



HOPE FOR HEROES

A newsletter for the friends and supporters of Cru Military®

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A Growing Hunger For The Gospel

Cru Military® teams around the country are witnessing a growing hunger for the gospel among the military community—which has led to increased numbers at *Spiritually Fit – Ready to Serve* (SFRS) Bible studies!

Despite the falling numbers of recruits joining the military, among those who do join, more and more are looking for spiritual input for their journey. According to Military.com, only two of the five military service branches met their recruiting goals for 2023. **But Cru Military SFRS Bible study attendance was up last year by almost 35,000 recruits!**

From January to September of 2022, our teams ministered to 123,149 recruits. From January to September of 2023, our teams ministered to 157,732 recruits—and with the recent holiday outreaches, even more recruits were reached with the gospel!

continued inside >>

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Hunger for the
gospel 1-2

Thank you for
praying with us! 2

Ministry renewed
in Kenya 3

From David
To You 4

Three Ways to Give
Instead of Cash 4

Thank you
for praying
with us!

Prayer is the foundation of
everything we do at Cru Military.

We are grateful for:

- 1 Distributing nearly 100,000 SFRS booklets in 2023 to military members in the U.S. and around the world.
- 2 New leaders and staff who answered the call to serve the military community through our ministry.
- 3 Your generous partnership and donations during our “Advancing The Gospel” match campaign at the end of 2023.
- 4 Our brave military members and their families, without whom we would not enjoy the freedoms we have.

Please pray for:

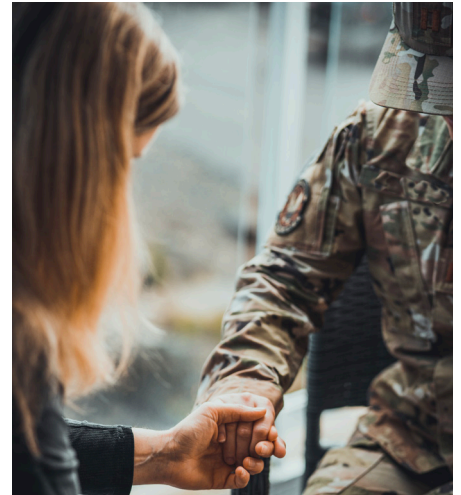
- 1 God’s leading and protecting military members in the United States and worldwide.
- 2 God’s people to move and provide the ministry’s funding need to meet the spiritual needs of the military community.
- 3 The Lord of the harvest will continue to bring laborers into the Cru Military mission field.

Hunger for the gospel

>> *continued from page 1*

At Fort Sill in Oklahoma, the spiritual hunger and increased numbers led to a unique challenge.

“We had a large number of soldiers who wanted to get baptized,” said Barry Bond, a Cru Military team member at Fort Sill. “They had to buy two more portable baptistry units so they could baptize everyone. The brigade chaplain then asked me to help with the baptisms. The senior post chaplain was at one baptistry and I was at the other baptizing soldiers. It was wonderful, glorious, and very humbling.”



WHY THE INCREASE?

“It’s God,” Barry said without hesitation. “He draws them. We are not capable of creating this type of explosion in numbers. We are just the hands and feet of God to these soldiers. We go in and just try to love them with God’s love. Each week we pour into them and remind them that they are going to make it.”

GOD IS MOVING IN THE

MILITARY. He has called our ministry to stand on the frontlines with these brave men and women to win them to Christ, build them in their faith, and send them out to make other Christ-making disciples in their communities. We are grateful for your gifts so that we can continue to be the hands and feet of God to our military.

CRU MILITARY STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS ARE UNIQUELY POSITIONED AT BASIC AND ADVANCED TRAINING LOCATIONS AROUND THE COUNTRY TO MEET THE NEED OF THE GROWING HUNGER FOR THE GOSPEL. THIS WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE WITHOUT THE SUPPORT AND PRAYERS OF GENEROUS PARTNERS LIKE YOU.

“In 2022 we had the privilege of sharing Jesus with over 14,400 soldiers,” Barry said. “This year is our third year, and we passed 26,000 soldiers who’ve heard the Gospel.”

