

JANUARY 2017



**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 2016:

### Witnessing the Impact of Military Christians Worldwide

Dear Friends,

*When a young Christian leader who participated in ACCTS' Interaction Rocky Mountain High program returned to his unit, his regimental commander told him, "I don't want to hear that there are any Christians in my unit. I want to see their impact!" One year later, that same commander ordered him to visit all the detachments in the regiment to share and encourage them in their Christian faith.*

*In another country, the members of the military Christian fellowship (MCF) made a deep impression on their country's president by their professional conduct and distinctively Christian character. So, when the country found itself in a crisis caused by massive corruption and a breakdown in values, he asked the MCF to share the Gospel with every man and woman in uniform and to conduct discipleship training at every military base in the country, which continues today.*

*These are just two examples of the impact that your prayers and support are having around the world as you join with ACCTS in helping to build up Christian military leaders and MCFs. continued on page 2*



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# Annual Report 2016

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*During the past year, ACCTS has focused on three areas:*

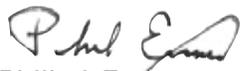
**1. Current leaders and MCFs.** *Military Christians in every country's armed forces face great challenges today. ACCTS encourages and supports MCF leaders and members through discipleship, leadership, ethics training, conferences, and personal visits. This includes programs like Chaplains Interaction and ACCTS' international military student ministries.*

**2. Future leaders and MCF members.** *ACCTS helps MCFs to grow by passing on the vision for military ministry to young military men and women around the world. This includes bringing foreign Christian leaders to the Interaction Rocky Mountain High program in the United States, helping other countries set up similar Christian "Warrior Training" programs, battlefield studies for young Christian leaders, and trips that bring Christian cadets and midshipmen from U.S. military academies together with their international counterparts.*

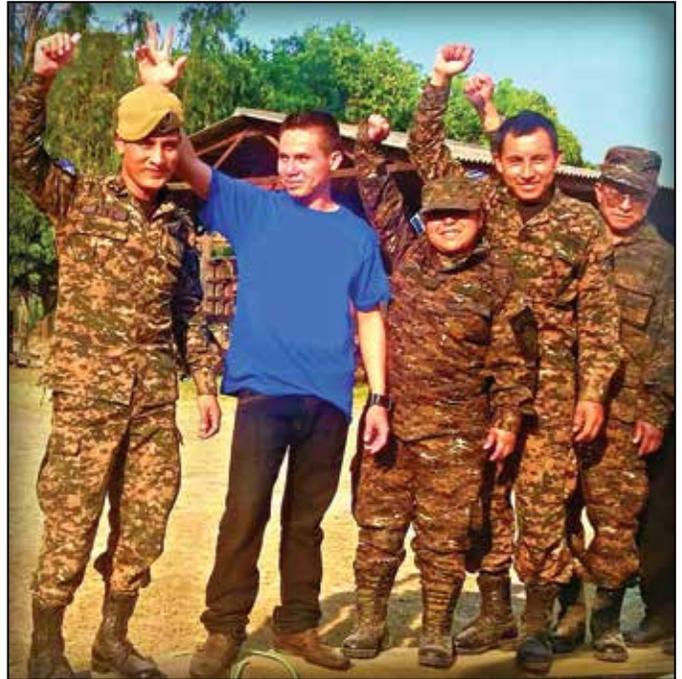
**3. Supporting the AMCF leadership.** *ACCTS supports the world president of the Association of Military Christian Fellowships and many of the 14 regional vice presidents who assist him in ministry to the MCFs in some 150 countries. These dedicated military Christian leaders work to bring the Gospel to the countries in their regions.*

*God is at work through military Christians around the world, who are making a difference from the individual to the national level within their nations. They are changing their countries from within and, more importantly, bringing the Gospel to their fellow servicemen and women, which has an eternal impact. This annual report will give you some idea of the types of ministry that your prayers and financial support made possible in 2016. We hope that, as you reflect on what God is accomplishing around the world through military Christians, you will rejoice with us at the privilege of being part of His plan to reach the world for Jesus Christ.*

