

## MONGOLIA: SHARING FAITH IN THE MARGINS

As part of our support of international military Christian fellowships (MCF), an ACCTS team traveled to Mongolia in March to lead an English program for the general staff of the Mongolian Armed Forces. The Mongolian MCF, Centurions Mongolia Military Ministry (CMMM), already has several programs that benefit their nation's armed forces, and this fourteen-day English language program was a new way for the MCF to minister to service personnel.

While ACCTS' Asian Ministry Coordinator, Rick Ryles, provided English language training to the top general of Mongolia's armed forces, the rest of the ACCTS team gave English lessons to officers and NCOs -- many of whom need English skills to serve with UN peacekeeping units.

While there were restrictions on religious discussions on government property, the team was free to share their faith with students who joined them on off-base outings to local sites and church services. One student asked Rick Ryles about his faith and listened to Rick's testimony attentively for 30 minutes.

The English teachers also participated in three MCF gatherings with Mongolian military cadets. They gave the New Testament and selected Psalms in memory-stick format to cadets and others who were at the CCCM meetings, as well as SD cards so they could listen to the Bible on their cell phones. They distributed 170 Bible sticks in four different dialects to the CCCM staff for them to hand out in the future.

Without exception, the Mongolian officers and NCOs improved their English conversational skills, which will help them greatly in future assignments. After the program, the team had a productive review led by the Deputy Chief of the GSAF, who encouraged ACCTS to continue this English training and investigate ways to assist in family support, leadership, ethics, and psychological support.

"God opened up many opportunities to share our faith in the margins of our teaching, after duty and on the weekends during social interactions with students," Rick Ryles concludes. "Many seeds were planted and the doors of opportunity were opened wider for CMMM to continue their outreach! May the Lord continue to work the harvest!"

Our thanks to Faith Comes by Hearing ([faithcomesbyhearing.com](http://faithcomesbyhearing.com)), which provided ACCTS with the Bibles on memory sticks and SD cards, and to our team of teachers: volunteers Paul Shorock and Don Snow and staff members Rick Ryles, Mike Knefley, Joyce Knefley, and Russ Hammerud.