

# ACCTS Adopts Core Values

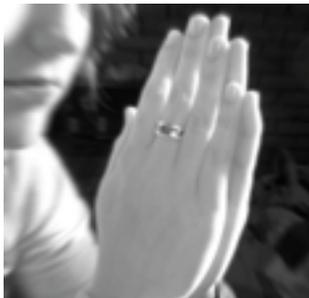
*"The simplest things are often the truest." - Author Richard Bach*



Biblically-based



Spirit-led



Prayer-centered



People-focused

In September the ACCTS board of directors adopted a statement to reflect ACCTS' core values. Core values -- the basic beliefs which an organization holds to -- are important both for people inside the organization (so they know how to proceed in their ministries) and for people outside the organization.

Much time was spent praying about and discussing what ACCTS' core values should be. The four concepts that kept arising were that ACCTS is:

- Biblically-based;
- Spirit-led;
- Prayer-centered; and
- People-focused.

As Cal Dunlap, ACCTS' executive director, states, "During our discussions these four statements were our basis. With time, they began expanding and broadening to include many good values. But in the end both the staff and board went back to the simplicity of the original four concepts."

We appreciate your prayers as we strive to fulfill 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***

in a biblically-based, Spirit-led, prayer-centered, and people-focused way.

## **The ACCTS Board of Directors**

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# LEARNING TO FORGIVE IN IRAQ

"The number one problem in Iraq today is that there's too much hatred and too little love in the hearts of the people," writes retired Iraqi General Georges Sada in his book, **Saddam's Secrets**. "Somehow our people, in all parts of the country and in every tribe and faction, must learn to love their neighbors and to forgive and forget what has happened in the past. Saddam taught us to hate, but hatred is a sickness and we don't want to be a sick nation anymore."

General Sada tells about four young terrorists who were caught plotting to bomb his home. When General Sada interviewed them he learned that they were students at a nearby university who had bright futures ahead of them if they stopped listening to the non-Iraqis who had turned them to terrorism. "I felt sad for them, and I knew what the intelligence officers would do to them when I turned them over to the police... I looked at them and I just said a silent prayer: *Jesus, tell me what to do with these young men.*" After praying, General Sada took an action that no one expected and many disapproved of: he released the young men, offering them forgiveness instead of retribution.

"Four hours later, I looked out the window and I saw all four of them coming back to my house, this time with their fathers and mothers. I invited them to come inside and immediately the parents fell all over me, thanking me for sparing the lives of their sons... To this day, those four boys still come to my house from time to time to say hello and wish me well... It's been nearly two years now since that incident happened, and some people still tell me that one day those young men will come back and finish the job. But I don't believe it. I didn't decide to release them on my own; I prayed about my decision and Jesus told me to release them. So I'm not sorry that I let them go. But I can tell you this. All of their people know this story now, and some of them say, 'We know very well what would have happened if General Sada was a Muslim. The boys would have been hanged that same day. But that man had mercy on them because he's a Christian.'... It's easy to hate, and I could have hated them and allowed them

*Iraqi soldiers. Photo courtesy U.S. Army*



to be hanged; but I knew that Jesus wanted me to find another way, and that's what I did."

"...Hatred, jealousy, and envy will eat us up from the inside. They do nothing to the other person. Those bitter emotions are like a crippling disease that eats our nerves, our minds, and our bodies, and leaves us empty inside. If we really want to improve our lives in Iraq, then we need to plant love in the hearts of our people, and that's why I've chosen to work for peace and reconciliation in the Middle East. I know now that there's only one way to solve our problems, and that's through creative dialogue, a commitment to peace, and openness to reconciliation."

*Georges Sada was a military advisor for Saddam Hussein who frequently experienced Hussein's wrath because of his fight for human rights. General Sada's acts of bravery are well-known in Iraq, and he has received the International Prize for Peace and Reconciliation. General Sada shares his story in **Saddam's Secrets: How an Iraqi General Defied and Survived Saddam Hussein**, which is available at [integritypublishers.com](http://integritypublishers.com).*

## WE KNOW WHY THE MONA LISA SMILES!



The Mona Lisa is smiling because she knows it's never too late to start donating to ACCTS' ministry! If you've never supported ACCTS' international military outreach, now is the time – especially because you can get a year-end tax-deductible receipt for your generosity.

For those of you who already give -- **thank you!** Remember, your year-end gift (or increased giving level) enables us to share Christ with military personnel around the globe.

*Did you know there are many ways to give to ACCTS? You can give via check, electronic transfer, or credit card; you can donate securities; and, you can include ACCTS in your estate planning. If you have questions about any of these methods of supporting international military ministry, call Bernhard at 1-800-487-8108 or email him at [finances@accts.org](mailto:finances@accts.org).*

## CHAPLAINS INTERACTION

In April 2007 ACCTS will conduct our first Chaplain's Interaction, a leadership program for international chaplains which will help them learn about chaplaincy issues and how chaplains can support military Christian fellowships around the world.

Some items which will be discussed during Chaplain's Interaction include: chaplain/commander relations, leadership tools, ethics and code of conduct for chaplains, hospital and prison ministries, counseling ministries, working with para-church organizations, and the "pray and plan" technique.

These discussions will be accomplished through a series of seminars and will be followed by visits to U.S. military installations. The program will provide extensive discussion time to allow chaplains to exchange ideas and information, as well as experience Christian fellowship.

ACCTS is currently in the process of inviting chaplains from nations around the world to participate. If you or your chapel are interested in providing scholarship assistance to an international chaplain, please contact the ACCTS office.



## Attention

all Artists, Cartoonists, and Doodlers

If you like to sketch, etch, or even just doodle, we have a contest for you: draw a cartoon-type figure to represent "General Fund", a general in the Lord's Army who is raising awareness of ACCTS' General Fund (which pays for things like office space, phone service, etc.). If your cartoon is chosen, we will use it in upcoming newsletters and send you a copy of the book, **Pray and Plan: Discovering and Obeying the Heart of God** by Tom Capps. Please submit any sketches to ACCTS at PO Box 27239, Denver, CO 80227-0239.

## Promoted to Heaven



Mrs. Carol Tokatoglou went to be with her Lord on 26 September. "Mrs. Tok" graduated from Moody Bible Institute and served as a nurse missionary in Nigeria before marrying C.N. Tokatoglou. Since 1962, she and her husband had been involved in Officers' Christian Fellowship. They also provided encouragement to ACCTS when it formed in 1972 and in the years since. Please pray for her husband and their two adult children.

## The Golden Chain of Saints

The saints in each generation, joined to those who have gone before and filled like them with light, become a golden chain, in which each saint is a separate link, united to the next by faith, works and love.

-- *Simeon the New Theologian*  
(949-1022 A.D.)

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