*Serving Our Ever-Faithful Savior,*



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



# Annual Report 2016

## Regional Mission Trips:

Mission trips taken by ACCTS staff members help our staff develop and mentor international Christian military leaders and, where needed, help those leaders establish military Christian fellowships (MCFs). We believe it is vital for indigenous leaders to take the helm of ministry in their own nations, so our ministry is done with the goal of coming alongside them and helping them build indigenous, self-supporting, and self-governing MCFs. During these trips, staff members help MCF leaders plan events, give spiritual encouragement to those they meet, help believers form prayer groups and Bible studies, and meet with pastors and church leaders who support military ministry or want to learn about it.

This year, ACCTS' staff helped organized, spoke at, provided leadership training, and/or participated in many regional conferences, such as the annual conference of the world's largest military Christian fellowship, UMCEB in Brazil; the March AMCF Southeast Asia regional conference in the Philippines; Discipleship Training programs in Laos, Vietnam, and South Korea; character-based leadership events in China; and a conference of spiritual encouragement for military Christians in the Central Asian region who do not have full religious freedom.

After one mission trip, ACCTS' executive director, Phil Exner, reported, "The time we spent in this region highlighted the progress of the Gospel in the military in several countries where even the existence of an MCF would have been surprising a few years ago. There is an openness and hunger for the Gospel that is tremendously heartening. ACCTS has already been asked back for follow-up leadership and discipleship training."

As important as the formal meetings are, it is often the one-on-one time spent in conversation and prayer with local military Christians that is the most significant part of these visits. Many military Christians feel isolated, and it is a great encouragement and comfort to them to know that they are not alone. Our staff devote many hours to their mentoring relationships with military Christian fellowship leaders around the world through email, Skype, and phone calls.

During the past fiscal year, our staff ministered in many different countries, including Australia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cambodia, China, El Salvador, Fiji, France, Georgia, Germany, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Japan, Kazakhstan, Laos, Malaysia, Moldova, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Palau, Philippines, Romania, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, Ukraine, UK, and Vietnam. During those visits, they met with MCF leaders from well over fifty countries to help, encourage, and build relationships with international military Christians.



# Annual Report 2016

## International Student Ministries:

International military students in the U.S. have demanding schedules, but they still want to get to know Americans and our culture. ACCTS staff members in several locations befriend students by inviting them into their homes and lives and sharing the love of Christ with them. They help in practical ways by teaching them English and assisting them with daily needs, and they also provide spiritual help by hosting Bible studies and Christian events for students who are interested in learning more about Christ.

## Bible Distribution:

This year we continued our partnership with Faith Comes by Hearing to provide audio Bibles in the form of Mp3 players to military personnel around the world. One Moldovan soldier who received an Mp3 Bible stated, "I often use the Mp3 device that I've received from a Christian police officer, who is my work colleague. I've never read the Bible, but when I listen to these recordings I realize that I'm such a big sinner and that I need to be closer to God. Thank you for this device."

## Ministering and Discipling Future Leaders:

As part of our mission of developing military Christian leaders worldwide, ACCTS has several programs and short-term mission trip opportunities that introduce young military personnel to military ministry and Christian leadership. These programs help participants view their military careers as a calling from God, meet their military counterparts in other countries, and learn to integrate their faith with their military careers.

ACCTS' "Spiritual Commandos" program in El Salvador helped young military men and women from three Central American countries receive training in leadership, ethics, character-building, decision making, and professional excellence. Combined with outdoor activities that taught teamwork, the program was supported by the head of El Salvador's military, who told each major unit to send a Christian to the program. "Students were joyful learners, asking questions and preparing their testimonies. All are eager to contribute to the MCF in their countries, do Bible studies with their colleagues, and to pray for AMCF, ACCTS, the MCFs of their countries and worldwide," the AMCF vice president for the region, Joaquin Maldonado, reported at the end of the program.

