



**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.

# ANNUAL REPORT 2017

## Running with Perseverance

Dear Friends,

*“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.” Hebrews 12:1-2*

This verse in Hebrews took on special meaning for ACCTS in 2017, as we were blessed to complete our 45th year of international military ministry. As I think about how far God has brought us in this work, I know that He has marked out His plans for this marathon of military ministry and asked us to continue with perseverance, keeping our eyes on Jesus and our efforts on the goal of developing military Christian leaders and strong military Christian fellowships.

Running a marathon takes preparation and mental focus. I’ve found that, when starting a race, it’s best to not think of the full 26 grueling miles that lay ahead. Focus instead on taking one step at a time, and remember the goal, not the distance to the finish line.

One of ACCTS’ end goals is to see strong, self-sufficient, and independent military Christian fellowships in every nation of our world. This past year we saw great progress in several nations, as MCFs devel

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*Polish naval academy visit 2017*



*Finnish naval academy visit 2017*

## Annual Report 2017

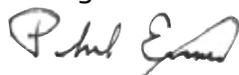
# Running with Perseverance

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oped new ministry initiatives and carried them out with great success. We also saw the maturation of individual military Christian leaders and members, which has been a tremendous encouragement to our staff. With over 60 million people in the armed forces of the world, and a turnover rate of over 10%, we will always have opportunities each year to train new and upcoming military Christian leaders. As you read through this annual report, we pray that these ministry developments will be an encouragement to you as well.

Years ago I learned that it was much easier to run a marathon when I had someone running alongside me. As my running partners and I ran the course through Washington D.C. we talked of our lives, the sites along the way, and our goal of the finish line. We drew strength from one another and the miles rolled quickly past. But during that race we were separated, and very soon I found myself focusing on my exhausted muscles and blister-filled feet. Without partnership and encouragement, the journey became much more painful and difficult, and I had to struggle to keep running toward the goal. The same is true in ministry – we in ACCTS rely on the partnership of our supporters. **You are our running partner in this marathon of ministry.** You encourage us and remind us to keep our eyes on Jesus and His plans for the Kingdom whenever we find our strength failing. Thank you for your support, and pray for us as we continue this race in 2018.

Serving Our Ever-Faithful Savior,



Philip J. Exner  
Col, USMC (Ret)  
Executive Director



*Col. Exner and 1-RMH graduate*

In 2017, ACCTS staff traveled to over 30 nations, and participated in conferences and events attended by people from more than 50 others, to develop indigenous military Christian leaders and military Christian fellowships. Ranging from a few days to over two months, these mission trips included discipling and encouraging MCF members, teaching leadership and discipleship courses, distributing audio Bibles, helping MCFs plan future events, and ministering to persecuted Christians. Staff members also participated in and taught at regional MCF events such as the Caribbean Military Leaders Conference and the South American Leadership Conference.

Staff Mission Trips: **Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Cambodia, Chile, China, Croatia, Cyprus, El Salvador, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Malaysia, Moldova, Nepal, Peru, Poland, Russia, Singapore, South Korea, Spain, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand, Ukraine, UK, Vietnam**

## Annual Report 2017 Next Generation Ministries

The long-term impact of ACCTS' ministry will be seen primarily in the lives of young international military Christians – those who are active-duty, working shoulder-to-shoulder with other military men and women while serving their countries. Many of ACCTS' 2017 ministries focused on teaching and encouraging these developing military Christian leaders:

-- **Interaction-Rocky Mountain High** combined outdoor adventures in Colorado's Rocky Mountains with Christian leadership training and practical exercises. Young officers from Antigua, Colombia, Haiti, and Romania studied ethical Christian leadership, learned how to minister within their military Christian fellowships, and how to use their military careers as opportunities to serve Christ and their comrades-in-arms;

-- U.S. midshipmen and an army cadet participated in **Waterloo to World War II**, ACCTS' tour of European battlefields. Participants learned about leadership by examining the roles of individual heroism, mistakes, neglect, and actions that drove the outcome of important battles; and,

-- **Spring Break** and **Academy Exploration** trips provided opportunities for U.S. military cadets to meet their peers in Finland, Poland, Japan, and China, and learned how military believers integrate their faith and service while serving in the armed forces.



