



Onward!

December 2018



The newsletter of the Association of Military Christian Fellowships



Arrows for Christ in Israel

A Christian group in Israel hosts an intensive, 2 ½ -month long program for conscripts that helps them learn God's Word, change their habits, and work on personal development.

A graduate of the most recent *Arrows* program shares: "From *Arrows* program I received practical tools for becoming a soldier during difficult times in the army...I strengthened my relationship with God and I received answers on important and critical questions as a messianic believer and student of Jesus, [about] theological and apologetic questions that matter.

I got a clearer picture of myself, my identity, who I am in Christ."

Please pray for God's continued blessing on leaders of this group and for the young Christian men and women who serve their compulsory military service in Israel.

FOR GOD SO
LOVED THE
WORLD

"So God throws open
the door
of this world
-- and enters
as a baby...
what religion ever had
a god that wanted
such intimacy with us
that He came with
such vulnerability
to us?

What God ever came so
tender
we could touch Him?
So fragile that
we could break Him?
So vulnerable
that His bare,
beating heart
could be hurt?
Only the One
who loves you
to death."

-- Ann Voskamp

Access That Others Don't Have

New AMCF Pacific-Region Vice President Discusses Military Ministry



Jamie and Jo Van Heel

AMCF's new vice president for the Pacific region, LTCOL Jamie Van Heel of Australia, recently answered some questions for us about AMCF ministry in the Pacific region. Please pray with LTCOL Van Heel and others who are making a difference for Christ throughout the Pacific region.

Why is military Christian fellowship important?

“The military environment has its own culture and is distinctive with postings, training exercises, and deployments on a regular basis separating the military member from their home environment. It is important to have a network of Christians in your work environment that can encourage, equip, and inspire you to be salt and light within the military environment. **As military members we have access to military members that ministers, or Christians outside the military, do not have access to.**”

What are your hopes and goals for AMCF's Pacific-region military ministry?

“The Southwest Pacific region has a relatively low population base and a large geographical area with a number of islands that are very remote...There are a number of countries that do not have MCFs so I am intentionally trying to identify contacts within these countries for them to develop Christian ministry through MCF.”

What issues do military Christians in your region face?

“The more affluent countries...are becoming more secular and moving away from the Christian heritage. Members of the military and police forces in countries such as Fiji, Australia, and New Zealand have frequent deployments...Issues raised include support for marriages, dealing with fraud and corruption, and changing acceptance of Christianity in society when laws are commencing to reduce religious freedoms.”

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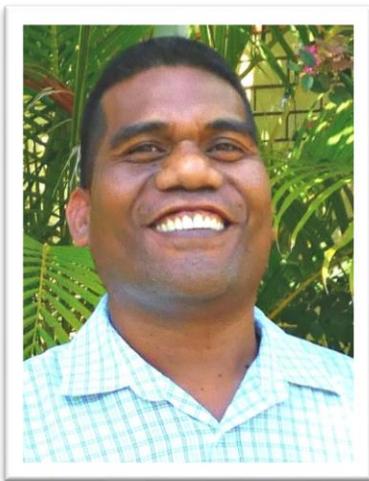


How can MCFs attract younger members?

“We are using social media as a platform to communicate with each other...To communicate the Christian message to them we need to create interesting, relevant material. It is also good to create some challenging activities and invite them to MCF Bible studies and conferences.”

What are prayer requests for military ministry in your region?

“That there will be an MCF that operates in each country -- we currently have five countries without an MCF operating; that MCF leaders will create an appropriate strategy for their MCF within their countries; for opportunities and funding to be available for me to travel and visit a number of these countries over the next three years; that there will be a



couple available to replace the Bielenbergs, who have served this region as ACCTS workers well for many years.”



Merry Christmas!

“And Mary said: ‘My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me—holy is his name. His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation. He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty.’”

- Luke 1:46-54

“Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life. Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.”

– 1 Timothy 1:15-17

“It is impossible to conceive how different things would have turned out if that birth had not happened... for millions of people who have lived since, the birth of Jesus made possible not just a new way of understanding life but a new way of living it...there have been untold numbers of men and women who, in untold numbers of ways, have been so grasped by the child who was born, so caught up in the message he taught and the life he lived, that they have found themselves profoundly changed by their relationship with him.”

-- Frederick Buechner

For more ministry resources,
please visit the AMCF webpage at www.amcf-int.org.

If you want news or prayer items from your military Christian fellowship included in upcoming AMCF newsletters, please send that information to amcf@accts.org.

This newsletter is produced by AMCF’s ministry partner, ACCTS (www.accts.org).