



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.

CLOSENESS IN CHRIST: Fellowship and Unity of the Spirit in South America



“It’s a joy to be with Latin American military believers. They love each other and the Lord and are amazingly enthusiastic in their fellowship!” report Phil and Sue Exner after attending the South American AMCF Regional Conference in October.

The military Christian fellowship of Argentina hosted the meeting, which included over 110 participants from seven South American nations. The conference emphasized reconciliation with God, unity among believers, and endurance through life’s difficulties. It was a much-needed spiritual respite for many participants, as evidenced by

the time and effort it cost them to attend -- several groups traveled by car for days to get there, and one participant saved up more than one year’s salary to attend.

Following the regional conference, the MCF hosted an Interaction leadership program to give additional ministry training to regional MCF leaders and members. ACCTS’ Latin American coordinators, Bob and Billie Jean Reifsnnyder, were invaluable participants in both the conference and Interaction training.

During both events, Sue Exner notes, the closeness of the

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Closeness in Christ:

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believers was unmistakable: "Many of these people only see each other every two years, but their love for each other was strong, and they were so sensitive to the needs of others. Several times I watched groups of people spontaneously stop to pray for someone, and, when they discovered that one of their number needed surgery, they gladly took up a love offering to meet the financial need."

This conference "helped to strengthen the ties of friendship between the MCFs of each country, and it taught me that Jesus moves in different ways in each MCF to glorify his name."

--South American participant

Give thanks for these South American military Christians and please pray for their various ministries. Several nations in the region, including Argentina and Venezuela, are experiencing significant financial and political hardships -- please uphold those nations and their citizens in your prayers.



Thriving in Christ

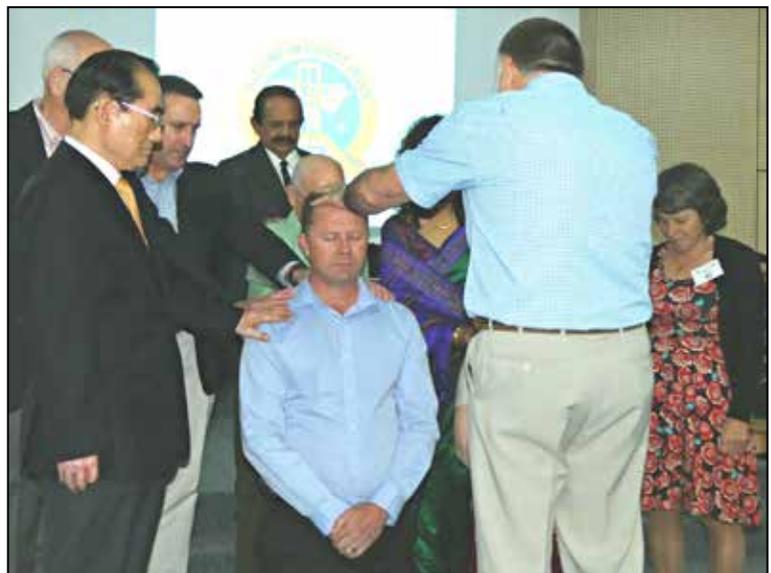
“Thriving in Christ in a Challenging World” was the theme of October’s AMCF South Pacific Regional Conference in Australia, which included Bible teaching and interactive workshops on networking between military Christian fellowships, strengthening marriages, Christian leadership, and military Christian ethics.

Seven island nations were represented at the conference, which was preceded by an Interaction leadership training program. The conference also provided an important opportunity to inaugurate the new AMCF vice president for the region, Lt. Col. (Ret.) Jamie Van Heel of Australia.

ACCTS staff members Russell and Helen Bielenberg of Australia were involved in the conference and Interaction program, as was ACCTS’ director Phil Exner and staff member Sue Exner. “It was important to meet with believers in this region during this strategic time as the new AMCF vice president assumes his duties,” Phil shares. “Sue and I had a lot of invaluable one-on-one discussions with the AMCF president, the new vice president, and national military Christian fellowship leaders. Our conversations helped regional Christians learn how ACCTS’ programs can be of use to their MCFs, and they helped us better understand how to serve indigenous Christians. One particular area that came to light was the need for more training for chaplains, since some nations in the region provide little or no training in this area. We plan to invite some of those chaplains to future Chaplains Interaction leadership programs.”

