



**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.

## READY TO CHANGE THE WORLD:

### World Conference Planning Trip



“Our trip to Brazil in preparation for next year’s AMCF World Conference was an extremely useful time of planning with Brazilian military Christian leaders and other ministry partners,” reports Executive Director Phil Exner after a January planning trip. “This was a ‘roll up your sleeves’ working trip on which we met with MCF leaders from the national and local hosting state MCF, a representative from our partner MSO in South Korea, and the AMCF president.” The ACCTS team included ACCTS’

Latin American ministry coordinators, Andy and Grace MacLean, Brazil staff Gina Rajah, and Phil and Sue Exner. They met, prayed, and planned with the Brazilian conference organizers, visited proposed sites to discuss which would work best for the 1500+ participants expected to attend, and reviewed the work that needs to be done between now and October 2024.

The Brazilian military Christian fellowship is the world’s



# Ready to Change the World

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largest MCF. It has groups in all 27 Brazilian states and has a robust leadership team that has been planning for the 2024 conference for over a year. The January meeting helped everyone involved review planning progress and focus on the challenges as we move forward. It also helped clarify responsibilities of the PSOs, AMCF leadership, and the Brazilian working groups. In addition to the many administrative, logistical, and other operational details, they discussed how to maximize participation of current and future MCF leaders, including those who will be financially challenged to attend.

ACCTS staff and other members of the group also met with the commander of São Paulo's 80,000-strong police force. They also shared the conference's purpose and vision with other military and political leaders, including the mayors of two nearby cities, local businesspeople, and individuals who could be sponsors for the event.

"I was impressed with the sacrifice and hard work the Brazilians have already put in," Phil concludes. "They are planning the conference so that participants can not only learn and fellowship together but return to their nations with a vision to deepen and expand their military ministries. We came back with a deeper awareness that God is going to change everyone who is involved in this conference – not only the participants, but those who plan it. The Brazilian MCF has chosen Isaiah 60:1 as the conference theme: 'Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.' Please pray with and for them as they plan this conference and begin negotiating costs for the two possible locations, so that this event will indeed spread the glory of God through the world's armed forces personnel."



# EXPANDING MINISTRY THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

All one in  
Christ Jesus.

- Galatians 3:28



How does a ministry like ACCTS, with only 50 staff members, minister to military Christians in more than 100 countries? One key is prayerful planning, coordination, and collaboration with our two Principal Support Organization (PSO) partners, Military Ministries International (MMI) in UK and Mission Support Organization (MSO) in Korea. Every year ACCTS teams up with MMI and MSO in activities that span the globe and unite military Christians in every country where the PSOs minister. PSO leaders and staff coordinate their planning, which not only results in more efficient use of resources and people but builds a stronger shared vision for reaching the world for Jesus Christ through Christian military men and women.

In January, ACCTS' executive director, Colonel Phil Exner, and deputy director, Bernhard Kaltenbach, joined the annual staff meeting of our UK partner, MMI, meeting with MMI's leadership and staff while they gathered to share, pray, and plan the year's ministry.

Throughout the week, various staff members reported faith stories from their regions, which produced a wonderful time of praising God for what He is doing. Phil shared the current focus areas of ACCTS' ministry efforts and stressed our desire to partner even more closely with MMI and MSO in areas of common labor. We also discussed the com-

ing challenge of supporting the 2024 AMCF World Conference in Brazil, ways to collaborate on training young military Christian leaders, and possible ways to support MCFs facing wartime situations.

The theme verse for this year's conference was from Luke 5:4: "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch." In his reflection on that verse, MG Roddy Porter, MMI's chief team leader, challenged us to have a greater expectation for what God has in store us. Jesus' request for Peter to launch back out to fish seemed totally wrong from a human perspective. Peter was the fishing expert, and he knew that you catch fish by going out at night, not at midday. Besides, they had just come back from a failed all-night effort, so it hardly seemed a good spot to fish.

Yet Peter obeyed. Even though he hardly knew Jesus at this point in his life, he demonstrated a willingness to obey because of whom he saw Jesus to be. So, he said, "But at Your word, I will," and his obedient response resulted in two boats so full of fish that they almost sank.

**God is calling us to a great catch of souls through the many ministry opportunities He has put before us in 2023 and beyond.** This will require obedience on our part, and today we have even more reason than Peter to obey Jesus' call to action. We have the testimony of the gospel record of Jesus' life, ministry, and triumphant resurrection, as well as many examples of His faithfulness throughout the history of ACCTS' ministry.

Our meeting with MMI staff helped lay the groundwork for future ministry alongside MMI and generated great encouragement and anticipation for what God will accomplish in the coming year as we move into deeper waters of faithful obedience.



## Scholarships Needed!

The next AMCF World Conference will be held in São Paulo, Brazil in October 2024. As a primary support organization of AMCF ([www.amcf-int.org](http://www.amcf-int.org)), ACCTS is heavily involved in preparing for this important opportunity for military ministry expansion. World conferences are a time for national military believers to catch a global vision for military ministry and to be encouraged as they build relationships with fellow Christians in other countries' militaries. They are a time of strategic planning, education, connection, fellowship, prayer, and worship that always prove to be an impetus for expanded military outreach worldwide, bringing more military personnel into a deeper faith in Christ. Would you prayerfully consider helping ACCTS provide partial scholarships for international military believers who will need assistance to attend this conference? You can start contributing now to a 2024 AMCF World Conference scholarship on our website or in other ways (mail, EFT, etc.). Please email the ACCTS office at [accts@accts.org](mailto:accts@accts.org) if you have questions about providing a scholarship - and thank you for your desire to educate and empower international military believers!



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A higher purpose.*