



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.

REJOICING IN SWEDEN: 90 Years of Military Ministry

In May the military Christian fellowship of Sweden celebrated its 90th year of ministry to Sweden's armed forces. Joining in the celebration were the AMCF president, General Srilal Weerasooriya and his wife Dilhani from Sri Lanka and other international guests from Denmark, Finland, Norway, and the US.

ACCTS' deputy director, Bernhard Kaltenbach, reports, "Lt. Col. Torbjorn Bostrom, who is Sweden's MCF president and the AMCF vice president for Northeast Europe, started the celebration by presenting a history of the Swedish MCF. General Srilal Weerasooriya then spoke about the work of the AMCF. During the second session we learned about the MCF's current situation by a presentation by MCF member Johannes Johansson. During the third session we prayed and discussed methods the Swedish MCF can take to strengthen and grow in the hope that God will allow them to serve for another 90 years. We concluded with a celebration dinner where greetings were brought from AMCF, ACCTS, several international MCFs, and MCF members and chaplains. The MCF leaders told us they were very grateful that we'd traveled so far to celebrate this milestone. We all left encouraged by the zeal the Swedish MCF has shown over the years to influence their armed forces for Christ and for their strong desire to continue their work for years to come."

Sweden's military Christian fellowship was founded in 1929 and was the fourth military Christian fellowship formed, after the British, German, and Netherlands MCFs.

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REJOICING IN SWEDEN: 90 YEARS OF MILITARY MINISTRY

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Today, the MCF and its members face unique challenges. While Sweden has a strong religious history (and had a state church until the year 2000), the nation has become increasingly secularized, as has much of Europe. According to a 2009 Gallup poll, only 17% of the Swedish population considered religion an important part of their life. The continued presence of this small MCF, however, shows that God continues to work in Sweden and has a witness for Christ in the armed forces. Please pray for these brothers and sisters in Christ as they share His hope and joy with their coworkers in the Swedish Armed Forces (Forsvarsmakten), Army (Armen), Royal Swedish Navy (Marinen), and Swedish Air Force (Svenska Flygvapnet).



INTENSIVE, STRATEGIC MINISTRY IN UKRAINE AND MOLDOVA

“In Galatians 5:22-25 we read that ‘the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law... If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.’

These verses became very real to me as the Lord abundantly provided for all my needs on this intensive, strategic trip to Europe,” reports staff member Dick Barnes after his May ministry trip to Moldova and Ukraine.

The main purpose of Dick’s trip to Moldova was to finalize arrangements for this year’s English language camp (30 June to 9 July), which will take place on the grounds of a Ministry of Defense camp. The program is co-hosted by ACCTS and the MCF of Moldova and will include both English and spiritual lessons.

During his visit, Dick met with and encouraged Eduard and Mariana Rosca and their family, and assisted Mariana with some English language discussion for her class on their final day of school. He also participated in Mariana’s English club—an activity that started following last year’s English camp.

While in Ukraine, Dick met with Nikolai D. and his wife Vera. Nikolai oversees the chaplaincy program at a military hospital in Cherkassy, which has an excellent example of the work of volunteer chaplains in Ukraine. Dick also met with and encouraged Julian S., a pastor who is also responsible for the chaplaincy within the archdiocese of Kiev (which covers five regions).

The 32nd prayer and planning session of the Ukrainian MCF took place on

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Dick Barnes (center) with Moldovan Christians



Nikolai and Vera D with Dick Barnes in Ukraine



Dinner and fellowship with Ukrainian military Christians

UKRAINE/MOLDOVA

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1 June. Thirty Ukrainian delegates attended the event, as did Dick. He also attended a luncheon that included military chaplains and an active duty officer.

Please continue to pray that the Holy Spirit will guide and lead all military ministry in these two nations, and that God's people in Ukraine and Moldova will have everything they need to carry out continued ministry.



Pastor Julian and family, Ukraine

AMCF QUINQUENNIAL PARTICIPANTS NEED YOU!