A June Exploration Asia trip to Japan and China involved ACCTS staff members and Chinese cadets from Valley Forge Military Academy and College. The theme of the trip was "Character Based Leadership in a Cross-Cultural Environment" and was a learning and growing experience for the participants



and the Chinese and Japanese participants with whom they met.

The July Interaction-Rocky Mountain High leadership program included young military participants from Chad, Grenada, Haiti, Romania, and Sri Lanka. Combining outdoor adventures such as mountain climbing and rappelling with Christian leadership lessons, this annual program helps participants see their military careers as a calling from God and gives them the skills to become more involved in their local MCFs.

# Annual Report 2016

Dear ACCTS partners,

*This year ACCTS celebrates its 45th anniversary in ministry. Our founder, Cleo "Buck" Buxton, with his wife Louisa, envisioned international military personnel and their families having the opportunity to fellowship and find spiritual support in their own countries, just like U.S. military enjoyed through its own military Christian fellowship.*

*In these past 45 years, ACCTS has been blessed to be a part of facilitating the development of MCFs and spiritually-strong military Christians. When we started in 1972 there were just a handful of MCFs – now there are almost 150 around the world. This process is not easy and there is sometimes resistance. Yet it is so important that military Christians be witnesses for Christ and strong, effective leaders. Matthew 5:16 says, "Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." With the goal of helping military believers glorify their Father in their daily lives, we will continue to emphasize teaching leadership to military personnel, especially those in positions of authority.*

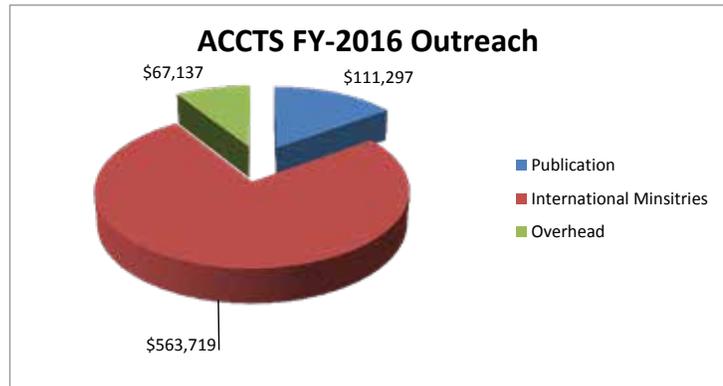
*We just received word that a man whom ACCTS staff have mentored over the last few years, and who just completed our Chaplains Interaction training program, has now been endorsed by his church to help his nation start a chaplaincy. We praise God that He is allowing us to see this, and many other, results and hope you are equally encouraged by them!*

*In October ACCTS' annual audit was completed, and the auditing firm gave us very high marks for effectively managing our resources and keeping our overhead expenses low. We're grateful that God graciously gives us resources through people like you, and we're grateful that you have chosen to partner with us in this tremendous ministry of reaching the world's soldiers for Christ and His kingdom.*

