



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.

NURTURING FAITH IN NEPAL



In a nation that has experienced drastic changes in the last 70 years – including the end of hereditary rule, the development of a parliamentary system, and a ten-year Maoist insurgency – the Nepal Military Police Christian Fellowship (NMPCF) is nurturing and deepening the spiritual lives of Christians who serve, or have served, in Nepal’s armed forces.

Less than 1.4% of Nepal’s citizens are Christians, and in this predominately Hindu nation those believers can experience negative repercussions because of their beliefs. Despite that, and a ban on proselytization, Christianity in Nepal is growing rapidly – and the military Christian fellowship (MCF) is also growing as the number of believers in the armed forces increases.

In November ACCTS staff members Rick and Melissa Ryles,

along with volunteer Leslie Santee, accompanied Nepalese MCF leaders to help establish a new chapter in one city, encourage believers in other locations, teach at a marriage seminar, and participate in the MCF’s annual meeting. In each location, MCF leaders and the Ryles’ emphasized the important role MCFs have in empowering military believers and local churches. MCF Coordinator Chiranjivi Sharma reports: “Colonel Rick Ryles...highlighted that we need to have regular spiritual food to increase our faith; a one-time visit to a church in a week is not enough. There is a need... to meet and encourage and exhort each other to help each other grow.”

In Kathmandu, over 75 soldiers and family members attended the 13th annual NMPCF celebration. Rick shared how he came to faith in Christ and his belief in the importance of international military ministry. Melissa also addressed

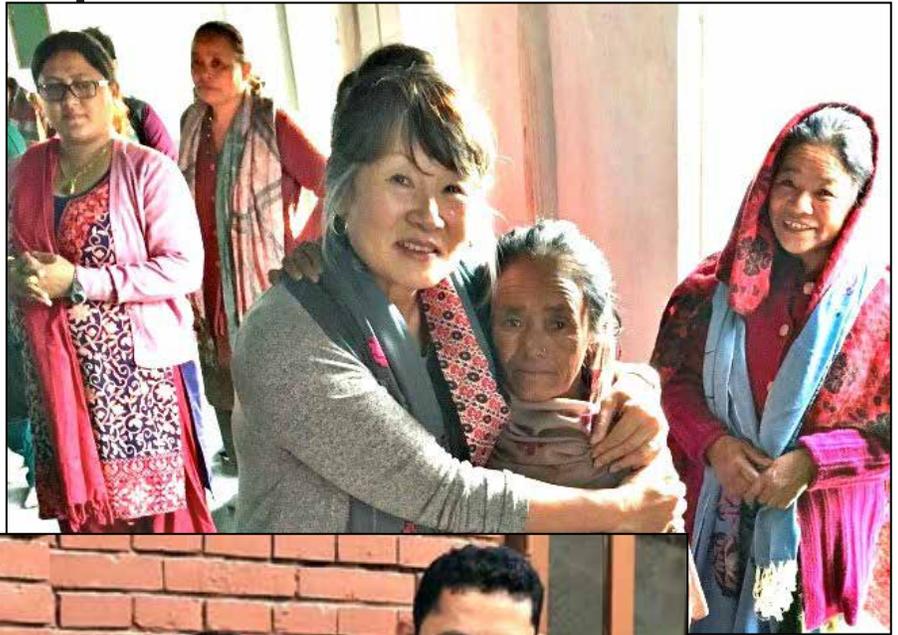
Nurturing Faith in Nepal

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the group, as MCF Coordinator Sharma shares: “Melissa was touched by the humility of the women participating in the fellowship and encouraged them to continue to participate and encourage each other. Ms. Melissa shared from the book of Proverbs and emphasized the important role women play in their families.”

The MCF’s five-day marriage seminar, run by Cru Military Ministry with co-hosting by ACCTS and MMI, highlighted how men and women react to different situations and how to manage conflict in family life. “We realized that, since we started to run this training, people have started to open up and we have been able to provide some guidance and support,” Chiranjivi shares. “We also discussed different role models existing in different cultures and society and the need to follow the best model from the Bible... We have already been invited by several MCF members to provide training and coaching to the new young couples.”

Praise God with us for the growth of the MCF in Nepal and the encouragement that ACCTS staff members have been to this group. Pray that the MCF will continue to expand around the nation as its leaders identify military Christians and help them grow in Christ.



India: Praise God for the faithfulness of military believers in India, who held their second annual national conference in November. “All of the selected speakers were outstanding with challenging messages to the group!” ACCTS staff member Rick Ryles reports. “A highlight of the weekend was the attendance at the conference by serving military Christians and their families, who meet regularly for Bible study. ACCTS’ Asia Ministry contributed \$2,000 to defray the costs of travel and onsite support for the conference. I am confident that the new leadership of the military Christian fellowship will unite the chapters of the MCF-I throughout the country.” Pray with military Christians in this nation as they face many challenges in living out their faith.



Bhutan: Although Bhutan is a difficult nation in which to be a Christian, there are military and civilian Christians who follow Christ and meet regularly for prayer and fellowship. During Rick and Melissa Ryles’ November trip to this Buddhist nation, they met with local believers to discuss how the fellowship can grow without endangering their members. Rick also spoke at a day-long seminar on personal spiritual growth. Continue to uphold these Bhutanese brothers and sisters in your prayers.



