of the 78 participants making positive decisions for Christ by the close of the program.

“Some of the teens made initial decisions to trust in Jesus and most grew in their knowledge of and commitment to God, Jesus, and discipleship,” staff member Russ Hammerud shared upon returning from the program. “I believe this program will result in lots of changes in Ukrainian kids' lives. We know the program was much prayed for and we are very grateful to those who upheld us. ‘The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.’ (James 5:16)”

The camp was jointly led by ACCTS and Olive Branch Ukraine. The morning program started with exercise and worship followed by two hours of English classes and two hours of Bible messages

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Decisions for Christ in Ukraine

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and study. The rest of the day was filled with fun team-building activities such as sports, competitions, crafts, a bonfire with s'mores, free time for thought and fellowship, and an evening assembly with skits and songs.

About 60% of the program participants were children of Ukrainian military personnel. Russ relates that the participants had many questions on various biblical topics, especially the fall of mankind, its consequences (Satan's lies, alienation, human depravity, resulting conflict, and war) and God's promise of a Savior who would destroy Satan and restore paradise.

"Seeing relationships develop between the kids and the teachers, as well as among the kids themselves, is always a highlight," Russ concludes. "At the end of the program, when so many of the kids responded to the challenge to follow Christ, there was much rejoicing, tears, and hugs. The Ukrainian military Christians will follow up with the participants and invite them to churches in their areas and to weekly English clubs, which also include discipleship." The follow-up started quickly, as the day after camp seven participants attended worship service at the church of Valentyn Korenevych, the camp program director.

Thank you for your prayers and support of this summer's English camp. Please pray that the participants who made decisions for Christ will continue to get to know Him and follow Him.



Exploration Asia 2018



Two West Point cadets and three Valley Forge Military Academy cadets joined ACCTS staff this summer in our annual Exploration Asia program, which helps cadets experience other cultures and allows ACCTS staff to build relationships in those cultures. Among the locations visited was the village of Beichang, where ACCTS' work over the last 19 years was honored. ACCTS China director, Carson Tavenner, states, "An unexpected great surprise was the return of a college sophomore who was one of the first recipients of student scholarship money from the early years ACCTS was at work here. She is now at Shandong University studying marketing."

Some of the team also participated in an international forum in Beijing and met with leaders of the Nanjing Aviators Association. Please continue to pray for our outreach in China, especially as the nation is going through great changes which will affect future projects and endeavors.

Prayer Items

From 5-12 August, ACCTS conducted a Youth and Family Leadership Camp in China. Praise God for the opportunities He has opened up in China for friendship-based outreach and ask that God will continue to work in this nation.

Pray with military believers in Haiti as they shine as lights for Christ in their nation. An ACCTS staff member will be ministering to them from 20-24 August – pray that this mission trip will be fruitful and an encouragement to the Haitian believers.

Pray with military Christians in Nigeria as they prepare for this September's AMCF Pan-African Regional Conference. Pray that the conference will be a tremendous blessing to all who attend and act as a starting agent for more military ministry in the Pan-African region.

Do you want to pray more for ACCTS? We'd be happy to add you to our weekly email prayer updates – email us at editor@accts.org and we'll add your name to that list.

Not Alone

Each year ACCTS' South Korean partner, Mission Support Organisation, hosts the Military Evangelism Observation program to help and encourage military believers from around the world. This year's program included participants from Albania, Armenia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Liberia, Nepal, Pakistan, Russia, Sri Lanka, and Ukraine. Attendees discussed how to help MCFs grow in various situations and environments and how to lead Bible studies and prayer groups for MCF members.

ACCTS staff members Rick Ryles and Bernhard Kaltenbach taught several sessions at MEO, and Bernhard reports, "The unique composition of these participants and their different backgrounds allowed each to gain new insight from each other in how to reach military people for Christ. Some participants came from nations where Christians are a small minority. Only 1.4% of Nepal's population are Christians, for instance, while others came from countries where Christianity is widespread. All were encouraged and reassured that they aren't alone in their efforts to strengthen their MCFs."



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