

RESTRICTIONS DON'T SLOW MINISTRY IN RUSSIA

In the face of increased governmental pressure on Russian Christians, including a 2016 law which limits preaching without special authorization, military Christians in this nation are growing strong and flourishing in their faith.

In January regional and local leaders, as well as individual members, of the Russian military Christian fellowship Faith and Courage met for three days of Bible teaching (with specific application to military ministry), prayer and praise, a Communion service, and informal discussions. Delegates from several regions outside Moscow also attended.

Presentations focused on developing a closer relationship with Jesus, even in the face of increased persecution. They also encouraged participants to fellowship with Christians from other Christian backgrounds, focusing on unity in Christ instead of the things that distinguish one confession from another. Despite governmental restrictions on active military member's meetings, MCF members were encouraged to build bridges of friendship and assistance with local military leaders by organizing concerts, presentations, and other activities designed to boost troop morale and serve as a Christian witness.

Please pray that the Russian MCF leaders who attended will seek opportunities to develop new contacts with military personnel, to work effectively with local pastors in military ministry, and to build bridges of friendship with military leaders in their region. Ask for the Lord's protection and guidance on all MCF members and pray that the MCF will be able to prioritize ministry opportunities and have sufficient resources to carry out their work. Pray also for a peaceful resolution to the conflict between Russia and Ukraine.