

### An excellent journey - MMI Supporters' Weekend

*A report on our Supporters' Weekend 2013 held at Windmill Farm, Oxfordshire on 2-3 March 2013*

The 2013 MMI Supporters' Weekend presented the challenge: "Are we really 'All one in Christ Jesus'?" as we claim in the Association of Military Christian Fellowships' motto from Galatians 3:28. To test this we invited friends from the Russian Orthodox and Roman Catholic Christian traditions to join with us. The request was that they shared with us their wealth of practical experience in working with believers in their respective traditions serving in the Armed forces. Father Konstantin Tatarintsev, a former bomber pilot now ordained priest and part of the Moscow Patriarchate Department for Interaction with Armed

Forces, told us how he and his colleagues bless aircraft in the same way that we, in UK, bless regimental colours. A highlight was the relaxed evening session where he shared with us his personal spiritual journey including the challenges he faced as a Christian serving in the Soviet Union. More than once he had to choose between confessing his faith or saving his face by denying Christ. God honoured his courage and watching eyes seemed to be blind to his public admittance of his faith. Colonel Sergey Lysenko spoke in detail about the spiritual situation in Ukraine, especially that of Christianity. He opened up to us his work in trying to promote

a military chaplaincy through the organisation he heads, The All-Ukrainian Interconfessional Religious Christian-Military Brotherhood. He explained how many of the Protestant churches take a pacifist position which in turn highlighted the challenge faced by the Ukrainian MCF. President of the Roman Catholic, Apostolate International Militaire (AMI), General Norbert Sinn spoke of the AMI publication, "The Christian Soldier in the Service of Just Peace"\* which had been the declaration of the AMI General Assembly in 2010. He spoke of the close involvement of AMCF Vice President, Commander Brian Parker in the drafting of

the paper and the reference it contained to Russian Orthodox teaching quoting Father Konstantin. That itself was evidence of a unity that the world might find surprising. General Sinn also set out the importance of Christians in the military, being salt and light to military colleagues as they live out Christian values at work and at home. The very presence of our visitors was an expression of our desire to be "All one in Christ Jesus" and we left confident that we were travelling in good company on this excellent journey.

\* Copies are available from the MMI office.



Photos: Left - Fr Konstantin Tatarintsev; Centre - the gathering; Right - MMI CE/TL, Colonel Jos McCabe greets AMI President, General Norbert Sinn. (Photos by Fr Konstantin)

### Military Ministries International 2013 Programme

<b>April</b>	Conference (McCabe)	<b>June</b>	<b>July</b>
MCF meetings in Norway and Germany (Thorun)	18 Ukraine MCF Summer meeting (McCabe)	8 MMI Prayer Day	1-4 Mission trip to Balkans
Mission trip to Assam (West)	20-24 Polish MCF meeting (McCabe & Stoevski)	10-14 SIMM Week	11-14 Biblical Stewardship Seminar (Ukraine) (Stoevski & Paterson)
<b>May</b>	24-30 European Leadership Forum (McCabe & Stoevski)	17-24 MEO (S. Korea )(MGP)	27-3/8 New Wine Conference (MMI exhibiting) (UK)
Mission trip to Sudan (Sandy)		20-23 RIMP (France)	
15-17 Ukraine Chaplaincy			

## Moving onwards in West and Franco-Phone Africa

*MMI's Chief Executive & Team Leader, Colonel Jos McCabe's recent missionary journey to Cameroon and Ghana*

Before travelling to an MCF conference in Ghana, Jos McCabe went to Cameroon to meet with Colonel Daniel Njoya, the recently appointed AMCF Vice President for Franco-Phone Africa. They were joined by the previous Vice President, Colonel Gaston Gnomou, who had travelled from Burkina Faso to meet with them.

It was a time to pray, build relationships, consider the current situation of the Military Christian Fellowships (MCFs) in the region and to seek God's guidance for the future. Gaston was able to pass on to Daniel a list of current contacts and some valuable insights into the situation regarding MCFs in this difficult region. Jos suggested that Daniel take part in the West African Interaction being organised in Nigeria this coming August. Nigeria borders Cameroon and Jos was able to link-up Daniel with the West African AMCF Vice President, Air Commodore Ishaku

Komo, to discuss cooperation between these neighbouring regions.