*I-RMH program participants*



*US cadets and Finnish lieutenant; Spring Break trip*



*American cemetery at Omaha beach; W2 WWII*



*Academy Exploration Asia 2017*



*AEE 2017*

## Annual Report 2017

# Chaplains Interaction 2017

ACCTS' two-week Chaplains Interaction included chaplains, and those who serve as chaplains, from such diverse nations as Cape Verde, Guyana, India, Nigeria, Suriname, and Zimbabwe. Training sessions covered the universal principles of chaplaincy, commander/chaplain relationships, ministering in a pluralistic society, the chaplain's code of ethics, suicide prevention, next-of-kin notification, and operational stress management. Participants noted:



Chaplains Interaction gave me *"a biblical vision about military profession --- I feel more prepared to help my country in spiritual work."*

*"I am going to discuss with my national chaplains how we could use this manual [provided by ACCTS] as a template for structuring our civil defense chaplaincy."*

*"My top priority is the formation and certification of the local chaplain corps of the Guyana Defense Force, using ACCTS training curriculum..."*



Chaplains Interaction teaching session

### Staff Focus:

Long before he joined the ACCTS staff in 2016, Eduard Rosca was deeply involved in military ministry in his native land of Moldova. Eduard, a former military pilot in Moldova's army, was a founder of the military Christian fellowship in 2004 and has helped it grow to approximately 200 members. Under Eduard's leadership, the MCF hosts Bible studies and outreach events and distributes audio Bibles to military personnel and civilians. They have a critically important outreach to Ukrainian refugees living within Moldova's borders, providing them with food, fuel (oil, coal, and wood), and warm clothing for the harsh Eastern European winter months. Even with their extremely limited resources, the MCF also assembles and distributes Christmas packets to needy military children.



Military ministry is a family affair for the Roscas, as Eduard's wife Mariana leads a vibrant women's ministry among military wives, helps needy military families, and raises funds for the MCF's ministry.

## Annual Report 2017

### From the Financial Director

*Dear Ministry Partners and Friends,*

*As we enter a new year, I want you to know how very grateful we are for your part in the ACCTS ministry! We could do nothing without your prayer and giving.*

*In September, our executive director, Phil Exner, wrote an article in our newsletter entitled, "Risking it all for Fellowship." This subject has been on our minds as we frequently encounter ministry partners around the world who risk much to have fellowship or to step out and confess their faith. Our brothers and sisters in some countries are willingly going to MCF meetings to study the Bible and pray for and encourage one another, knowing that at any moment there could be a knock on the door and they could be arrested – all because of their love for Christ.*

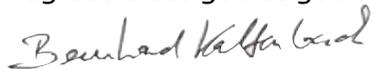
*These experiences show that ACCTS' ministry efforts are vital and have a positive effect, as many military people are responding to the Gospel and progressing in discipleship. One of our Chaplains Interaction participants told us: "I won't go back home the same; I want to make a difference in the lives of my soldiers." This is what ACCTS is all about -- changing one life at a time which, by God's grace, can change a nation over time.*

*This graph shows how our resources this past year were allocated. Our auditors gave us very high marks for effectively managing our resources and keeping our overhead expenses low. Even with rising costs, we were still able to keep our overhead below 8%!*

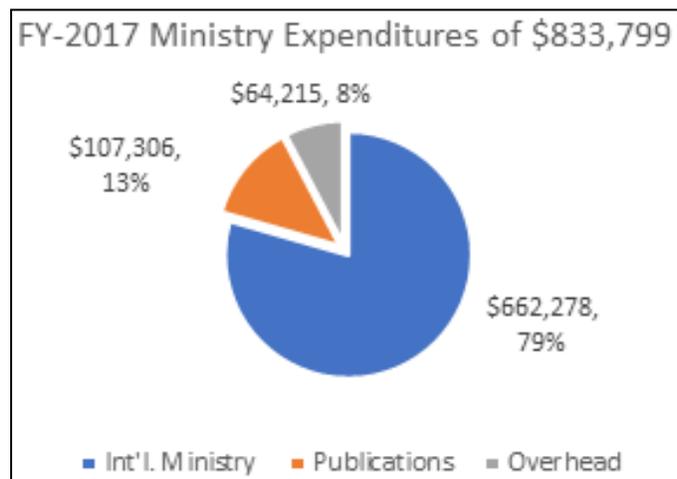
*Our partnership with our sister organizations in South Korea and the United Kingdom (and with other organizations) combined with advanced technology enabled us to reach more military personnel than ever. Still, even though we have done well with the resources God provided, our opportunities are greater, and we seek to increase international outreach. We also hope to increase staff to take advantage of ministry opportunities at gateway communities like Monterey, Ft. Leavenworth, and Maxwell AFB where many international military students are studying. All of this takes financial resources, and we pray for additional partners to join us in this effort.*

*Thanks to all who supported ACCTS this past year -- we trust that you will continue in 2018 so that we can minister to people like the Chaplains Interaction participant above, and the many who freely risk it all to receive the benefits of fellowship with other military believers.*

*May God bless you as you continue to serve Him,*



**Bernhard Kaltenbach**  
Deputy and Financial Director



## International Military Student Ministries



In 2017, ACCTS staff ministered to international military students who were continuing their education in the U.S. By providing English language classes, Bible studies, and Christian fellowship, our staff had multiple opportunities to encourage and disciple these students. One of those students recently testified: *"We have been blessed to have you and all ACCTS to spiritually help us. I can guarantee you that the Bible studies and the Sunday services you are providing have impacts in our lives. My takeaway is the feeling that I have to reactivate the military Christian fellowship organization in my country in order to play my role in the work of God where he placed me."*



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)



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