

FIVE-NATION MINISTRY IMPACT IN ASIA

In January Pastor Blesson of the military Christian fellowship of India and Rick Ryles, ACCTS' Asia ministry coordinator, hosted a two-day discipleship program -- funded by ACCTS Asia ministry supporters -- in a town in India which borders Bhutan. Participants were members of Gideon Fellowship, the military Christian fellowship of Bhutan, which is a small MCF in need of encouragement and teaching. With the positive response to this discipleship program Pastor Blesson and Rick Ryles will continue to visit this group yearly to encourage and challenge them to grow their outreach. Please pray with these Bhutanese Christians as they try to expand the MCF in various cities within their nation.

Following the discipleship program, Rick and Pastor Blesson met with LTG (Indian Army, Ret.) Mukherjee and his wife in Kolkata, India to discuss organizing a chapter of the newly-reorganized Cornelius Network India in Kolkata. The first meeting of the reorganized CNI was scheduled to be held in March. Pray with LTG Mukherjee and others as they encourage military Christians throughout the diverse nation of India.

Following his time in India, Rick traveled to Myanmar to be an instructor at the Indochina Cornelius Fellowship Discipleship Program, which has been hosted by ACCTS' ministry partner Mission Support Organisation (South Korea) since 2008. Around 34 members of Myanmar's military Christian fellowship attended this five-day event in Yangon. This annual event has helped build up and develop the MCF of Myanmar's headquarters in Yangon, and next year it will be expanded to other cities to encourage and challenge new and existing chapters of the MCF.

The focus of Rick's next stop was to help the military Christian fellowship of Vietnam, Joshua Fellowship, build chapters in six cities. Rick and MCF leaders also developed a plan for ACCTS to host a winter seminar for Christian youth who are about to enter into military service. This program will be modeled on the highly successful Military Christian Fellowship of Singapore's Pre-National Service Training. Singapore's MCF has already provided the program to Vietnam's MCF and is willing to help guide this new initiative.

Rick's final mission visit was in Laos, where he served as instructor at the annual MSO-hosted Indochina Cornelius Fellowship Discipleship Program for members of the MCF of Laos. The MCF's leadership is already making plans to host a new type of leadership discipleship training program next year. That program will include 18 leaders (two from each of the eight provinces where there are contacts and two from Vientiane) and the possible additional of 5-10 young or new MCF members who have potential for leadership.

Please continue to pray with military Christians in Asia as they share Christ's redemption and hope with their coworkers, family, and friends. Although several recent ministry events in the region were canceled due to the COVID-19 coronavirus, we're thankful for these indigenous believers who carry on God's work in their nations.

Country Profile: **Bhutan**



Bhutan is a small kingdom in the Himalayas which sits between India and China. Bhutan has never been colonized and remained isolated from the rest of the world until the mid-20th century, and for that reason has a very unique culture and traditions. In Bhutan's landscape of mountains and subtropical plains, there are a little over 12,000 Christians – less than 1% of the population. The official religion in Bhutan is Buddhism, and Buddhists account for about 84% of the population. Current laws provide for freedom of religion, but proselytism is forbidden.