Daniel, who, helpfully, speaks excellent English, works in the air force headquarters in the capital, Yaoundé and also pastors a good sized church in his home city of Douala, a 3 hour drive away. During his visit Jos was invited to speak to a small MCF gathering by candle light (power cuts are a normal part of life in Cameroon) and he was also privileged to preach at two services in Daniel's church.

Jos then travelled to Ghana to meet with the President of the Ghanaian MCF, Commodore Seth Coomson, and to attend and speak at the Ghanaian MCF "Soul Winning" conference in Burma Camp, Accra. An added bonus was to meet up with Air Commodore Ishaku Komo and three other Nigerian brothers, who had travelled for 24 hours by bus across two other countries to be there! The Conference was held over

four afternoons and was being used as a vehicle to relaunch the Ghanaian MCF. Between 40-50 uniformed personnel attended each day. Evangelism was the key theme and delegates were encouraged to be salt and light and to reach out to their military comrades. Jos was able to meet up again with MMI Associates, General

Joshua Hamidu and Colonel Charles Amaning who were attending the conference to encourage the current and next generations of Military Christians in their country. The Ghanaian MCF is well placed to grow under God and to become one of the strongest MCFs on the continent.



L to R: Colonel Gaston Gnomou, Colonel Jos McCabe, Colonel Daniel Njoya

## Building Relationships in East Africa

*MMI Regional Team Leader for East and Southern Africa, Homfray Vines looks forward to his next missionary journey in East Africa*

"May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me." (John 17:23)

'Building relationships' is one of the core values of MMI, so we give thanks when we are able to meet with military Christians in our regions. We have three opportunities coming up this year. In June we are hoping and praying that Colonel (Reverend) Lelei, the Principle Protestant Chaplain to the Kenyan Armed Forces and the Reverend Charles Okongo, chaplain to the Ugandan Parliament will be able to come to the UK for SIMM

Week and the MMI Prayer Day. (See page 7) I am praying about a visit in June and early July, to the region to visit Kenya, Tanzania, South Sudan and Uganda. The visit to Tanzania will be exploratory, as we need to find Christians in their armed forces to develop the embryonic MCF. In October we are hoping and praying that the Kenyans will be able to invite the whole region to come to Nairobi for a Prayer Convention. This could be particularly significant as they celebrate their nation's golden Jubilee in December. I covet your prayers in support of these people and my planning under God.





# Advancing on AMCF Global Interaction 2014 is a journey of prayer and faith



**Date:** 23-29 November 2014.

**Location:** Cape Town, South Africa.

**Attendance:** 1,000 men and women associated with the world's armed forces.

**Theme:** "Be strong and very courageous" *Joshua 1:7*

The AMCF GI 2014 journey can only be taken step by step. For the P&P team it is vital that they keep listening to God. The requirement to prepare an event for 1,000 men

and women has been likened to Noah hearing God's direction to build the ark. The AM-CFGL 2014 task looks impossible but that is often one of the hallmarks of a God inspired event. After all who gets the glory if the P&P team could do it on their own? Going step by step in prayer helps them keep on God's path. The journey for the AMCF GI 2014 participants begins when they accept the invitation to attend. Their first step will be to start praying, a close second will be to save for their flight

and fee. As they approach the event they will be given preparation work to do to get the best from the experience. Furthermore, the AMCF GI 2014 journey doesn't end on 29 November 2014. There will be follow-up activities to enable and encourage participants to implement all they have learned in order to see MCFs established and growing as part of the Kingdom of God amongst the world's armed forces. The whole participant experience has been likened to a golf shot where the swing and fol-

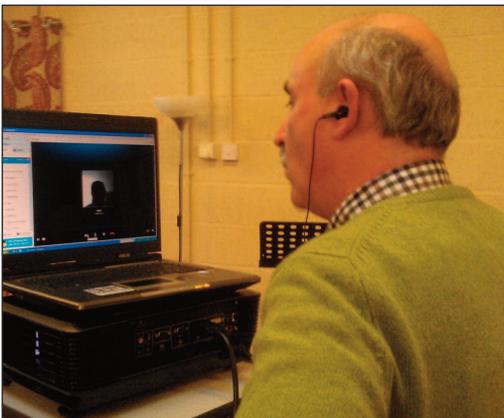
low through are as important as striking the ball if the stroke is to be effective. The challenges the planning team face are:  
+ Assembling the participants.  
+ Preparing the programme.  
+ Finding finance for scholarships, administration and for support staff.  
+ Developing the support team of Warriors (See January Newsletter).  
+ Building strategic partnerships.  
All this will take hard work and much prayer please read on ...