Once every five years the vice presidents from all fourteen AMCF regions of the world gather with the AMCF president and the three AMCF Principal Supporting Organizations (PSOs --ACCTS in the US, MMI in the UK, and MSO in South Korea) to share, encourage, envision, and plan worldwide ministry to military. This Quinquennial meeting is an important way to re-affirm and strengthen the global unity of vision across the military Christian fellowships in the 150+ countries that they serve.

ACCTS is hosting the 2019 Quinquennial and has reserved rooms at OCF's White Sulphur Springs retreat center in Pennsylvania. While the AMCF leaders and their wives will pay for all, or a portion of, their international flights to the meeting, ACCTS will pay for in-country costs such as lodging and transportation to and from White Sulphur Springs, and will provide some financial support for vice presidents who can't pay for all of their international airfare.

Please prayerfully consider helping us sponsor these international military ministry leaders so they can learn from one another's experiences and the PSOs in order to be equipped to serve the AMCF in their regions in the years to come. ACCTS' total remaining need to fund our commitment to the Quinquennial is for \$24,000. A gift of \$90 covers one day's expenses per person and a gift of \$630 covers each person's entire stay and local transport at the Quinquennial with international travel subsidies of about \$7,500.

Thank you for your continued interest and partnership in supporting military Christian leaders around the world. You can mail a gift to us at ACCTS, P.O. Box 27239, Denver, CO 80227 or donate online at www.accts.org (click the donate tab at top, and select your method of giving. Then, in the "Category & Funds" section, select "AMCF Ministry").



"ENCOURAGEMENT MARATHON" LEADS TO GROWTH

One essential in ACCTS' training toolkit is inductive Bible study. This simple method of Bible study allows anyone to begin a study with their coworkers and friends. One of our staff members, who trained military believers in Brazil to lead an inductive Bible study, received this encouraging message about the impact of his visit: "I thank God because through the Lord, and your testimony, I and my mother were encouraged, trained, and built to continue with this beautiful ministry that is spreading the Gospel of Jesus



in the military. After your departure, we started on Mondays and Wednesdays, before office hours, a small group of inductive Bible study in the headquarters of the general command of the military police and also in other units...It is wonderful to study God's Word so simply and yet so deeply, where everyone can participate. We feel stronger and more united in Jesus. I think that, after your encouragement marathon here in Salvador [Brazil], there was a quantitative and qualitative growth of the work here."

JULY PRAYER REQUESTS

- From 29 June to 8 July, ACCTS will co-host an English language camp with the Moldovan military Christian fellowship. Our staff and volunteers will teach conversational English skills to the participants, who are Moldovan children and teens of military personnel. Pray that participants will learn English while also learning about Christ's love for them and the hope that He gives. Pray for wisdom for the Moldovan MCF members, ACCTS staff, and volunteers who are involved in this program. Ask that this program increase the Moldovan MCF's ministry throughout their nation's military, as it did after last year's program. Thank God for the Moldovan military Christians and their desire to reach their nation for Christ!
- Uphold in prayer an English language program that will take place in Ukraine from 14-21 July. As ACCTS and the MCF of Ukraine co-host this event, pray that the military dependents who participate will be open to learning about Christ and following Him. Pray for the teachers and others who are helping run this program and give praise for the MCF of Ukraine and its many military outreaches.
- Pray for Christians in the Middle East, Asia, and other regions and nations where it is unsafe to be a Christian. Ask that God give these brothers and sisters wisdom in their jobs, with their families, and in their daily lives. Pray that the Holy Spirit will make His presence known in their lives and in their nations.
- Pray for safety for two ACCTS staff members who embark on a ministry trip in late July to an Asian nation. Ask that the Holy Spirit give them wisdom each step of the way, and that they will encourage all the people who will participate in the teaching program.
- Please remember in prayer all ACCTS staff members who befriend and minister to international military students in the USA.

I-RMH: Inspiring a Passion for Leadership

"A great leader's courage to fulfill his vision comes from passion, not position." -- John C. Maxwell



I-RMH participants and staff at the top of Manitou Incline, June 2019

ACCTS' August newsletter will contain a report from this year's Interaction-Rocky Mountain High program, which included participants from Ivory Coast, Romania, Uganda, and the US. Thanks to everyone who helped support this leadership training program for young military Christians!



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