



ACCTS *in action*

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.

SPIRITUAL REJUVENATION IN EUROPE



Europe's long history of Christianity doesn't mean it's easy carrying out military ministry in this region. To support military Christian fellowship (MCF) leaders as they deal with the challenges of ministry, ACCTS helps coordinate and fund the annual AMCF European Leaders Meeting to provide spiritual and physical rejuvenation for Europe's MCF leaders.

ACCTS' deputy director, Bernhard Kaltenbach, remarks, "Participants at this annual meeting have told us repeatedly how important it is for them individually, and for their MCFs' ministries. Getting people from multiple nations together is no small feat, but it is so valuable and has increased ministry opportunities. We've seen national MCFs helping each other, adopting new ministry ideas, and more effectively reaching men and women in their nations' armed forces."

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Spiritual Rejuvenation in Europe

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This year's February gathering took place in Germany and included military Christian leaders from 22 nations. Times of prayer, discussions, and Bible study highlighted the meeting, as well as scheduled free time for personal interaction.

“There are so many factors that make military ministry in Europe a challenge right now,” Bernhard continues. “The European Union’s current political climate, including the Brexit situation, affects it. Inter-nation challenges, such as the one between Russian and Ukraine, impact the work. Europe has also had a huge influx of refugees which affects outreach, so in order to be effective **these military Christian fellowships have to constantly re-evaluate and re-assess their ministry approaches and adapt them as needed.**”

“The meeting is for MCF leaders, but in the last few years several of those leaders have given up their spot to younger MCF members to encourage them and help them see the importance of military ministry. This spreads the impact of the gathering and builds up future MCF leaders as well.”

Personal, ongoing relationships are also a vital part of this meeting, as ACCTS staff member Dick Barnes states: “This meeting is designed so that we have time to get to know each other better, deepen relationships formed in the past, and get to know newcomers.”

Please pray that the men and women who attended the European Leaders Meeting will put into practice the ideas and practices they learned and will continue to identify other committed military Christians in their nation and throughout the region who will move military ministry forward for Christ’s kingdom.

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Spiritual Rejuvenation in Europe

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Upcoming Ministry Activities:

- 5-7 April ACCTS board meeting
- 17 April – 4 May English Language Training, Mongolia
- 4-15 May East Asia Ministry Trip
- 24-26 May Swedish military Christian fellowship's 90th anniversary celebration
- 5-19 June Interaction-Rocky Mountain High leadership training for young officers
- 17-24 June Military Evangelism Observation training, MSO-South Korea
- 30 June – 9 July English Language Training, Moldova
- 15-22 July English and Bible Camp, Ukraine
- 29-31 August AMCF East Asia Conference, Japan
- 19-25 September AMCF Latin America Conference, Panama
- 29 September - 4 October ACCTS staff meeting
- 5-6 October ACCTS board meeting
- 6-11 October AMCF Quinquennial, co-hosted by ACCTS

April Prayer Items

- Pray with ACCTS' board of directors as they meet from 5-6 April. Ask that the Holy Spirit lead them as they plan for future ACCTS' ministry. Please pray for each board member: Jody Bursley, Ward Bursley, Phil Exner (also ACCTS' executive director), Sue Exner (also a staff member), Jon Gabrielson, Jim Hougnon, Sue Huggler, Chris Johnson, Deni Johnson, Stan Mincks, Terry Pierce, Steven Sifers (board president), Deb Sifers, Kent Strader, and Brad Winsted.
- ACCTS, in cooperation with the Ministry of Defense of Mongolia and the military Christian fellowship of Mongolia, is hosting an English Language Training program from 17 April to 4 May. Pray that this program will help further the MCF's ministry in their nation and that the English lessons will provide opportunities to share Christ's hope and love.
- Uphold in prayer ACCTS staff members who minister to international military students in the US, asking that God give them wisdom in their daily interactions with students.

ACCTS also sends out weekly prayer items by email. If you want to sign up to receive these, please email us at accts@accts.org.