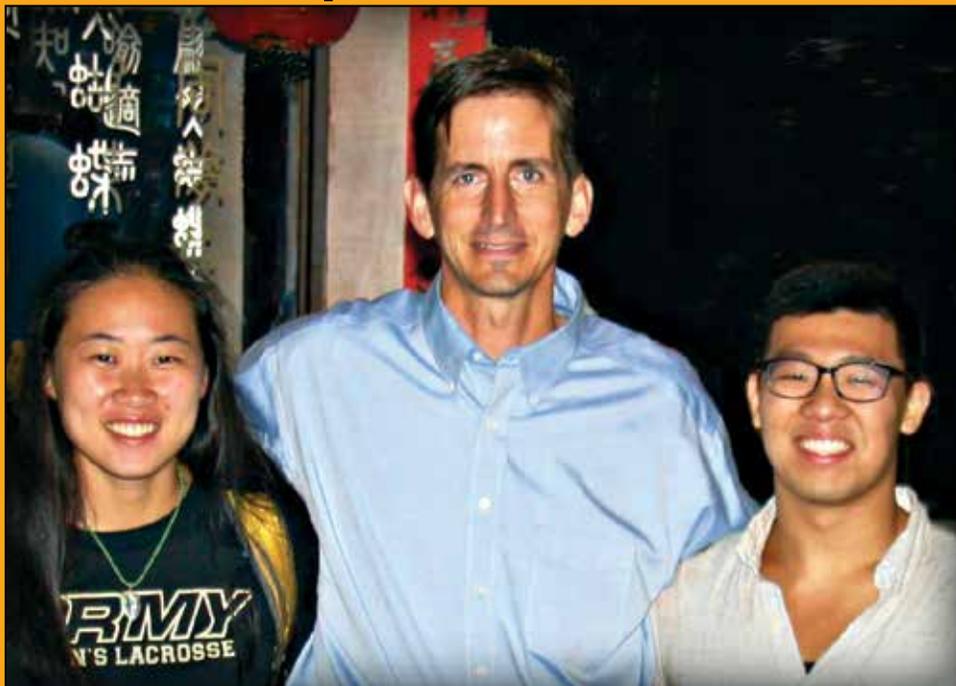
In Him,



Bernhard Kaltenbach  
Deputy and Financial Director



# Annual Report 2016



Thank you for your interest in ACCTS' ministry to international military personnel! As we begin our 45th year of outreach, we ask for your continued prayer and support as we develop Christian leaders in the armed forces of the world, help establish military Christian fellowships, and help those MCFs grow.



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*A higher standard.  
A higher purpose.*

# ACCTS Prayer Reminder

## January 2017

“This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.”

-- 1 John 5:14



*Many of our prayer items are from the Caribbean region, since they were collected at a recent meeting there. If you have prayer items for the military Christian fellowship (MCF) in your nation, please send them to [editor@accts.org](mailto:editor@accts.org) and we will include them in future prayer bulletins.*

**1** Give praise for AMCF's new vice president for East Asia, Colonel Andrew Tzeng of Taiwan. Pray with our staff members as they work with Colonel Tzeng to increase military ministry throughout East Asia.

**2** Continue to pray with the United Kingdom as it goes through changes related to exiting the European Union over the next two years. Pray particularly for military believers as they live out their faith and share Christ's hope with others.

**3** Pray for more people to understand and support the Police Christian Fellowship in Dominica, and that MCF members will be deeply committed to ministry.

**4** Pray for the nation of Colombia as its government is working with FARC guerillas on a peace treaty. Pray also for military families, for victims who have been hurt in the past due to the conflict, and for a military chaplaincy course, led by IAEC, which will be taught in February.

**5** Pray with the nation of Lebanon and its new president, Michel Aoun, a retired general who takes over the position after a two-year period without a president. Lebanon has struggled with the strain of Syria's civil war, which has spilled over its border. (Source: New York Times)

**6** A military believer in Antigua asks that we pray for

greater participation in ministry by MCF members, and asks for prayer for leaders in their police forces. Pray also for a chaplain in their armed forces.

**7** Give praise for the Burundian military Christian fellowship, whose members have evangelized more than 2,000 soldiers and officers in the last two years. Pray with their ministry plans for 2017, and pray for the MCF president, Emmanuel Miburo, and other MCF leaders.

**8** Pray that a weekly prayer meeting in Bucharest, Romania, will be a special time of worship and fellowship for the military personnel who attend. Ask that it encourage the spiritual growth of believers and lead to salvation in Christ for those who do not know the Lord.

**9** Pray with ACCTS staff members Bob and B.J. Reifsnnyder, who will be in Honduras this month assisting with a chaplaincy training program run by IAEC.