## ... Prayer

Liesel Parkinson and the LAFCU's Ladies Twenty4 group are co-ordinating the main prayer support for AMCF GI 2014. They are looking for at least one prayer group to form in each country, to be a 'Beacon'. These 'Beacons' will have a 2 way link:  
• sending prayer needs for their own national attendance  
• receiving regular updates of prayer issues for AMCF GI 2014.  
The need is to get 'prayer beacons' in each country.

If you know of anyone who could gather 2 or 3 people to form a 'Beacon' in any country, encourage them to do so and to contact our Prayer Coordinator on [prayer@m-m-i.org.uk](mailto:prayer@m-m-i.org.uk). Also, do please continue to pray for AMCF GI 2014, using the MMI daily prayer headings on the enclosed quarterly Prayer Brief.



Photos: Above - MMI CE/TL, Jos McCabe prays for AMCF GI 2014 Director and Administrator Captain Klaas and Mrs Linda Steyn. Left - Jos McCabe speaks on Skype with AMCF President, General Weerasooriya. Below - The AMCF GI 2014 P&P team



## God delivers on Austrian Ski Retreat

*MMI European Staff, Commander (Retd) Reverend Mike Terry and Oberstleutnant aD Rainer Thorun report on the 2013 MMI Ski Retreat*

This year's ski retreat was an eventful, interesting and inspired week, excellently and most generously hosted by the Austrian Army Protestant Chaplaincy in a mountain warfare training area. The Polish delegation had to overcome several hurdles to attend but persistent prayer overcame the odds and the Lord arranged for them to arrive – a day early! Overall we had about 35 participants from 5 European nations (Albania, Austria, Germany, Great Britain and Poland). It was a time of wonderful, warm and nurturing fellowship, for which we praise the Lord!

This year the skiing retreat was entitled: "Comradeship in the Modern Armed Forces". We were privileged to have a keynote talk from Austrian, Brigadier General Gunther Spath and to have a thoroughly engaging contribution from a Roman Catholic Austrian chaplain on, "The Example of David". The highly enjoyable morning winter sports and evening fun activi-

ties were balanced by a spiritual programme which included prayer times, daily Bible studies, talks and open discussions as well as group work relevant to our relationship with God in modern military life.

Many participants, from conscript to colonel, expressed how much they had been touched deeply by God in different ways, with some sharing how God had acted directly in their lives, sometimes very dramatically.

Some comments were:

† "It was so interesting and valuable to see God talked about in such a lively way"

† "This has been such an important retreat for me".

† "It has astonished me to experience how much God takes care of each individual."

† "I will be happy to join the MCF when I return home."

Let us praise God for his wonderful provision for this retreat, pray for these delegates and ask him to make it increasingly fruitful for his kingdom in the military.



## MMI to help strengthen MCFs in the area of stewardship and marriage

*MMI Regional Team Leader, Grozdan Stoevski on future plans*

The Lord has led the MMI Europe team to define three main priorities in the work in Europe, as follows:

1. **Strengthening Activities** – mainly supporting the existing MCFs in the area of resources management and stewardship, marriage and leadership development.

2. **Outreach Activities** – proclaiming the Christian message through ethics seminars, marriage seminars and chaplaincy development and support.

3. **Pioneering Activities** - exploring new ministry opportunities among the armed forces across Europe.

In light of the above there are

several invitations and opportunities for active MMI work, for instance:

† MMI's Chief Executive & Team Leader, Colonel Jos McCabe will represent MMI and speak on the importance of Christian ethics in the military at the 7<sup>th</sup> International Chaplaincy Conference in Kiev, Ukraine on 15-16 May.

† MMI's Secretary, Lieutenant Colonel Mike Paterson and I will teach Biblical Principles of Stewardship and Management at a regional training seminar, in Herson, Ukraine on 11-14 July. Delegates are expected from most of the Russian speaking MCFs, such as:

Ukraine, Russia, Moldova and Belarus.

