



**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 2020

## Come See What God Has Done!

Dear Coworkers in Christ,

*“Many are the plans in a person’s heart,  
but it is the LORD’S purpose that prevails.”*

*Proverbs 19:21*

2020 was not the year any of us expected or planned for. COVID forced people to make sudden and dramatic changes to their plans, but it did not slow down the work that God is doing around the world. Looking back on these challenging months, we are grateful for how the Lord used ACCTS to minister to and through military believers worldwide.

Although ACCTS had to postpone several training programs, such as International Chaplain Training, we shifted quickly to video conferencing to continue our ministry of discipling and encouragement to international armed forces personnel. Many military Christian fellowships around the world also started using video conferencing, more email messages, and other electronic means to replace face-to-face Bible studies, prayer meetings, and teaching conferences. Additionally, ACCTS began holding weekly staff video meetings at which we invited graduates from ACCTS’ programs to share how the program helped them minister in their own countries. In these ways ACCTS staff members were able to “meet” virtually with individual MCF leaders around the world, strengthen MCFs and their members, and encourage military families. *continued on page 2*



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God doesn't waste our inconvenience, trouble, or suffering. The stress and isolation caused by travel and meeting restrictions greatly increased the eagerness and desire for personal fellowship around the world, and brought greater joy when Christians were able to connect with each other electronically or in person. In fact, **we engaged personally with more believers than we have in the past**, thanks to removing the time, effort, and expense that challenges military believers in poor countries.

Since ACCTS started in 1972, we have stressed that our role is to disciple, train, and equip indigenous military Christian fellowship leaders to carry out ministry in their own nations. 2020 demonstrated that that is still the best strategy to follow in the future.

Although most of our staff were prevented from traveling for face-to-face ministry, indigenous military Christians -- who already have access to military bases, thoroughly understand their nation's culture, and speak the language of their country's citizens -- carried on brilliantly. The restrictions on travel varied from one country to another, and, in some regions, indigenous military Christian fellowship leaders were still able to travel and gather personally, which opened doors to the Gospel in some important new areas.

ACCTS' ministry continues to expand in significant areas. We have seen progress in starting or expanding new fellowships in some of the most challenging countries and regions of the world. In addition, we ministered to people on both sides of military conflicts, continued our partnerships with other military ministries, and supported the president and vice presidents of the Association of Military Christian Fellowships (AMCF). We took steps to renew our online ethics journal, "Faith and War", which will be available next year, made plans to host a new AMCF Interaction program, worked with MCFs as they planned future conferences and events, and continued to pray and plan for a world conference in 2024.

We are excited to see what God does in 2021. Although many plans are still tentative, we trust in Him to continue His good work around the world in the hearts and lives of military men and women in over 150 nations.

God is continuing to use your faithful and often-sacrificial donations and prayers to accomplish what we have seen Him do in the past year. **ACCTS is YOUR ministry, and we rejoice with thankfulness for your partnership in sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with military men and women around the world.** On behalf of the thousands of military Christians whom you impact through your support, we thank you for your continued support and prayer.

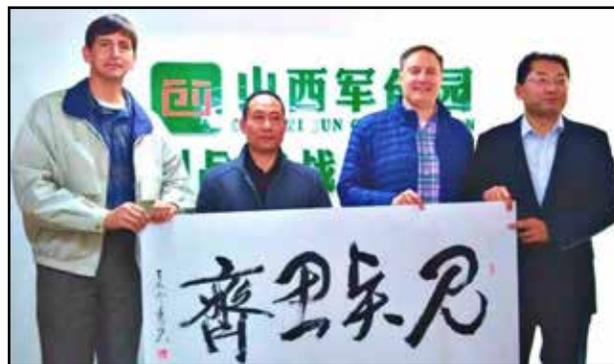
In His Faithful Service,



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

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**5-Nation Asian Ministry Trip:** ACCTS staff member Rick Ryles spent two months ministering to Asian military Christians in January and February. By God's grace, his mission trip ended in late February before COVID-19 became widespread. In India, he ministered with Pastor Blesson to conduct a two-day discipleship program on the Indian-Bhutan border. After the discipleship program, Rick and Pastor Blesson worked with a local MCF leader in India to start a new chapter of the Indian fellowship. Rick's next stop was in Myanmar, where he taught at a military discipleship conference hosted by our partner, MSO of South Korea. Trips to two more nations completed Rick's mission journey – Vietnam, where he helped local military Christians start six new chapters of the MCF, and Laos, where he taught at another discipleship event.



