

Hungary:

Border Guards Learn English, Meet Christians

The ACCTS team in Hungary

“Teaching English may well be the 21st century’s most promising way to take the gospel to the world,” wrote Agnieszka Tennant, a native of Poland, in a 2002 *Christianity Today* article. “It’s the globalized world’s equivalent of a cup of water for the thirsty.”

One of AMCF’s ministry partners, ACCTS, participated in English language camps in Hungary this summer which



Major General Josef Bendek

provided a promising way to engage in pre-evangelism (that is, befriending others and meeting their needs while waiting on God’s timing to share Jesus Christ).

The English language classes, which were held from 6 July to 9 August, were composed of border guard personnel and their dependents. The teachers were organized into teams and dispersed to ten districts around Hungary’s border. Most of the groups were small enough to allow a good amount of personal interaction between teachers and students. In addition to the other students, several ACCTS team members spent considerable time with a major general who commands 12,000 border troops.

(continued on page 3)

Iraq:

Soldiers Baptized into Christ

Much has been said about the mistreatment of prisoners in the Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq; amidst all the bad news, however, is also good news -- God is still working in the hearts and minds of military personnel in the Middle East. The following excerpt from the September 2004 Christian Military Fellowship (USA) newsletter reports on a recent baptism among American forces in Iraq. As you read it, please pray that Christians in the U.S. armed forces will shine as examples of righteousness in an unrighteous generation.

It was about 8:30 AM on a bright summer Sunday morning. The musicians were setting up...off to the side stood a very large wooden crate lined with plastic, filled with fresh clear water and decorated with a camouflage net around the outside...does it sound like a down-home, open-air church meeting and baptism service? You bet it was! The venue, however, was about 60 miles north-east of Baghdad, Iraq. Members of the 30th Enhanced Separate Brigade (ESB), a National Guard unit from South Carolina, gathered on a parade field in the middle of an Iraqi training base to witness the baptism of several members of their unit who had decided to "take the plunge" and publicly confess their faith in Christ. And what a celebration it was!

After the opening worship chorus of "Holy is the Lord," one of the four chaplains stepped up to the podium and read from Romans, Chapter 6...A second chaplain preached from the same text, emphasizing to the assembly the importance of following our Lord in baptism, [and] comparing Christ's physical death and resurrection to the believer's death to the old self life in sin and spiritual resurrection to new life in Christ.

The invitation to come to the baptismal pool was given first to the candidates who had a short time previously received Jesus as Savior and [was then] extended to the entire assembled host...When the last of the new believers had risen anew from the spiritually cleansing waters, a third chaplain invited those who desired to renew their vows to our Lord to walk by the water and dip a hand into the pool and perhaps recall the day when they too committed their lives to God. Several folks did just that and undoubtedly left spiritually refreshed. One man, wearing civilian clothes and carrying a black hat, dipped his hat into the water and just poured it over his head as he slowly walked across the parade field, once again at peace with his Savior and Lord!

-- by Dan Cartwright, CMF Board of Directors

Singapore:

Brokenness Leads to Ministry

"I have been ministering to the soldiers for 12 years now (the last six years in full-time ministry)," writes Pastor Roland Lee in *Onward Soldiers*, the magazine of the military Christian fellowship of Singapore. "My call to serve the soldiers came out of a time of brokenness some 14 years ago. I entered National Service in 1990 and backslid badly [in my] first year into NS. Because of the social and environmental change that NS brought, I soon withdrew from active church service due to a sense of disconnectedness. Prior to this I was an active youth ministry leader. As I looked back on those years of backsliding, I cannot help but give thanks to God for

his preserving grace in my life."

While in national service Pastor Lee met a Christian in his unit who led a spiritual cell-group for soldiers. "That caught my attention!" shares Pastor Lee. "I thought no one would care much about soldiers, as we tend to be inconsistent in attending church due to our tight schedules. Also, wouldn't an all-soldiers cell group be boring without girls?"

The cell group was apparently anything but boring, since the Lord used it and Pastor Lee's Christian friend to bring

(continued on page 3)

Border Guards Learn English

(continued from page 1)

Although English teachers were asked not to initiate conversations about their religious beliefs, they were free to discuss them if a student brought up the subject. Additionally, an opportunity for ACCTS staff members Mike and Leslie Fligg to give New Testaments to their students came about quite naturally: "Throughout the course we used desert-camouflage NT/Psalms/Proverbs to teach such verbs as 'pick up', 'put down', 'open/close'," Mike shares. "We were very happy that each student took one home on the last day. We pray they'll get to where we can converse at a level that supports our verbal witness, and that they'll be able to read the Bible on their own!" The Fliggs will follow up on these relationships by email and telephone.

Another teacher, Connie Wilson, sums up the experience of many of the English teachers: "Looking back, it's hard to believe that we did what we did...I don't think I could ask for a better reward than knowing I was able to help make a difference in someone else's life -- temporarily through teaching English, and eternally by sharing Christ."

ACCTS Team Members: Paul Neu, Norris and Lois Webster, Mike and Leslie Fligg, Earl Casner, and Dell McDonald.



Mike & Leslie Fligg

Brokenness Leads to Ministry

(continued from page 2)

Pastor Lee back into His family. The confirmation to enter full-time ministry came several years later during a retreat. Hoping for some time to pray and seek God's will, Pastor Lee went for a walk to a park. Once there he saw an elderly lady and felt that God wanted him to talk with her.

After some conversation, the lady asked him, "Young man, what do you do in your church?" Pastor Lee shared about his military ministry, to which she replied, "Yes, the ministry to the soldiers is very needed. My own brother, who was a regular in the Air Force, died without knowing the Lord." Pastor Lee knew that God was speaking to him through the elderly lady. He realized that many soldiers could lose their lives without knowing the Lord if no one took up the call to preach to them. Later than

night, while watching the movie *Saving Private Ryan*, Pastor Lee again felt God speaking powerfully to him during a beach scene where military chaplains prayed and blessed the war-bound soldiers.

Pastor Lee, who is now an MCF chaplain, reports, "At present I have twelve faithful men serving with me and many of them are fruits from our military ministry of almost 14 years ago. They are reproducing fruit in others, in particular soldiers and soldiers-to-be -- men reaching other men for Christ!"

If you would like more information about the military ministry of the Military Christian Fellowship of Singapore, see their website at: www.mcf.org.sg.

Resources

Encouragement: The Naval, Military, & Air Force Bible Society's booklet, "You are not alone", is a collection of biblical prayers for seafarers to use at sea or when they are feeling alone. These free booklets can be obtained by contacting NMAFBS at Castaway House, 311 Twyford Avenue, Portsmouth PO2 8RN United Kingdom. Email: jmh@nmafbs.org

Evangelism: Although geared primarily toward U.S. readers, *Going Public with Your Faith: Becoming a Spiritual Influence at Work* (William Carr Peel and Walt Larimore; published by Zondervan) can also help Christians in other cultures who want practical, relationship-oriented information for sharing Christ with their co-workers.

Bible Study: *The Alpha Course* is being held on military bases and operations

around the world to provide a course for military personnel and their family to discuss key issues of the Christian faith. For more information, contact: Alpha International, Holy Trinity Brompton, Brompton Road, London SW7 1JA, United Kingdom. Email: info@alphacourse.org Website: www.alphacourse.org

Information: Up-to-date information on the persecuted church can be found at the Voice of the Martyrs website: www.persecution.com
