



**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 2018

## From the Executive Director

*"I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth... You will do well to send them on their way in a manner worthy of God. For they went out on behalf of the Name, accepting nothing from the Gentiles. Therefore, we ought to support such men, so that we may be fellow workers for the truth." -- 3 John 1:4, 6b-8*

Dear Coworkers in Christ,

2018 was a year of great blessing in ACCTS' ministry! This past year, God allowed us to see spiritual fruit blossom in countries where ACCTS has worked for many years.

Cleo "Buck" Buxton began ACCTS with a vision to help indigenous military Christians form their own military Christian fellowships (MCFs), which would be autonomous, self-supporting, and growing in strength and unity and in fellowship with other countries' MCFs. While the number of countries with MCFs grew from 12 to over 150 in the past 47 years, and continues to grow, 2018 was a special year, filled with signs that many of those MCFs are becoming mature and effective.

Many MCFs are developing their own ministry goals, planning, raising funds, and carrying them to completion. When the ministry of defense (MOD) in Moldova asked if the national MCF could help military families, MCF leaders seized the chance to hold an English language camp where dozens of children from military families heard about Jesus, and some of their parents decided to

Moldovan English camp



join the MCF. The Mongolian MCF, Cornelius, responded to an MOD request for a program for their senior military officers, which has opened the door to more inroads for Cornelius to impact their military in the future.

The MCF of Italy, which started a few short years ago, is now 500 members strong and helped other MCFs in the region organize events in their own nations. Meanwhile, MCF leaders from a large Asian country brought together disparate fellowship groups so that they could have a broader outreach in their nation, where military believers have experienced discrimination and live under constant

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# Annual Report

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threat of violent persecution. Brazil's MCF was involved in a chaplain event that brought together Christians from different denominations in a major step toward a truly multi-confessional chaplaincy.

ACCTS sent teaching and support teams to these and other MCF activities, and we continue to work alongside MCFs, supplementing their efforts and providing additional support to multiply the impact of these locally-conceived and led events. ACCTS has always believed that our role is to support the military ministries of indigenous believers, rather than to initiate ministry opportunities for them or direct them in their military outreach. We are extremely thankful for the fresh signs that military Christians around the world are catching the vision of ministry within their own countries and are increasingly sharing the Gospel with others in their nation's uniformed personnel.

Your financial support and prayers were instrumental in these successes and in changing the lives of the many people who came to know Christ this past year through the ministry of the MCFs that you helped through ACCTS. You are having an impact for eternity through your partnership with us. As you read through this annual report, please join us in prayer that the world's MCF's will continue to grow strong in Christ. Thank you!

Serving Our Ever-Faithful Savior,



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



*Argentina*



*Brazil*



*European leaders meeting*

# ACCTS' 2018 International Military Outreach

ACCTS' mission is to develop Christian leaders in the armed forces of the world and to help establish strong, thriving military Christian fellowships (MCFs). The main way to fulfil this mission is through staff members' mission trips to mentor and encourage international MCF leaders and help plan future ministry ideas. Just as Jesus was a relational leader, building His ministry by bringing others alongside to fulfill His mission, we believe ACCTS' outreach is best accomplished through the deliberate, meaningful building of relationships with individual international military believers and their indigenously-led fellowships which know their culture and how best to reach it for Christ.

**Asia/Pacific:** Staff mission trips in Bhutan, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Myanmar, Nepal, and Thailand revitalized MCFs and reinvigorated MCF leaders. Continuing religious oppression in some of these nations makes the relationships our staff members have with MCF leaders even more important. ACCTS staff also led leadership meetings in China, taught at the Pacific Region AMCF Conference in Australia, participated in an MCF of Taiwan meeting, and taught at our South Korean sister organization's annual training event for international military Christians.

**Latin America:** A Brazilian ACCTS staff member worked closely with the MCF in that nation to host several events for military personnel and their families, including a groundbreaking multi-confessional chaplaincy event. Staff members also spoke at this conference and held discussions with national military leaders. We were involved in military Christian events in Colombia, discussions with chaplains in Chile about working with the MCF, and in the MCF of Chile's national meeting. Staff members also participated in and spoke at the South American AMCF Conference and Interaction leadership training program in Argentina.

**North America/Caribbean:** In January an ACCTS staff member, along with the AMCF regional vice president, met with MCF leaders in Antigua, Dominica, Trinidad and Tobago, and Grenada to discuss ministry plans, speak at MCF meetings, and meet with high-ranking officials in the armed forces. We also led a marriage and fi-

nancial training program in Haiti and a leadership meeting for Caribbean MCF leaders.

**Europe:** ACCTS helped organize and lead a European MCF leaders' meeting in Germany, with participants from eighteen nations. Staff members consulted with Ukrainian MCF leaders on ministry to troops on the front line, joined in ministry to Ukrainian war widows, and conferred with Russian MCF leaders who face the challenge of ministering in a restricted environment. Our staff also met with leaders and participated in MCF events in Czech Republic, Finland, Moldova, and Romania.

*"It was my joy and honor...to be present at the annual gathering of European military Christian organisations. I can say without hesitation that the majority of encouragement and incentives for what I do come from that place and those people." – European Leaders Meeting participant from Bulgaria*

**Africa:** In coordination with our sister organization in the UK, ACCTS celebrated 60 years of military ministry in Africa at a conference in Nigeria. Representatives from over a dozen nations in the region attended this jubilant celebration of God's work in this continent. Additionally, a staff member met with military Christians in Cabo Verde and discussed ministry opportunities with the regional military commander.