† At the end of the summer, 23-25 August, a larger MMI team (Rainer and Karin Thorun, Grozdan and Slavica Stoevski, Mark and Lucinda Hibbert-Hingston) will teach a regional marriage seminar for couples from several Central and Eastern European countries, such as Russia, Ukraine,

Belarus, Romania, Bulgaria, Greece and FYROM. The event will be hosted by the Moldovan MCF.

May God give the MMI Europe team humility, guidance and abundance of His power and wisdom in all these activities. "Put God in charge of your work, then what you've planned will take place." (Proverbs 16:3, the Message)



*MMI's European Team Pray and Plan*

## *In Step with God and Each Other* AMCF's European Military Christian Meeting 2013

*In step with Jesus Christ in the 21st century* – was the theme of the annual European Military Christian Meeting, in February at Church House, Lübbecke, Germany. There were 46 participants representing 19 European nations; many of them attending the event for the first time. Among these were Navy Captain Marcello de Bonis, the President of the newly founded Italian MCF, Captain Danute Lapenaite from Lithuania, Captain Pascal André and his wife, Fabienne Laloux from Belgium, Captain (Retd) George Stoyanov and Master Sergeant (Retd) Hristo Penkov from Bulgaria, Squadron Leader Steve Priestnall RAF from AFCU and others.

AMCF regional Vice President, Commander (Retd) Brian Parker set the pace for the “Step” related sessions, such as, In Step with the Spirit, In Step with Each Other, Change Step, by taking the audience on a historic search of truth throughout the European culture. This provided a much better understanding of our world today. Other participants contributed to the programme, such as Vasili Khimich (Ukrainian MCF), by leading a Morning Devotional. The prayer time in small groups, led and organized by the AMCF VP for Northern and Eastern Europe, Colonel Torbjörn Bostrom, proved to be a much needed part of the weekend and pro-

vided a real opportunity for ministering to each other. The Reverends Mike and Nicky-Sue Terry, joined by Pastor Grozdan Stoevski, Regional Team Leader for Europe, took the participants ‘At the foot of the Cross’ in a unique, bilingual worship service, in English and Russian. This was a true expression of our ‘All one in Christ Jesus’ (Gal 3:28) perspective and was truly appreciated by all present, especially the Russian speaking participants. Gozdan Stoevski said, “Once again this event proved its strategic importance for the advance of the AMCF/MMI work in Europe, as it helped bring together the key leaders of some

of the largest and most active MCFs. ”It enabled the VPs and the MMI Staff to meet in the margins of the programme to address sensitive issues as well as upcoming trips and activities in the region. All MCFs were given copies of the MMI discipleship course, Biblical Service. The administrative skills and servant heart of MMI Finance and Administrative Secretary, Judith Hillary provided the solid logistic foundation for the event. There is no doubt the weekend helped all involved to get in step with God, as well as with each other in a spirit of unity, love and sincere friendship.



Photos: (clockwise) Russian speakers meet; Brian Parker with the irrepressible Joe Crow; EMCM 2013 participants.



# South Asia

## Rahnuma - Showing The Way - in Pakistan

The Benaiah edition of MMI's discipleship course is published and launched

**B**enaiah have chosen their title for the Urdu translation of the MMI discipleship course as "Rahnuma" meaning 'Leading or showing the way'. The Course has a simple principle – that of directing a person to the Bible to find the answers to questions that arise particularly in the context of the profession of arms.

By the time you read this, the course will have been launched in Nowshera in what used to be called the North West Frontier Province of Pakistan but now has the less popular name, Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa. Although the Bishop of Peshawar originally requested the course, the intention is to invite many other denominations to the launch to encourage its use throughout Pakistan. As a result, just prior to printing, the number of student copies was increased to 2000 (+500 leader's copies). We believe that the study of God's word, by the soldiers serving their country in this strategic area, could bring a substantial change to attitudes amongst some, and we would

