



# 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.

## INFLUENCING SOLDIER'S HEARTS AND LEADER'S LIVES

The opportunity to teach English at Mongolia's Armed Forces Headquarters in April proved to be a unique opportunity for ACCTS and the Centurions, the military Christian fellowship of Mongolia. Six ACCTS team members traveled to Ulaan Bataar to teach English at the general staff headquarters, as ACCTS' executive director Phil Exner shares: "The Ministry of Defense's goal in these English classes was for their personnel to learn enough English to talk with English-speaking leaders and troops from other nations. The MCF's goal was to be a blessing to military personnel through this training, and ACCTS' goal was to support the MCF's work and ministry and help them gain freer access to military personnel. The six of us taught varying levels of English classes for officers and enlisted personnel, and we individualized the classes greatly, depending on who participated."

English classes were held during the day, while the evenings consisted of opportunities to speak at and participate in multiple Centurion and CRU events. The very first evening's activity was an Easter outreach to cadets. ACCTS staff member Rick Ryles, who shared his testimony at this meeting, shares, "After I spoke, each

*continued on page 2*



*"Your committed, sacrificed time here had a big influence wonderfully in soldier's hearts and leader's lives. Thank you so much for your great partnership."  
-- Sumya, president of Centurions Mongolian Military Ministry*

# INFLUENCING SOLDIER'S HEARTS AND LEADER'S LIVES

*continued from page 1*

cadet leader took a group of 3-4 cadets to hold private discussions on faith. Of the 19 non-believing cadets, 12 came to Christ that evening!”

Later in the week, staff member Ed Ward spoke to participants at a police couples’ seminar, and Rick reports that Ed’s presentation was “well-received and impactful.” Staff member Russ Hammerud shared at a senior officers’ meeting, volunteer Heidi Carlson spoke at a cadet outreach meeting, and volunteer Paul Shorock shared with a weekly NCO outreach meeting. The NCO meeting is a new outreach with committed leaders who have a great heart for sharing the Gospel with Mongolia’s soldiers. Volunteer Rick Jackson was excited to see what the NCO group is doing: “The non-commissioned officer (NCO) group is small with a tremendous vision for the country! The core group of three senior NCOs recently went on a one-week mission trip, where they presented Christ to other NCOs. Of the 18 people they presented Christ to, 12 became Christ followers! They want to see NCO Christ-followers meeting at every Mongolian military post... **It seems that everywhere we went, we kept running into Christ-followers who were actively impacting their world!**” The senior officers’ group, which meets weekly, has visited all the Mongolian military outposts around the country, where they talked about Jesus and presented discussions on ethics. They know Christians at a number of those posts and are encouraging them to start weekly meetings at their locations.

During a separate senior officers’ meeting, at which volunteer Rick Jackson spoke, a couple also shared their vision of starting a ministry to the police and defense university academies. This aligns well with the Centurion vision to open a cadet hospitality house in the same location.

Phil Exner also addressed cadets at an outreach meeting, and reports, “Borrowing from one of the most embarrassing events of my life – trying to run a half-mile race like a 100-yard dash – I

*continued on page 3*



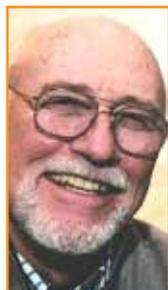
# INFLUENCING SOLDIER'S HEARTS AND LEADER'S LIVES

*continued from page 2*

reminded the cadets to keep their eyes on the finish line of life so that they pursue the right goals in the right way.”

“This trip paid many dividends, and opened door for future ministry opportunities,” Phil concludes. “Mongolia is an extremely large nation in terms of land mass, and so the MCF has a lot of ground to cover. But they’ve developed a credible and thriving ministry and we’re happy to work with them as they share Christ in this primarily Buddhist nation.”

*For more information on this trip and military ministry in Mongolia, please visit our website for an additional article which will be posted there.*



## WITH THE LORD

In May, ACCTS staff member Commander (USCG, Ret.) Frank Cole passed away. Frank had a major impact in the lives of military believers around the world, especially through his teaching at ACCTS' Chaplains Interaction training programs. Please uphold in prayer Frank's wife Ginny, their children, and grandchildren at this time of loss.

# NEW MINISTRY DIRECTIONS IN BELARUS

ACCTS staff member Dick Barnes and two Military Ministry International team leaders, Grozdan Stoevski and Igor Sawicki, met with members of the Belarusian military Christian fellowship in April to explore new directions in military ministry. Their discussions focused on developing programs centering on the spiritual aspects of reconciliation, with specific application to today's military environment. Dick reports, "This trip brought representatives of ACCTS and MMI together at the same time with Belarusian MCF President Sergei K. and members of his fellowship, as well as with the chaplain of Belarusian military forces -- an effective example of partnering in the Gospel." Please pray that this new reconciliation program will be used mightily by God and pray for the Belarusian MCF membership to attract younger, active-duty military members.