**Spiritual Fruit in Russia:** In January ACCTS staff member Dick Barnes spoke at the Russian military Christian fellowship's annual prayer and planning meeting. Spiritual fruit was evident at this meeting, at which five people joined the MCF and one person committed his life to Christ.



**Cadet/Midshipmen Learn Leadership Lessons:** ACCTS' director Phil Exner led this year's Waterloo to WWII leadership tour in March, which included US midshipmen, British cadets, and a Royal Air Force captain. Each of the 30+ stops included visits to battlefield and historic sites and included lessons on the importance of moral leadership. "This trip is always a great opportunity to introduce Christ as the Truth Who should be the anchor and moral compass to those beginning their careers commanding men and women under arms," stated Phil at the conclusion of the tour. The tour concluded just a day or two before travel restrictions went into place.



**Unexpected Blessings in International Student Ministries:** Staff members who minister to international student ministries had to quickly find new ways to minister as restrictions were put in place and face-to-face gatherings were prohibited. Dave and Karen Wittman in San Antonio changed their Bible studies to video meetings and found to their surprise that they were reaching more students than before. In addition to the students currently in their area, they invited former students who'd returned to their nations, and many of them were happy for the opportunity to join the Bible studies. Additionally, ACCTS staff were able to video-meet with international students who are preparing to come to the U.S.

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**North American & Caribbean Webinar:** In July ACCTS hosted a webinar for military Christians from AMCF's North American region (which includes the Caribbean nations, Canada, and the USA). Most webinar participants had attended a previous ACCTS-hosted North American conference, and this event allowed them to gather again, share how their military ministries in their nations have continued since the previous conference, bring up questions for discussion, pray together, and encourage each other in the faith.

**Specially Developed Mongolian Bible Studies:** ACCTS staff member Rick Jackson has been working closely with the Mongolian military Christian fellowship this year. At their request he wrote a series of twenty Bible studies to help young Mongolian Christian officers be strong witnesses for Christ as they interact with their fellow officers. Each study was designed for small group discussions. As the Bible studies were completed, MCF leaders translated them into Mongolian and made any cultural changes needed.

**Interaction-Rocky Mountain High Expansion:** Although our annual leadership program for young international military officers was cancelled, we were encouraged to learn that Christians in two other nations – Sri Lanka and Romania – are working to develop similar programs within their nation's military Christian fellowships (MCFs). Both programs are being developed by former I-RMH graduates.

**European Leaders Video Conference:** Each year, military Christian fellowship leaders from European nations meet for four days of fellowship, encouragement, and community. This year's face-to-face event had to be cancelled, but the group was instead able to gather via videoconferences. ACCTS staff members were involved, which allowed them to form deeper relationships with participants in small group sessions.

**International Chaplain Training:** Former participants in ICT (formerly called Chaplains Interaction) continue to minister in dozens of nations around the world, sharing what they learned during their training with ACCTS and bringing military men and women to deeper faith in Christ. One former participant, Augustin from Cameroon, traveled to the nation of Chad in November to deliver 4,000 Bibles and give training to volunteer chaplains in that nation.



# Advance!

*“Jonathan said to his young armor-bearer, ‘Come, let’s go over to the outpost of those uncircumcised men. Perhaps the Lord will act in our behalf. Nothing can hinder the Lord from saving, whether by many or by few.’ ‘Do all that you have in mind,’ his armor-bearer said. ‘Go ahead; I am with you heart and soul.’”*

I Samuel 14:6,7 NIV

What an inspiring account. Read the whole chapter if you have a moment, as it has great applications to the battles we face each day. The strong army of the Philistines was routed because of God -- but notice that He used the courage of Jonathan and the encouragement of his armor-bearer.

We cannot say thank you enough to all of you who prayed and who supported the ACCTS ministry during the last year! We could only step out courageously in faith because we knew that God went before us, and that we had you as our “armor-bearers” right beside us. Because of your strong support you inspired us to step out in faith even in times of great opposition, difficulties, and often frustration as our “normal” life changed from one minute to another.

Together we reached countless military personnel and their families around the world through personal visits prior to travel restrictions, and then through countless emails and on-line meetings of teaching, encouragement, and mentoring.

The financial graph provides you with an overview of how God’s resources provided by you to ACCTS were allocated. Your generosity enabled us to continue to fulfill God’s great commission.