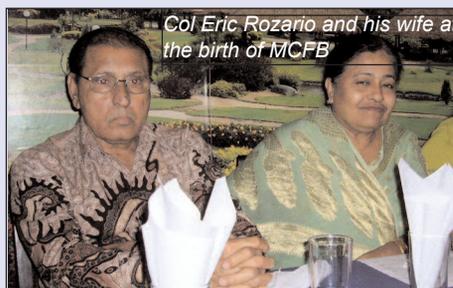
especially pray for many to enter a closer relationship with their Lord Jesus and so follow their leader more accurately. In light of current UK Foreign Office Advice and equally in consideration of the perception of those looking on, it was decided that it would be unwise for MMI's Regional Team Leader for South Asia, Chris West, to attend the launch. The Urdu course is not exactly the same as the Biblical Service course. Benaiah have made it their own both through the translation and by adding a module on 'family'. MMI are eager that each MCF would take 'ownership' of the course, providing it as an available resource in the context of their culture. This is completely in line with MMI's refined focus; to encourage and equip a close working relationship between the MCFs and the Chaplaincy – or in this case, the Clergy.

We trust that the next Newsletter will include an account of the launch with some photos and news of courses running. Please pray!



Bishop Mano with Chris West, Rev Riaz and MMI Trustee, Innocent Shams during discussions that led to the discipleship course

## MCFB founding president called home



Col Eric Rozario and his wife at the birth of MCFB

**T**he MCF in Bangladesh observed a memorial prayer meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> March after the home-call of their founding President, Colonel Eric Rozario. He had been a very dynamic & vibrant leader since September 2006 - deeply committed to serving the MCF

of Bangladesh before passing on the baton in 2010 to Major General John Gomes. The members of MCFB expressed their deep gratitude for Colonel Eric and Margaret his beloved wife, who took an equal interest in the MCFB activities.

## Building on new relationships in Assam

By MMI Regional Team Leader for South Asia, Chris West

**H**aving got to know many new friends in North East India over the last year, it is now time to start building on the practical implications of running the discipleship course in the region. Additionally the aspiration to form a Military Christian Fellowship in Shillong will require the commitment of their time, energy and prayer. I anticipate that sometime in April or May, it will be possible for me to visit Shillong again and instruct those who will be running the courses. These are early days, and as usual we

are working with very committed but busy people. I trust, that the next Newsletter will contain news of my visit. It was a joy to be able to tell those who were at the MMI Supporters' Weekend the story of my last trip in more detail than could be related in our January Newsletter. Perhaps the same will be true for this trip and our Prayer Day on 8<sup>th</sup> June (See page 7 and the enclosed flier) As always we earnestly desire your prayer for this young venture in South Asia.



Our friends in Shillong

# Middle East

## Visits to the Middle East on hold?

MMI Regional Team Leader for the Middle East, Colonel Richard Sandy considers opportunities for MMI work in his region

The situation for Christians in the Middle East becomes increasingly difficult following the reverberations of the Arab Spring. At its beginnings, the Arab Spring was seen as a legitimate movement against autocratic rule, calling for greater democracy and generally seen as a positive development. We now see that in the majority, if not all, of the countries directly affected the result has been the establishment of a more fundamentalist Islamic rule which has paid only lip service to protecting the rights of Christians and other minority groups within their country. The Christian minority is left in a more threatening environment – an environment which many Christian families have felt obliged to leave.

As far as MMI's ministry is concerned it appears that in Egypt all Christian officers have been retired from the military. In Sudan (Khartoum) there are increasing reports of the Islamisation of the country with foreign Christians being de-

ported, churches destroyed and church and youth group leaders taken in for questioning. In Syria foreign jihadists, with their own agenda, are believed to be contributing to the brutal warfare from which an increasing number of Christians are being forced to flee. All of which makes it increasingly difficult to plan visits to the region to build up and encourage the fledgling MCFs there. Nevertheless, where we have contacts regular communication is being maintained by mobile phone. It is so encouraging to hear the very grateful, and occasionally emotional, thanks for our regular calls and especially our prayers. One of our contacts in Syria said, "I believe your prayers are helping to protect me and my family, please keep praying". Therefore, whilst at present many visits are not advisable, we can pray for the countries and specifically for our contacts – and our prayers do make a difference.