**English Language Training Programs:** Several military Christian fellowships around the world hold English language training programs as a form of outreach to their nation's armed forces personnel and their families. In 2018, MCFs in Moldova, Mongolia, and Ukraine asked ACCTS to help them host English programs for their armed forces. The Moldovan and Ukrainian programs were geared toward military children and included Bible teachings as well as English lessons. At one of these programs the majority of participants made decisions for Christ by the close of the program. The Mongolian program was held in cooperation with the ministry of defense and taught conversational English skills to senior field grade and flag officers. While the program didn't include Bible teaching, it did incorporate worship songs, and our staff had opportunities to share their faith outside of the classroom.

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# ACCTS' 2018 International Military Outreach

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## Cadet/Young Officer Ministries:

ACCTS organized and hosted a March leadership trip for U.S. military academy cadets and British cadets which included visits to over 30 militarily significant sites and discussions on the spiritual aspects of life in military service. Additionally, staff members led West Point cadets and others on an Exploration Asia program in China and Japan to help them experience other cultures and meet international Christians.

*"I came on this trip to better understand the power of faith and the effect it has on people...but to my delight I found my own faith and have come to some realizations about humanity and how we need faith to explain the things we do and decisions we make." – W2WW2 participant*

**Brazil Chaplains Conference:** Staff members were involved in every step of planning and executing this April conference, which brought together multi-confessional chaplains to work toward improving communication and cooperation in a nation where chaplains from various denominations have had infrequent contact in the past. Both before and after the conference, staff members also spoke to thousands of military personnel at dozens of locations, including Brazil's air force, army, military, and sergeant's academies.

**International Military Student Ministries:** Every year thousands of international military personnel are sent to the U.S. for military training, and several ACCTS staff couples minister to these students. They help the students learn English and navigate their way around a new culture while encouraging them to attend Bible studies and chapel services. In 2018 our staff ministered to students from dozens of nations as diverse as Benin, Cambodia, Cameroon, El Salvador, Guatemala, Togo, and from Mideast countries which are normally hard to reach.



International students with ACCTS staff



Ukrainian English Language Program



Haiti

# Financial Overview:

## Reaching More People in 2018

Dear Ministry Partners and Friends,

Where do I begin? Our hearts overflow with thankfulness because, as you have read in this annual report, God is blessing ACCTS' outreach, helping us reach more and more people, and creating great advances in international military ministry, including several military Christian fellowships (MCFs) which are now lighthouses of ministry in their regions. Because of your generosity of prayer and finances to our outreach, you have improved the spiritual growth and personal faith of military believers and MCFs around the world. Thank you!

Many of the MCF leaders we work with throughout the year are in very difficult and lonely places, like our friends in Macedonia who started an MCF in the past two years but face opposition. We visited our partners in Ukraine who are doing an incredible job reaching their military for Christ by caring for wounded soldiers and comforting widows and orphans. We visited and encouraged believers in Asian countries where meeting in public places and worshipping in private homes can cost Christians their job -- or freedom. Often, we do not know if will be able to go back to a nation, or if MCF members from these countries can come to us, since acquiring visas is becoming more and more difficult. We had to cancel the 2018 Interaction-Rocky Mountain High program because participants could not get visas. That's why it is so important to train and develop indigenous MCF leaders as we have the opportunities, and why it is important for ACCTS to develop an operational reserve to respond to ministry requests on short notice. We rarely have reserve funds available, though, which limits our ministry opportunities.

It is so humbling that God allows us to be part of His plan to reach military personnel and their families, especially in countries where they are isolated. By His grace, and with additional resources, we can continue to positively affect armed forces personnel and MCF leaders by building their faith, providing information that helps them make



ethically-sound decisions, and teaching their young, upcoming military Christians leaders at ACCTS leadership programs. With our partner organizations in South Korea and in the UK, our belief is that changing one person at a time can change a nation. What an incredible opportunity!

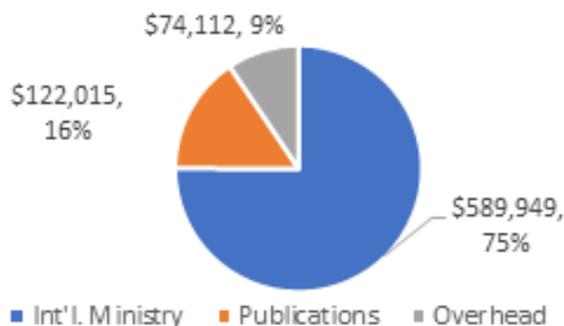
May God bless you as you serve Him and may your hearts overflow with thanksgiving to God as you partner with ACCTS to reach military personnel of all nations.

In Christ,

Bernhard Kaltenbach  
Deputy and Financial Director

### Fiscal Year Expenditures of \$786,086

October 1, 2017 - September 30, 2018



# ACCTS' 2018 Annual Report

Praising God for the Growth of International Military Ministry



*PanAfrica Conference, Nigeria*

*Antigua and Barbuda*



*Pacific Region Conference, Australia*



*South Korean training program*



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