

Tag Team Caribbean Ministry

On different dates in January, Pete Prindle, ACCTS' director of operations, and our regional staff for the Caribbean, Ron Huggler, both took cruises that enabled them to stop at St. Kitts, Grenada, Barbados, and Antigua to encourage and assist the military Christian fellowships (MCFs) there. This tag team ministry approach proved profitable as Pete's first meetings with Christians revealed specific needs at each location while Ron's follow-up meetings offered concrete plans to address those needs.

Most Caribbean nations' police forces serve as their self-defense forces, so their MCFs are often called police fellowships. The islands also share a common currency and belong to the Regional Security System, an international agreement that provides for their defense and security. Many have a similar history, and all are keen to participate in regional military Christian training conferences. Formal police chaplaincies appear to be the number one need in the region, followed by marriage counseling, financial counseling, and training in integrating faith and career.

Pete provided copies of the updated Association of Military Christian Fellowships Handbook, which is a useful tool for military believers, as well as information on ACCTS programs that help MCFs and their members. After his meetings with believers in these nations, Pete relayed his findings to Ron, who began planning ways to meet their needs before his own trip.

God's blessings were abundant at each stop. On St. Kitts, the defense forces commander expressed a need for Bibles to give his troops – and the police superintendent on Grenada is a Gideons member who is happy to coordinate delivery of Gideon Bibles to St. Kitts. On Barbados, a candidate for ACCTS' summer leadership program, Interaction Rocky Mountain High, was identified and is applying to attend. On Antigua, Ron was able to invite a candidate to ACCTS' Chaplain Interaction after another candidate had to cancel. At each stop, ACCTS staff met and prayed with the leaders of the national defense police forces, some of whom are pastors. They all expressed interest in, and promised support for, a regional Caribbean training conference to “train their trainers” in marriage and financial counseling and integrating faith with career and ethics. The Antigua fellowship also desires to host an IAEC Basic Chaplaincy Course in 2019 or 2020 and are already identifying candidates to receive this training.

Praise God for His providence in coordinating these ministry trips, and ask His continued blessing on these ministry initiatives in the Caribbean region!