

# April Ministry Plans

What are ACCTS staff members doing this month? Here's a "situation report" for several of them.

This month, several ACCTS staff members (including Frank and Ginny Cole and Dell McDonald) are preparing for ACCTS' Chaplains Interaction, which begins 29 April. If you would like a current update on which international chaplains are attending this event, contact the ACCTS office.



*Dick and Linda Barnes*



*Dell McDonald*

Dick Barnes will participate in a military conference in Bucharest from 11-17 April.

Cal and Linda Dunlap will host a Chaplains Interaction dinner and prepare for a summer ministry trip to China.



*Doris Waldrop*



*Bob and B.J. Reifsnyder*

Bob and Billie Jean Reifsnyder will be in Dominican Republic from 16-29 April helping lead a two-week chaplains training program.

In Ohio and Texas, ACCTS staff members (the Graziers, Ahmanns, and Lumpkins) continue to hold Bible studies and carry out other ministry to international students. Additionally, Bill Lumpkin is developing a new international student ministry at the Army Medical Department Center and School at Fort Sam Houston, Texas.



*Norris and Lois Webster*



*Cal and Linda Dunlap*

This month Don and Jonie Snow are preparing for a May ministry trip to Mongolia, where they will encourage military Christians and attend the 10th anniversary celebration of the MCF.

In addition to helping the PWOC group at Fort Gordon host a Wives of Warriors Worldwide (WoWW) conference, Doris Waldrop will wed CAPT Stan Mincks, USCG (Ret), ACCTS board member, in Czech Republic. Congratulations, Doris and Stan!



*Don and Jonie Snow*



*Frank and Ginny Cole*

Norris and Lois Webster will be training American English Language Training volunteers during May and June for programs. If you are interested in finding out more information about where AELT programs will be held and how you can volunteer, contact Paul Neu at [phneu12@earthlink.net](mailto:phneu12@earthlink.net).

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# LED BY THE SPIRIT

**“I am the Lord your God, who teaches you what is best for you, who directs you in the way you should go.” Isaiah 48:17**

*In this article, the third in a four part series, ACCTS board member Emanuel Williams examines one of ACCTS core values: Spirit-led.*

A core value of ACCTS is “Spirit-led,” which explicitly announces that **a belief in divine guidance is inherent in the ACCTS theory of ministry and decision making process.** ACCTS is a ministry that is committed to the advancement of the Kingdom of God within the military setting. Therefore, it is incumbent on ACCTS to accomplish its mission and purposes under the leadership of the Holy Spirit because it is God who will direct His people in the way they should go.

Illustrative of the above text, there are many instances in the Bible where God communicated His will to people chosen to carry out His purposes. For example, in Genesis we learn that God spoke to Noah about His plans to destroy the earth and the need for Noah to build an ark. When we review the lives of Abraham and Moses, it is clear that God used various methods to communicate His will such as a vision, a burning bush, and a pillar of clouds. In the New Testament, we observe that an angel was used to issue instructions to Philip to enable him to minister to the Ethiopian eunuch. Perhaps the most widely known incident was Saul’s Damascus Road experience in which there was a blinding light and a voice from heaven. Finally, there is the record in Acts 13 where we read that, “While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, ‘Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.’” Therefore, in view of the above examples, it is imperative that Christian ministries take seriously the fact that following divine guidance and not human reason will determine the effectiveness of their ministries.

Having examined the biblical examples of God’s leadership, it may be helpful to consider the implications of ACCTS being led by the Spirit. On the positive side, there is the confidence in knowing that when the ACCTS staff and board submit to the leadership of the Holy Spirit, we are following God’s agenda and not our own wishes. The Sovereign God has a purpose and a plan for ACCTS to accomplish, and He invites us through the direction of His Spirit to participate in that activity. Needless to say there is a sense of satisfaction and confidence in knowing that, by following the Spirit, we are in harmony with God’s plan. Inherent in that satisfaction is the awareness that we have the benefit of God’s wisdom and power in the execution of His plan. Conversely, failure to be led by the Spirit is not



only disobedience, but it puts us at cross purposes with God’s program. This, in turn, increases the likelihood of making poor decisions that detract from the ministry and do not bring glory to God. Finally, we miss out on God’s blessings.

At this point you may raise the question, “How do Christians, and specifically those involved in the ministry of ACCTS, receive divine guidance?” The answer, I believe, is found in Hebrews 10:22 where the author says, “Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith...” The key to being led by the Spirit is an intimate relationship with Almighty God in order that we may be sensitive to what the Spirit is saying and informed of God’s guidance. The role of the Holy Spirit is to communicate God’s will and give direction. However, a more pertinent question is, “Are we willing to spend time in prayer and to seek the face of God in order to be led by Spirit?” Illustrative of this perspective is the story by Elisabeth Elliot, who writes of two adventurers who were headed for the rain forest east of the Andes and stopped by to see her. They were loaded down with equipment, but sought no advice except a few phrases to converse with the Indians. She draws the parallel that sometimes Christians approach God seeking quick and simple answers to point the way. Instead, they really need the Guide Himself who is infinitely better because He has been there and knows the way. More specifically, God’s Holy Spirit is available today to reveal to us the mind of God and His direction concerning our involvement in His kingdom.

In advancing the ministry of ACCTS, there has always been an understanding and perspective that prayer and planning go together. This leads to a version of the 5 P’s: **“Prior Prayer Prevents Poor Performance.”** Accordingly, the ACCTS board and staff strongly adhere to the principle that prayer and planning are interrelated and should precede all deliberations regarding the ministry of ACCTS. The value and importance of this approach to ministry can not be overstated as there are always competing opportunities for ministry and limited resources in terms of time, people, and money. The only proven solution, therefore, for ACCTS to carry out its God given mandate is to pray and following the leading of God’s Spirit.