

# GO WHERE THE SOLDIERS

## ARE!

### Lessons Learned at Chaplains Interaction

*“I won’t go back home the same; I want to make a difference in the lives of my soldiers,”* reported an international military Christian who attended ACCTS’ Chaplains Interaction in March and April.

Since 2007, Chaplains Interaction programs have provided professional training for military chaplains (and volunteer chaplains) to help them minister to their nations’ troops. Under the leadership of ACCTS staff member Chaplain Jim Ellis and his team, participants from India, Nigeria,

Zimbabwe, Cape Verde, Guyana, and Suriname discussed the universal principles of chaplaincy programs, command/chaplain relationships, ministering in a pluralistic society, the chaplain’s code of ethics, suicide prevention, next-of-kin notification, and operational stress management. Learning to “go where the soldiers are” instead of waiting for them to show up at the chaplain’s office was a major training point.

Chaplains Interaction participants also learned about the inductive Bible study method, which is particularly useful for military personnel because they can begin and lead Bible studies when pastors or chaplains aren’t available to help them. After learning this method, one participant intends to seek out and encourage Christians on various bases in his home nation to use it to begin Bible studies for military personnel.

The participants attended a weekend marriage retreat as well, with many noting that their experience at the retreat will help them provide better marital counseling to military families. One participant shares that it was a “fantastic experience for me and my wife...it was one of the most divine times in the entire conference.”

Before they returned to their home nations, the international participants shared more thoughts on what they learned, and will implement when they return, including:

- “cooperate without compromise, [and] involve new converts in Bible study.”
- “For me and my wife it was a life changing experience. The discipline and commitment of the various instructors was at the highest level...instructors were full of years of experience.”
- 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.”
- that Chaplains Interaction will help him be “more credible to do effective ministry.”

Please pray that this year’s Chaplains Interaction program will continue to encourage all who attended and help them further military ministry in their own nations.

**Thank you, WPAFB Chapel Community!**

#### International Participants:

**Cape Verde:** Capt. Aires Semedo

**Guyana:** Rev. Jacob Corbin

**Guyana:** Mrs. Hester Corbin

**Guyana:** Chaplain Patrick Doolichand

**Guyana:** Mrs. Leila Doolichand

**India:** Chaplain B.

**Nigeria:** Rev. Philip Madugu

**Suriname:** Chaplain Michel Stewart

**Zimbabwe:** Warrant Officer 1 (Ret.) Maxwell Mupondi

**Zimbabwe:** Mrs. Eunet Mupondi

“I can’t say enough about the support of the chaplains and the chapel congregations as well,” staff member Vic Grazier shares. “It was such a blessing to have so much involvement and support from the entire WPAFB chapel community.” ACCTS is deeply grateful for the support which the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base chapel congregations gave this program. Led by CH LTC Wilson, chaplains gave of their time and talent to help teach at Chaplains Interaction, and the chapel community as a whole hosted delegates in their homes, donated funds to help sponsor the international participants, and provided the facility for Chaplains Interaction meetings. Thank you!