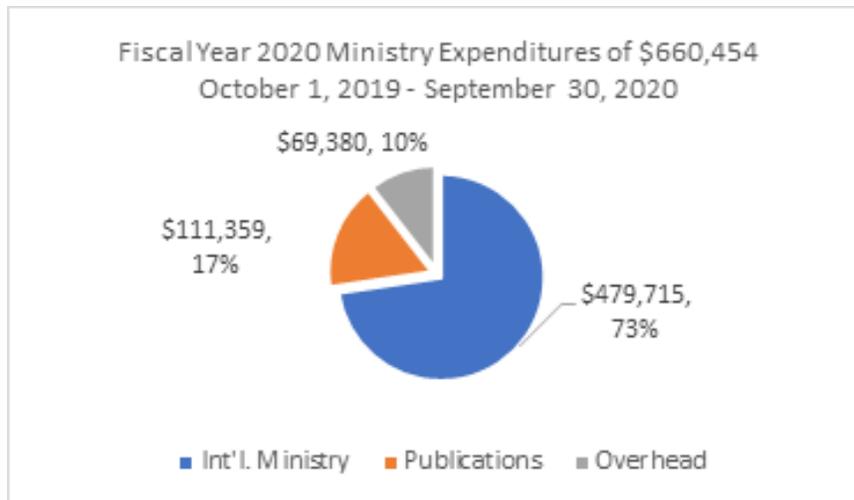
Matthew 28:18-20 states: “Then Jesus came to them and said, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.’”

With Christ’s promises, ACCTS moves into the new year courageously and with confidence that God will be with us as we continue to reach our goal: that one day each soldier will have the opportunity to hear and see the Gospel lived out by one of his or her fellow soldiers.

With a grateful heart for your partnership in the Gospel,

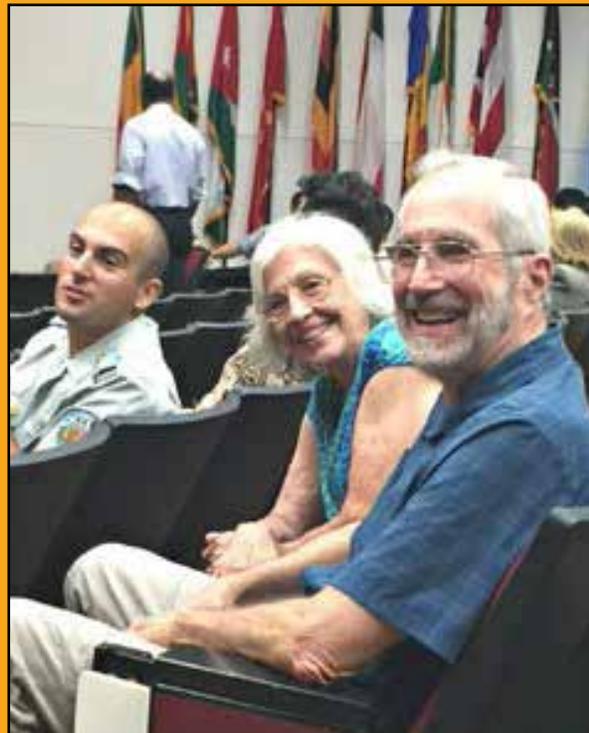


Bernhard Kaltenbach  
Deputy and Financial Director



## Friendships Forged and Lives Transformed

For 30 years ACCTS staff members Col. (USA, Ret.) Bill and Suzanne Lumpkin befriended and ministered to international military students at the Defense Language Institute (DLI) in San Antonio. Along the way, many young men and women learned about Christ and His redemptive plan for their lives. Many became Christians, and even more went back to their home nations to become involved in their local military Christian fellowships. Some even started MCFs in their nation! These students learned the English language and the Bible while attending studies with the Lumpkins. They had innumerable home-cooked meals and holiday visits with Bill and Suzanne, attended chapel services and cultural events, and went sight-seeing to learn about the US. Many of the former DLI students are still in frequent contact with the Lumpkins and know they are life-long friends who will be there to listen to, pray for, and encourage them. The Lumpkins have been a shining example of Christ's love for those who came to a foreign land with many questions, and often feeling lonely. Bill and Suzanne retired from ACCTS staff in December, and we are incredibly grateful to God and to them for their service and the many lives they changed through their time with these international military students. Praise God with us for this devoted and loving couple and pray for them as they enjoy their second retirement!



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