**You, God, are my God, earnestly I seek you;
I thirst for you, my whole being longs for you,
in a dry and parched land where there is no water.**

Psalm 63:1-3

A MINISTRY RENEWED: Military Ministry Kenya relaunched to meet the growing need for the gospel in East Africa

*“Behold,
I am making all things new.”*

REVELATION 21:5

In order to reach even more people in Kenya for Christ, we combined efforts with The LIFE Ministry Kenya (the name for Campus Crusade for Christ, International®) and relaunched Military Ministry Kenya (MMK). The mission of MMK is to meet the spiritual needs of uniformed men and women. **This significant milestone was made possible through your faithful prayers and support.**

“God has placed committed Kingdom servants and powerful advocates for The LIFE Ministry Kenya and MMK in the highest levels of leadership—Kenya’s First Lady, the Kenyan Chief of Defense Forces, the Army’s Deputy Commander, and the Principal Chaplain,” said Daryl Jones, who serves with his wife, Martha, as Cru Military Global Directors. They attended the celebration and discipleship training events at the 50-year celebration of The LIFE Ministry Kenya, along with Augustin Tchenkoua, Military Ministry’s Africa Coordinator and Military Ministry Director of Cameroon. Martha added, “These leaders were disciplined over the years by The LIFE Ministry Kenya staff. Our prayer is that we may steward these precious relationships with the Kenyan military to His glory!”

At the celebration, all past MMK staff and volunteers were asked to stand. More than 250 people were recognized for their important role in this vital ministry!

The official relaunch of MMK was held at the Kenya Defense Headquarters with a special guest speaker, Major General D. K. Tarus, the Deputy Army Commander. During the celebration, the staff shared the vision for winning the Kenyan military to Christ, building them up in their faith, and sending them out to reach others. The MMK staff connected with retired military personnel from Christian Veterans Fellowship as they are vital to the relaunch of MMK.

They have already begun discipleship programs with recently contextualized Cru Military resources.



Leaders at the LIFE Ministry 50th celebration. MMK is using special edition SFRS booklets. The Jones with CDF Gen Ogalla and his wife.

Thanks to your generosity, The LIFE Ministry Kenya has provided 5,000 special 50th Anniversary *Spiritually Fit - Ready to Serve* (SFRS) booklets specifically designed for the military, and garnered the support of senior Kenyan military leaders for their immediate distribution!

“This 50 years’ ministry celebration was likely the most important work on the continent of Africa in years,” Martha said. “The Lord’s hand directed the relaunch of MMK at this critical time. We pray this celebration will advance Kingdom work throughout East Africa for years to come. The goodwill garnered among the highest levels of military and Christian leaders in Kenya can not be overstated. We also praise God for giving us the opportunity for Augustin, Daryl and I to connect and pray with many of the African National Team Leaders who were in attendance and witnessed the strength of having a ministry dedicated to those who wear their nation’s uniforms.”

We are grateful for your continued commitment to the transformative work of Christ through Military Ministry Kenya. Your partnership ensures that the impact of this ministry resonates for generations to come, bringing hope and salvation to those who serve in the Kenyan uniformed community. To God be the glory!

FROM DAVID TO YOU



David G. Phillips, Jr., Brig Gen (Ret.) USAF
Executive Director
Cru Military®

Make disciples of all nations...

Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” Matthew 28:18-20

Looking back on 2023, I am in awe of how God used your generosity to provide so much for our ministry. We have new staff and evaluators in vital positions. We provided enough tools and resources for the significantly increased numbers attending Sunday services and Bible studies. We saw our international ministry shine the light of Christ in some of the darkest places in the world. And our leadership sensed God shining a new light on the verses in Matthew 28:18-20.

Our calling has always been to make disciples within the military community. Now more than ever, we are witnessing a strong hunger for the true gospel in the military. And thanks to your generosity and God’s provision, we are creating new ministry opportunities beyond basic training. In 2024, we look forward to ministering to the military at advanced training locations in the U.S.

Our international ministry is seeing renewal and growth as well! Recently the military ministry in Kenya was reestablished and our staff there is excited for what God will do. Across the world, our missionaries and staff are leading military members through *Spiritually Fit – Ready to Serve* (SFRS) booklets in their native language.

You are a part of our mission to win the military to Christ, build them up in their faith and send them out to make even more disciples! Together, let’s make this year one to remember for our military members – let’s shine the light of Christ for all to see!

Making Disciples Together,

David G. Phillips, Jr., Brig Gen (Ret.) USAF
Executive Director
Cru Military®

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Three Ways to Give In Addition To Cash!

1

Granting from a Donor-Advised Fund

Donor advised funds (DAF) allow you to designate grants to ministry, either one-time or recurring. If you already have an existing DAF, now is a great opportunity to recommend a grant to Cru!

➔ See details at: give.cru.org/DAF

2

Gifting Appreciated Securities

Donating appreciate securities, like stock, is becoming increasingly popular as you can avoid taxes by donating publicly traded stock directly to Cru. Enjoy double tax savings on appreciated securities while accelerating the Great Commission!

➔ See details at: give.cru.org/stock

3

Initiating an IRA Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD)

A QCD is a direct transfer from your traditional IRA to Cru that doesn’t add a penny to your taxable income. Starting at age 70½, you may transfer up to \$100,000 annually. At age 73, the amount you give may count toward your required minimum distribution.

➔ See details at: give.cru.org/QCD