## AFTER-ACTION REPORT: Chaplains Interaction 2019

Two participants at ACCTS' Chaplains Interaction training program have reported back with news about how Chaplains Interaction has already affected their ministries. A chaplain from Liberia reports, "By the grace of God since my return from the training in the States (Chaplains Interaction 2019) there is great improvement. I had a wonderful time of briefing with the commander, the leadership of the military church that we run here and everyone embraces the materials and we have started with the children and married couples meeting and the response is impressive. I believe that we will do better with what we received at the training."

A brigadier general from Ghana shares, "My Christian life was so challenged at Chaplains Interaction 2019 with the level of commitment, dedication and enthusiasm with which the entire team applied themselves to the course. I am back in Ghana and working towards hosting the West Africa Chaplains Basic Course. Kindly pray with us as we work towards that programme. Also bear us up in prayers as we work to impact our Armed Forces, countries and the world at large."

Thank you to everyone who prayed for and financially supported the Chaplains Interactions participants, and please continue praying that their work as chaplains in their home nations will flourish.

# MEET SOME OF THE QUINQUENNIAL PARTICIPANTS

In October ACCTS will host the Quinquennial, a once-every-five-year meeting of AMCF leaders and leaders from AMCF's support organizations – ACCTS in the US, MMI in the UK, and MSO in South Korea. These are three of the international military ministry leaders who will attend:

**General Srilal Weerasooriya of Sri Lanka** has been the AMCF president since 2012. His military career included service as the Overall Operations Commander of Sri Lanka's defense forces. He will guide the discussions, prayer, and planning time at the Quinquennial.



*Gen. Srilal Weerasooriya*

**Brig. Gen. Isam Oumeish of Jordan** has been the AMCF vice president for the Middle East since 2015. General Oumeish was born into a Christian family and made a personal profession of faith as a teenager. Before retiring from the Jordanian army, he was the head of the dermatology department at King Hussein Medical Center.



*Brig. Gen. Isam Oumeish*

**Lt. Col. Jamie Van Heel of Australia** has been the AMCF vice president for the Pacific region since 2018. Lt. Col. Van Heel transitioned from the permanent ADF to the Army Reserve in 2018. In his Reserve capacity he is working with International Policy Division and as a staff officer to the Anglican Bishop to the Defence Force.



*Lt. Col. Jamie Van Heel*

## June Prayer Requests

- Please pray for ACCTS' annual Interaction-Rocky Mountain High, which takes place from 5-19 June. Five young military believers from Ivory Coast, Romania, and Uganda will participate in this leadership training program. Ask that the Holy Spirit guide them as they learn how to be lights for Christ in the armed forces of their nations. Pray for wisdom for I-RMH leaders and ask for safety as participants climb and hike Colorado's mountains.
- Pray for an ACCTS staff member as he attends a conference for chaplains in France from 10-16 June. Ask that his discussions with participants encourage them and give them new insight into serving Christ in their roles as chaplains.
- From 17-24 June, several ACCTS staff will teach at the annual Military Evangelism Observation in South Korea. Pray that the teachings and personal interactions at this event will inspire and encourage participants to continue sharing the Good News within their nations' armed forces.
- On 29 June, ACCTS and the MCF of Moldova begin an English training program with family members of Moldovan military personnel. Last year this program led to many participants, and their parents, learning about Christ and the MCF. Pray that the Holy Spirit will move again this year and reach the hearts of Moldovan young people and their parents. Pray for the ACCTS staff who are teaching at this program, and the MCF staff and volunteers who work so hard to make it happen.

*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](mailto:accts@accts.org).*

## “God Put You in My Life”

Through their ministry to international military students at the Defense Language Institute in San Antonio, ACCTS staff members Dave and Karen Wittman have amazing opportunities to share Christ with international military personnel at DLI. Recently one of their students emailed them a note of appreciation: “Attending the ACCTS Bible study and chapel helped me to learn more about God’s word and practice my English since my first day in the U.S...I am very happy and grateful with God because he allowed me to know you...Starting from the day that I met you in DLI you have been supporting me in every step that I do and in a short period of time you became my parents in the U.S. That made a big difference in my life because when I was coming to the U.S. I thought that I was going to be totally alone here, with nobody to trust, nobody to talk and nobody to listen to me... And in the very first day, God put you in my life, and that is a big difference and a big change in my life.” Praise God with us for the Wittmans and other ACCTS staff who befriend and minister to international students and pray for His continued guidance on their ministries.



*The Wittmans with international student friends.*



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](mailto:accts@accts.org)  
Web: [www.accts.org](http://www.accts.org)



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NONPROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
LITTLETON, CO  
PERMIT NO. 162



*A higher standard.  
A higher purpose.*