CLOSENESS IN CHRIST:

Fellowship and Unity of the Spirit in South America

"It's a joy to be with Latin American military believers. They love each other and the Lord and are amazingly enthusiastic in their fellowship!" report Phil and Sue Exner after attending the South American AMCF Regional Conference in October.

The military Christian fellowship of Argentina hosted the meeting, which included over 110 participants from seven South American nations. The conference emphasized reconciliation with God, unity among believers, and endurance through life's difficulties. It was a much-needed spiritual respite for many participants, as evidenced by the time and effort it cost them to attend -- several groups traveled by car for days to get there, and one participant saved up more than one year's salary to attend.

Following the regional conference, the MCF hosted an Interaction leadership program to give additional ministry training to regional MCF leaders and members. ACCTS' Latin American coordinators, Bob and Billie Jean Reifsnyder, were invaluable participants in both the conference and Interaction training.

During both events, Sue Exner notes, the closeness of the believers was unmistakable: "Many of these people only see each other every two years, but their love for each other was strong, and they were so sensitive to the needs of others. Several times I watched groups of people spontaneously stop to pray for someone, and, when they discovered that one of their number needed surgery, they gladly took up a love offering to meet the financial need."

Give thanks for these South American military Christians and please pray for their various ministries. Several nations in the region, including Argentina and Venezuela, are experiencing significant financial and political hardships -- please uphold those nations and their citizens in your prayers.