

Lessons learned from the COVID-19 Pandemic (MSO)

Lesson #1

In the global coronavirus situation, MSO has halted ministry activities and overcame through online ministry from reduced prayer and worship ministry activities.

- Due to the spread of COVID-19, the MSO's Tuesday Prayer Meeting and Thursday Prayer Meeting were held face-to-face at 10:00 since Feb 27, 2020.
- From August 27, 2020, the conference was converted to an online meeting, and as of 2021, MSO members attended an average of 40 male and female or more per week, making it an online ministry activity that allows P&P to determine major MSO ministry activities.
- During the year, special prayer service, MSO executive retreat, AMCF Prayer Day, and Thanks giving worship service were conducted face-to-face and online, and cooperative ministry and public relations activities of MSO members were carried out in parallel.



Lesson #2

In the early days of the Corona, many meetings and competitions were canceled, but they overcame the Corona and brought about increased and diversification of participation in online meetings and competitions.

- With the increase in the number of online meetings to prepare for the 2024 AMCF World Conference, 4 times in 2020 and 4 times in 2021, information sharing has accelerated through direct ministry and prayer and preparation with the AMCF Presidency, the UMCEB, the Brazilian Preparatory Committee, and the PSO.



- MSO was unable to participate in the November 2020 Stan-Dart Conference due to the Corona crisis, border closure, visa issuance, and ticket reservations. However, it was produced and applied with a video greeting and a message of encouragement from the MSO's representative, and it is being prepared for September 2021 online.
- Although the East Asia Interaction in 2020 was canceled, it was decided to promote the East Asia Interaction online on September 25 this year in 2021 through an online preparatory meeting in the East Asia region in 2021.



Lesson #3

Training and encouraging ministry activities were partially conducted face-to-face and online, but MSO did not give up on MEO-P and discipleship training.

- ① Conducted face-to-face MEO-P in 2020 for foreign-study officers of the National Defense University in Korea



- On November 19, 2020, only one day MEO Program was attended by Nigerian Army Colonel Adebawale and Uganda Army Colonel Rogers, who were educated at the National Defense University.
 - 4 instructors were supported by MSO to conduct MEO-P in Korea without interruption.
 - Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, with keep the quarantine rules and participated by minimizing the personnel in charge.
 - According to God's guidance, it provided a new path for AMCF world military missions to two participants from two countries.
 - Through MEO-P in 2020, a new program called Discipleship Training (FMC-K) for Foreign Military Christian in Korea was created in 2021.
- ☞ MEO-P 2021, planned in June, will be delayed to October, expanding the MSO ministry's capacity to prepare both face-to-face and online, while MEO-P is being conducted face-to-face while concentrating efforts on online training preparation.

② Although there were difficulties in visiting most countries, such as flight cutoff due to the spread of the corona, in-person and online discipleship training were partially conducted

- Myanmar, Laos MCF Cornelius Discipleship Training on February 2020 conducted face to face



[Myanmar]



[Laos]

- MCF Discipleship Training from November to December 2020 in former Soviet Union countries conducted face to face
- Ukrainian MCF discipleship training was conducted online from January to March 2021

Lesson #4

Mutual visits to 3PSO were limited for MSO cooperation and support ministry activities, but the mission capacity was further strengthened by actively cooperating through online meetings whenever necessary.

- Overcoming time and distance by participating in the AMCF main partner organization (PSO) online meeting
- Participated in MMI prayer meeting and ACCTS Staff Meeting
- AMCF Interaction Preparatory Committee Meeting etc.

Lesson #5

MSO ministry activities did not stop communication and fellowship even in the coronavirus situation, but rather, communication and fellowship activities increased, and the means of communication and fellowship were diversified.

- Enlarge the scope of real-time communication and fellowship activities with AMCF presidents, MCFs, and partner organizations through online meetings
- Various meetings and retreats were canceled and visits were not possible due to the corona crisis, but MSO ministry activities were further developed through various IT means.
- MSO publishes the newsletter, which was published twice a year, in Korean and English once a month from August 2020. Quickly share MSO ministry activities by distributing them to missionaries etc.
- The MSO website was improved and the English website was additionally operated to provide a venue for spreading and promoting ministry activities.
- Promptly disseminate prayer and worship activities through SNS and internet online
- Translating prayer topics from AMCF, MCFs, and PSOs in each country and promptly disseminating them to MSO members to activate intercession
- Continued communication and fellowship activities through letters of appreciation to MSO sponsors, sponsoring organizations, and partners, as well as appreciation services for World Military Missions and ministry reports.
- Efforts to find connection points for MCF establishment in countries where MCF is not established through Korean-foreign missionaries dispatched to each country

Conclusion:

- Prior to the COVID-19 Pandemic, AMCF ministry activities, which were intended to be promoted only as face-to-face meetings, took a long time to plan, prepare, and implement.
- As can be seen from the lessons showed by the MSO, the COVID-19 crisis changed the time, distance, and cost of global military missionary work into a variety of situations that could be overcome with online ministry.
- Even after the coronavirus crisis, this online ministry is expected to continue.
- Therefore, MSO agrees with the opinion of the PSO that the guidelines for holding the competition in the AMCF Handbook should be improved in 2021 by categorizing them into face-to-face ministry and online ministry activities based on advanced IT technology.