



Onward!

March 2019



The newsletter of the Association of Military Christian Fellowships



AMCF European Leaders Meet

European AMCF leaders from 22 nations met in February for spiritual encouragement and support. Prayer, Bible study, personal interactions, and discussions about ministry plans and needs were the highlight of the annual leadership program, which was held in Luebbecke, Germany.

Military Christian fellowships in Europe face diverse challenges, including the decline of Christianity, inter-nation conflicts, an influx of refugees from war and famine-struck nations, and a changing European Union.

Pray with the men and women who lead these MCFs, asking the Holy Spirit to guide them and give them wisdom as they face new challenges.

Nations represented:

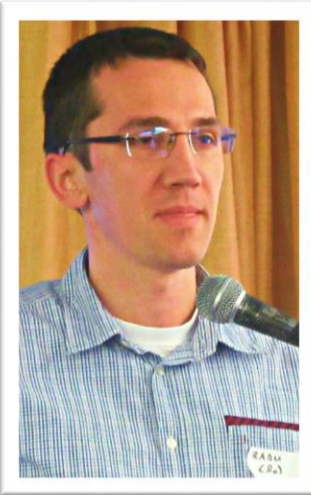
Armenia, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Great Britain, Germany, Greece, Italy, Moldova, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Ukraine, and USA

AMCF PRAYER

The following prayer was adopted by AMCF in 1930 with the suggestion that it be prayed each Sunday:

“Heavenly Father, we thank you that the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses from all sin. Bless the service men and women of all nations, and grant that we who know the joy of being ‘all one in Christ Jesus’ may be filled with your love and pass it on to others through the power of the Holy Spirit until His coming again.”

AMCF European Leaders Meeting Snapshots



Meet the New AMCF Vice President of Central America



Colonel (Ret.) Jose Antonio Rodriguez of Honduras became the new AMCF Vice President for Central America late last year, taking over from Col. (Ret.) Joaquin Maldonado. Praise God with us for Colonel Maldonado's faithful service through the years and pray for Colonel Rodriguez as he begins his volunteer position as AMCF vice president.

How did you become involved in military ministry? Being very young in my career (lieutenant) I was called by the Lord. We began to preach the Word to different military units,

police, firemen and others with whom we had the opportunity to share, so we are part of the founding group of the military fellowship of my country.

Why is it important for believers to be involved in their nation's military Christian fellowship (MCF)? Communion with the military fellowship is important because as a family we are in Christ, we must remain in communion and communication, prayer and fasting, and prepare strategies to share the Gospel inside and outside military units.

What are your future goals for ministry? If possible, to visit the brothers in countries where there are organized fellowships to encourage them, motivate them, and share experiences that strengthen us all; likewise, to consider the countries where there are not yet MCFs. We Military Christians...must be salt on earth, because we are not ashamed of the Gospel, which is the power of GOD.

How can we pray for your region? Pray for the events of the region and the world fellowship of AMCF, for those who participate in scheduled events, and that we will encourage ourselves through different means so that together we can fulfill the Great Commission.

Free Resource:

A booklet explaining the Pray and Plan Method, which AMCF encourages military Christians to follow when possible, is available at

<http://accts.org/brochures/npn.pdf>.



Ministry Focus: Healing from Post- Trauma Stress

We occasionally share information on military ministries to give international Christians ideas outreach ideas. While this ministry is U.S.-based, it may serve as an inspiration to international believers

who want to help combat veterans suffering from post-trauma stress. As always, each nation's believers need to rely on the Holy Spirit to develop methods that work best within their own cultures.

WELCOME HOME INITIATIVE[®] services are three-day retreats for war-zone veterans who may suffer from varying degrees of post-trauma stress and moral/soul injury. These retreats help veterans and their spouses to heal, spiritually and emotionally, from combat-related post-traumatic stress (PTS). They are safe, welcoming spaces that complement other forms of treatment such as medical, psychiatric, and social services which are offered through other programs. Sessions give combat vets and their spouses an overview of resources for coping and recovery, healing of memories, the importance of vets telling their story, and the impact of post-trauma stress on family members and in other close relationships.

Leaders and participants discuss effects of trauma-caused flashbacks and anger, which are symptoms of wounds that can be related to their war experiences, as well as emotional wounds going back to childhood. Sessions cover issues such as drug addiction, alcohol abuse, and suicidal feelings, and give ideas for living a balance life using the Christian principles of daily Bible reading, praying, and fellowship with other Christians.

ACCTS staff member Noel Dawes, a Welcome Home leader, shares, "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."

For more information, visit <https://welcomehomeinitiative.org>.

If you want news or prayer items from your military Christian fellowship included in upcoming AMCF newsletters, please send that information to amcf@accts.org. Please also visit our website at www.amcf-int.org. This newsletter is produced by AMCF's ministry partner, ACCTS (www.accts.org).

