

Small Steps of Faith

Each year, thousands of foreign nationals come to the U.S. to receive military training on U.S. bases. ACCTS has several staff members who minister to these international military students, and two of those staff recently reported on their ministry activities, noting that they routinely interact with students who come from nations which are closed to Christianity: "We are reaching out to people who, in many cases, have never met a Christian before, and we have the privilege of helping them at least in small steps toward faith in Christ. That is our goal in all we do, and we rejoice in being able to minister here." Please keep our international student ministry staff in your prayers as they share the good news of Christ and His salvation with the students they meet.



Photo Courtesy USDO



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.

FIVE-NATION MINISTRY IMPACT IN ASIA



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In January Pastor Blesson of the military Christian fellowship of India and Rick Ryles, ACCTS' Asia ministry coordinator, hosted a two-day discipleship program -- funded by ACCTS Asia ministry supporters -- in a town in India which borders Bhutan. Participants were members of Gideon Fellowship, the military Christian fellowship of Bhutan, which is a small MCF in need of encouragement and teaching. With the positive response to this discipleship program Pastor Blesson and Rick Ryles will continue to visit this group yearly to encourage and challenge them to grow their outreach. Please pray with these Bhutanese Christians as they try to expand the MCF in various cities within their nation.

Following the discipleship program, Rick and Pastor Blesson

met with LTG (Indian Army, Ret.) Mukherjee and his wife in Kolkata, India to discuss organizing a chapter of the newly-reorganized Cornelius Network India in Kolkata. The first meeting of the reorganized CNI was scheduled to be held in March. Pray with LTG Mukherjee and others as they encourage military Christians throughout the diverse nation of India.

Following his time in India, Rick traveled to Myanmar to be an instructor at the Indochina Cornelius Fellowship Discipleship Program, which has been hosted by ACCTS' ministry partner Mission Support Organisation (South Korea) since 2008. Around 34 members of Myanmar's military Christian fellowship attended this five-day event in Yangon.

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This annual event has helped build up and develop the MCF of Myanmar's headquarters in Yangon, and next year it will be expanded to other cities to encourage and challenge new and existing chapters of the MCF.

The focus of Rick's next stop was to help the military Christian fellowship of Vietnam, Joshua Fellowship, build chapters in six cities. Rick and MCF leaders also developed a plan for ACCTS to host a winter seminar for Christian youth who are about to enter into military service. This program will be modeled on the highly successful Military Christian Fellowship of Singapore's Pre-National Service Training. Singapore's MCF has already provided the program to Vietnam's MCF and is willing to help guide this new initiative.

Rick's final mission visit was in Laos, where he served as instructor at the annual MSO-hosted Indochina Cornelius Fellowship Discipleship Program for members of the MCF of Laos. The MCF's leadership is already making plans to host a new type of leadership discipleship training program next year. That program will include 18 leaders (two from each of the eight provinces where there are contacts and two from Vientiane) and the possible additional of 5-10 young or new MCF members who have potential for leadership.

Please continue to pray with military Christians in Asia as they share Christ's redemption and hope with their coworkers, family, and friends. Although several recent ministry events in the region were canceled due to the COVID-19 coronavirus, we're thankful for these indigenous believers who carry on God's work in their nations.



Country Profile: **Bhutan**

Bhutan is a small kingdom in the Himalayas which sits between India and China. Bhutan has never been colonized and remained isolated from the rest of the world until the mid-20th century, and for that reason has a very unique culture and traditions. In Bhutan's landscape of mountains and subtropical plains, there are a little over 12,000 Christians – less than 1% of the population. The official religion in Bhutan is Buddhism, and Buddhists account for about 84% of the population. Current laws provide for freedom of religion, but proselytism is forbidden.



April Prayer Requests

ACCTS' annual International Chaplain Training program, which was scheduled for March and early April, was canceled due to the COVID-19 virus. Please pray for chaplains worldwide as they minister to military personnel and their families, and pray for ACCTS as we prepare to host this training program in the future.

The MCF of Singapore observes its 50th anniversary this year, with a celebration event scheduled for 4 April. Give praise for the faithful military believers in this nation and pray that they will continue to share Christ's love with others.

12 April is Easter Sunday. Pray that this celebration of Christ's life, death, and resurrection will give military believers around the world extra opportunities to share Christ with their coworkers. Pray that they will be led by the Spirit as they do so, spreading the fragrance of the knowledge of Him everywhere (2 Corinthians 2:14).

24-25 April is the ACCTS board meeting. Pray for wisdom for our board of directors, and praise God for their service to ACCTS. Our board members are Ward and Jody Bursley, Phil and Sue Exner (who are also staff members), Jon Gabrielson, Jim Hougnon, Sue Huggler, Chris and Deni Johnson, Stan Mincks, Terry Pierce, Steven and Deb Sifers, Kent Strader, and Brad Winsted.

We Need You – With a Minute's Notice!



ACCTS is looking for new Minutemen! In the U.S. Revolutionary War, Minutemen were civilians who were ready to fight for their country at a minute's notice. ACCTS' Minutemen are people with a heart for international military ministry who sign up to donate \$50 in addition to their regular donations for unexpected or unusual ministry needs as they arise. Minutemen are notified by email of a specific need (no more than four times a year) and can contribute via check or credit card donation. If you would like to help ACCTS' ministry in this way, please email accts@accts.org or phone us at 800-487-8108. Your Minuteman donation will go to help God's kingdom among the world's armed forces personnel!



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