“Sue and I participated in this conference shortly after we finished two other

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Thriving in Christ

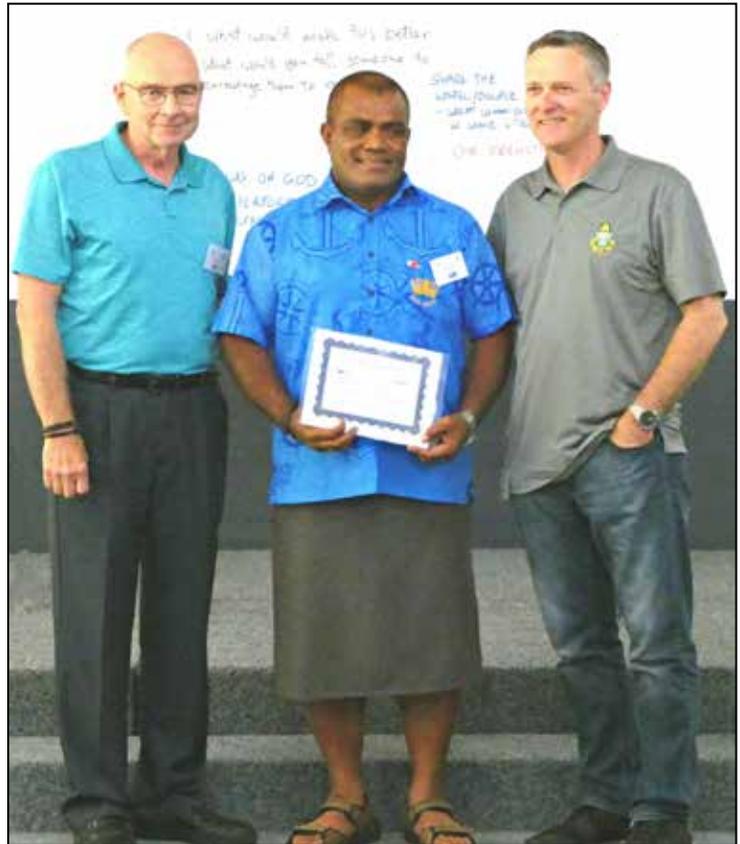
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international ministry trips. It struck me how, despite the many cultural differences, people have the same spiritual needs all around the world.

Whether we were in Finland or Argentina or Australia, military Christians asked for prayer for wisdom as they live out their faith while serving in their nations' armed forces. They asked for prayer to minister effectively through their fellowship groups, and they asked for prayer for their families and friends and the struggles that we all encounter.

When you meet such diversity of cultures, languages, tastes, histories, and traditions, you begin to appreciate the greatness of the miracle of Christ uniting us as one family under God.

Although we may come from different branches of the Christian church, it is Christ alone who motivates these international MCF leaders to serve Him as they serve their countries. They devote so much of their talents, time, and money into God's kingdom so that men and women in their national armed forces and their families can find redemption and salvation in Christ."



Finland: 60 Years of Military Ministry



For 60 years military believers in Finland have followed Christ and shared him through their military Christian fellowship, Päälystön Hengellinen Säätiö (PHS). In September the MCF celebrated its anniversary with thankfulness for what God has done in their nation through PHS.

A strong representation of younger, active-duty personnel attended the event, which is an encouraging answer to prayer as Christianity has declined in Finland (especially in the under-30 population group). Timo Vehvilainen, a former ACCTS

intern who is now the president of PHS, opened the celebration in a very old and beautiful church which was lit only by candlelight. The anniversary celebration included two evening concerts aimed at Finnish youth, which provided strong opportunities for outreach in the community. All the participants left the celebration encouraged by what God has done over the last six decades through the MCF and confidently hopeful for their country that He will continue to use military believers who are committed to Him.

December Prayer Items

Some international military Christian fellowships will host Christmas-related programs this month. Pray that these events will lead military personnel and their families to a deeper knowledge of Christ.

About 215 million Christians now experience high, very high, or extreme levels of persecution, according to the organization Open Doors. One in 12 Christians live where Christianity is illegal, forbidden, or punished. Please pray for Christians in these nations, where persecution is highest: *North Korea, Afghanistan, Somalia, Sudan, Pakistan, Eritrea, Libya, Iraq, Yemen, and Iran.*

Pray for ACCTS as an organization, and for our individual staff members, as we complete 2018 and prepare for a new year of encouraging international military men and women in their faith in Christ. Ask that God guide us in all we do so that we can effectively share Him among the world's armed forces.

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.

OUR CORE VALUES: ♦Biblically-based ♦Spirit-led ♦Prayer-centered ♦People-focused



**“Once in our world, a Stable had something in it that was bigger than our whole world.”
--C.S. Lewis**



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