God's Calling in Ukraine

The Ukrainian military Christian fellowship, OXBY, held its 31st Prayer and Planning Conference in December with the theme, "My Response to God's Calling", taken from Isaiah 6:8: "Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?' and I said, 'Here am I. Send me!'"

ACCTS staff member Dick Barnes reports that, despite snow and sub-freezing temperatures, "Fifty two MCF delegates from oblasts throughout Ukraine participated in this one-day event that consisted of Bible teaching, prayer for one another, singing, presentations by volunteer chaplains on their activities, as well as informal discussions and fellowship."



Please pray:

- for peace and unity in Ukraine and for stabilization of the situation in Eastern Ukraine
- for closer working relationships between church denominations, the Ukrainian MCF, and volunteer chaplains
- for God's care and protection of MCF leaders, members, their families, and their homes
- for more volunteer chaplains to visit military men and women serving in Eastern Ukraine and for wisdom in helping military members from Eastern Ukraine deal with combat stress and re-integrate into their families and normal life

February Prayer Items

ACCTS' ministry partner in South Korea, Mission Support Organization, is holding a training event with military personnel in Cambodia this month. Please pray for the Holy Spirit to lead and guide all who teach at and attend this event.

From 7-11 February military Christian fellowship leaders from European nations will gather in Germany for a time of refreshing and recharging. Pray that each participant will be encouraged in their walk with Christ and find unity of the Spirit with others at this meeting.

Please pray for preparations for next month's Waterloo to World War 2 cadet trip, which is led by ACCTS' director Phil Exner. Pray that the US and UK cadets who attend will have their hearts open

to learning spiritual lessons related to leadership, integrity, and character that can be applied to the challenges they will face in their military careers.

Pray for preparations for the AMCF Quinquennial leaders meeting, which ACCTS will host in October for the AMCF president and vice presidents, as well as leaders from ACCTS and our partner organizations in the UK and South Korea. Pray that international participants will receive their visas to attend and ask that we will be able to raise funds to fulfill our hosting costs for this important meeting.

Please pray for staff members who are working to develop more contacts and outreach opportunities in China.

Chaplains Interaction 2019

Chaplains play a vital role in the spiritual and emotional lives of military personnel. Through ACCTS' Chaplains Interaction program we provide vital training for international chaplains in chaplain/commander relationships, ministering in a multi-denominational and pluralistic military, ethical issues, managing operational stress, and other areas of chaplain ministry.

Chaplains Interaction 2019 takes place from 18-29 March in San Antonio, Texas. Participants from twelve nations have been invited to attend, but your help is needed!

How You Can Help:

1. Pray: Please pray for preparations for this training event, for Chaplain Ron Huggler and others who will lead it, and for all expected participants (pictured to the right). Visas for travel to the U.S. have become harder to obtain in the last few years – please pray that all participants will receive their visas in time. Nations which have been invited to send delegates are: Bangladesh, Barbados, Dominica, Ghana, Haiti, Jordan, Liberia, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, and Uganda.

2. Sponsor: Although some participants can contribute toward their own expenses, many cannot. Your donation to Chaplains Interaction will pay for international participants' round-trip airfare and food and lodging costs (about \$2,600 per participant). You can mail your donation to ACCTS or donate online at our website: www.accts.org (click the "donate" button and follow the instructions).



Welcome Home!

ACCTS staff member Noel Dawes continues to help lead Welcome Home Initiative meetings, three-day retreats for war-zone veterans who may be experiencing post-trauma stress and moral/soul injury. These retreats help veterans talk about things like drug addiction, alcohol use, and suicidal feelings while also teaching them to turn to Christ through Bible reading, prayer, and Christian fellowship. After a November retreat, Noel reported, "We have the veterans break into small groups, and that's where the healing is really done. We pray for every single person and encourage them to tell their stories. I encourage vets to look at themselves as mission-orientated. They have two missions: their mission to themselves is to live in such a way that they continue the healing process, and their mission to others is to reach out to help someone else, being a bridge to someone else's healing."

Upcoming Ministry Events

- **7-11 February** AMCF Leaders Meeting, Germany
- **8-16 March** Waterloo to World War 2 cadet trip, Belgium and France
- **9-10 March** Military Ministries International Supporter Weekend, UK
- **11-13 March** Fellowship of Christian Military Ministries, Colorado
- **18-29 March** Chaplains Interaction, Texas
- **15 March – 4 April** English Language Training program with MCF of Mongolia
- **April** Brazil Chaplains Conference (dates to be determined)
- **5-6 April** ACCTS Board Meeting
- **24-26 May** Swedish MCF's 90th Anniversary Celebration
- **5-19 June** Interaction Rocky Mountain High, Colorado
- **17-24 June** Military Evangelism Observation, South Korea
- **29 June-9 July** English Language Training program with MCF of Moldova



Association for
Christian Conferences
Teaching and Service

PO Box 27239
Denver, CO 80227-0239
Phone: 1-800-487-8108
Fax: 303-986-4710
Email: accts@accts.org
Web: www.accts.org



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