**10** Please pray with a military believer in Bermuda – for help for young men caught in gangs, for the witness of the church in the area of family life, and for the soldiers of the Bermuda Regiment.

**11** Pray for South Korea as it deals with political unrest related to its president, Park Geun-Hye. (Source: The Economist)

**12** Rick Ryles begins a multi-country South East Asia mission trip today. Ask for the Holy Spirit to guide him each step of the way, and that his trip will be a true encouragement and help to all the military Christians with whom he meets.

**13** In October, Central Africa Republic experienced violent clashes between Christian and Muslim groups (Source: BBC). Pray for peace to come to this nation, and for military believers to lead the way in bringing true peace.

**14** Cuba's former leader Fidel Castro died in November. Many changes were already taking place in this country – pray for God's hand over its future in the face of this new change.

**15** A believer in Grenada asks us to join him in prayer that the military Christian fellowships throughout the Caribbean will be strong and effective for Christ's kingdom.

**16** Venezuela is dealing with new political problems amidst economic stress and popular unrest. (Source: [crisisgroup.org](http://crisisgroup.org)) Pray with military believers and their families during this unrest.

**17** Uphold in prayer Dick Barnes' 17-25 January mission trip to Moldova and Russia. Pray also for new staff member Eduard Rosca from Moldova.

**18** One Jamaican military Christian, after participating in an ACCTS leadership program, returned to his country and talked with his commander about what he had learned. The commander replied, "I don't want to hear that there are Christians in my unit. I want to see their impact!" Pray that the impact of military believers in your own nation will be heard, seen, and felt to the glory of God.

**19** Associate staff members Terry and Susan Wichert will be in Italy (and possibly Spain) 20 January - 4 February, where they will speak at an Italian MCF conference and encourage and disciple military believers and their families. Please pray for the Holy Spirit to guide all they say and do on this mission trip.

**20** Pray for wisdom for the new president of the United States as he is inaugurated today, and for the newly-elected senators and representatives. Pray for national unity, a peaceful transition of leadership, and for God's grace on the U.S.

**21** Pray along with military men and women who are meeting today via video connection to pray for military ministry world-wide.

**22** A military Christian in Jamaica asks for prayers for integrity in their leaders in the government, police, and military, and that these groups will work together to restore their nation from the effects of crime and

violence. Pray for good to triumph over gang violence and corruption in the public sector.

**23** January 23-27 is the AMCF North American Prayer Week. Please pray for military believers and their ministries, from Canada down to the Caribbean nations.

**24** It's always exciting to see the results of previous ACCTS leadership programs. A subgroup of the AMCF, the Association of Caribbean Military Christian Fellowships, is devoted to increasing military ministry throughout the Caribbean region. Three of its six leaders are former participants in ACCTS' Interaction-Rocky Mountain High program! Give thanks for this program and for all ACCTS supporters who have believed in it and funded it through the years.

**25** Today, please concentrate your prayers on the war-torn nation of Syria. Pray for peace to come to the nation and lift up its beleaguered citizens and the many displaced people who have fled their homes.

**26** Praise God for the international leadership of the Association of Military Christian Fellowships ([www.amcf-int.org](http://www.amcf-int.org)). Pray for God's continued guidance on AMCF President General Srilal Weerasooriya from Sri Lanka and the 14 regional vice-presidents.

**27** Give praise, and pray for, the effective work and ministry of our partner organization, Military Ministries International in the UK. Thank God for, and pray for, Mission Support Organisation in South Korea, our other partner organization which does a great work for Christ world-wide.

**28** In February the Nigerian MCF hosts a Pray and Plan to prepare for the 2018 Pan-African Conference. Ask God to guide all who attend and give them an effective corporate vision.

**29** Ask for wisdom for those who are planning a meeting of European military Christian fellowship leaders in February.

**30** Pray for staff members who are preparing to lead Spring Break trips this March with young military Christians from the U.S.

**31** Ask for God's guidance on military believers in Estonia as they serve Christ and their fellow citizens.