Myanmar Discipleship Training



In January ACCTS' partner organization in South Korea, Mission Support Organisation (MSO), hosted an annual discipleship training program in Myanmar for military and police personnel. ACCTS' Asia Ministry Coordinator, Rick Ryles, was an instructor in the course and reports, "This year there were about 29 delegates, with the majority attending for the first time. The discipleship program is divided into three major blocks of instruction: leadership, theology, and AMCF Handbook-based training. The delegates were eager to learn and be challenged to grow the Myanmar military Christian

fellowship. Myanmar continues to have the highest percentage of Christians among their neighboring countries of India, Bangladesh, Laos, and Thailand. Only China may have a larger percentage of Christians."

Praise God for MSO and its work around the world, and pray with military believers in Myanmar and the Indochina region as they follow Christ and share His hope with their families, friends, and coworkers.

AMCF and ACCTS: Partnering in the Gospel

ACCTS is a primary supporting organization for AMCF -- the Association of Military Christian Fellowships (amcf-int.org) -- and our staff work closely with the AMCF president and vice presidents to reach more than 150 nations with the hope of Christ. This October ACCTS will cosponsor a once-every-five-year meeting for the AMCF leaders and staff members from ACCTS and two other supporting organizations. As we prepare for this important meeting, we've asked some of our U.S. and international partners for input on how ACCTS has ministered throughout the years. Major General (USA, Ret.) Clay Buckingham, a former AMCF president, and his wife Clara responded with their story of ACCTS' involvement in their lives and in worldwide ministry:

"ACCTS has been a big part of our lives and witness since ACCTS was organized 47 years ago. Cleo Buxton, then ACCTS' Executive Director, was directly responsible for my selection to be president of the AMCF in 1976. ACCTS played a major supporting role during my 15 years of service in that position.

"My wife and I have traveled with ACCTS staff members Bob and BJ Reifsnnyder to the ten major countries of South America and to three countries of Central America. We travelled with staff members Earl and Sue Casner to Eastern Europe and with Dell and Bette McDonald to Russia and Africa. We have participated in many ACCTS-sponsored world, regional and national AMCF conferences in Europe, Asia, Africa, South and Central America and North America.

"For 20 years, we assisted with ACCTS' Interaction at White Sulphur Springs, the eastern military family conference and retreat center owned and operated by the Officers' Christian Fellowship of the USA. During recent years, we have participated as instructors and counselors at ACCTS' Chaplains Interaction and we have hosted ACCTS staff and board members in our home.

"Consistently, during all of these years, ACCTS leaders have provided us with valuable Christian counsel and inspirational support and friendship. To this very day, our closest friends in Christ are ACCTS board and staff members, both former and present." -- Clay and Clara Buckingham



Photos of the Buckingham and international military Christians are from AMCF Global Interaction 2014, which ACCTS helped sponsor.

Scholarships Needed to Rally Future Leaders

ACCTS' Interaction-Rocky Mountain High program trains young military men and women in Christian leadership, spiritual development, and the concept of viewing military service as a ministry. These life lessons are taught amid activities such as mountain climbing, rappelling, and tours of the US Air Force Academy and other sites in Colorado. The program is often a life-changing experience for participants, and we've been thankful that many former IRMH attendees have become leaders in their military Christian fellowships.



Over 28 nations have been represented at this program since its inception in 1996, and this year we have invited young military men and women from ten nations (**Barbados, Burkina Faso, Gambia, Ghana, Haiti, Ivory Coast, Nigeria, Poland, Romania and Uganda**) to attend I-RMH 2019. Because of the difficulties of obtaining visas, we expect that some of these people won't be able to attend. However, those who will be able to attend will need an average of **\$3000** in scholarship help to cover their airfare, food and lodging, insurance and the RMH fee. If you can help with these scholarship needs, you can donate on our website (www.accts.org – click the “donate” button and select **Interaction RMH Ministries**) or mail your scholarship gift to ACCTS, PO Box 27239, Denver, CO 80227-0239 with a note that it is for the IRMH-Scholarship fund.



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