## Prayer

### God has a plan that cannot be ruined.

A thought and invitation from MMI Prayer Coordinator, Sue Millard

When we think about praying for the work of MMI, we tend to think of a straight line from where we are, to what we think the Lord wants us to achieve, and pray straight to the destination like an arrow pointing from here to there. However, our experience, especially this year, is that this is not the reality of what happens. Praying for the Lord's work seems to be much more like praying the pieces of a jigsaw into place, without knowing what the pieces look like. As we go through our 'Glory and Vision' Prayer Day, giving thanks for what the Lord has

done and praying for what he wants to do in the coming year, you will hear how the regional team leaders (RTL) missionary trips have been just like doing a jigsaw – blind – with:

- major last minute changes to itineraries which looked disastrous, but opened up new doors,
  - several days gap in an itinerary which just wouldn't come together, but was immediately filled after the first and only planned meeting, and
  - the revelation and prophetic word received by an RTL, for the President of Uganda.
- Come and hear - there's more!

"I know that you can do all things; no purpose of yours can be thwarted"  
Job 42:2



Come and be part of our  
Glory and Vision Prayer Day  
Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> June at Winchester Vineyard.

## New Wine (LSE & CSW) MMI will be there with the UK Military Christian Organisations again. Will you?

Veterans of that banquet of worship, prayer and Christian teaching, the New Wine Summer Conferences will know that for many years MMI has been part of the Marketplace scene; exhibiting what we do and encouraging support from the delegates. For the last several years this representation has been alongside the other UK Military Christian Organisations (MCO), principally the Armed Forces Christian Union, the Naval Christian Fellowship, service chaplains and the Naval Military & Air Force Bible Society. We will be there again this summer and if you are planning to be there please come and visit the MCO

stand. If you can spare an afternoon or 2 we would welcome your participation as a stand helper. If you can help daily throughout the week a reduced price pass may be available. Please contact the MMI office if you would like to help.



Follow the MMI PrayerBlog on  
[www.m-m-i.org.uk/category/prayer](http://www.m-m-i.org.uk/category/prayer)

#### Patron

General the Lord Dannatt  
GCB CBE MC DL

#### Trustees

David Thomson (Chairman)  
Maj (Retd) David Baldwin  
Capt Mike Barritt RN  
Rev Paul Cowley  
Mrs Yvonne Cobbold  
Rev, Col (Retd) Richard Cobbold  
Lt Col Innocent Shams  
Maj Gen Arnvid Løvbukten (Norway)  
Rev Philip Majcher  
Maj Gen Roddy Porter

#### Associates

Col Charles Amaning (Ghana)  
Jeremy Clare  
Rev Simon Farmer  
Mrs Anthea Fillingham  
Gen Joshua Hamidu (Ghana)  
Col Peter Harvey  
Col Ivar Hellberg  
LTC(R) Dell McDonald (USA)  
Gen Sir Laurence New  
Cdr Michael and Mrs Sue Piper  
Mrs Gina Rajah (Brazil)  
Lt Col Jan Ransom  
Capt Inge Wold (Norway)  
Mrs Sue Skippage  
Maj John Seii (Kenya)  
Ian Willis

### Text a donation

Did you know you can donate to  
MMI by text?

Simply text **MMIX07 £2, £5 or £10**  
(maximum) to **70070**.

or

### Give on line



Use this QR code to  
go to the MMI page  
and give through  
CAF.

Download a QR code reader from  
the App Store or Google Play.

# The Apostles Creed MMI takes a multi- confessional approach

By MMI Chief Executive and Team Leader, Colonel Jos McCabe

As one of our five core values and in keeping with the motto of AMCF, we, in MMI, have always believed and tried to work on the basis that "We are all one in Christ Jesus". Thus speakers from the Orthodox and Roman Catholic traditions at our recent Supporters' Weekend was not such a radical departure. However, the idea to have these speakers came about as a result of prayer, discussion and other work that went on throughout last year.

We believe we are called to work and serve all Christians whatever their tradition. MMI staff have taken part in the Lithuanian Cadet Bible camps organised by the RC Chaplaincy of that country. We have known and met with Orthodox Christians in Ukraine and Russia for a number of years and we supported MCFs that have leaders who are RC. Last November our Executive Staff and Trustees met to consider how we could work more effectively across the Christian traditions. They considered a paper developed by an MMI Working Group and had the chance to pray and debate some of the issues about work-

ing this way. As a result MMI Trustees and staff have agreed that a number of principles should inform any dialogue and work with other Christians as follows:

- † We should strive to listen to, and understand each other's position, even when we may not always agree.
- † We need to recognise our own core beliefs.
- † We need to take the opportunity to interact with Christians from other traditions, even if this risks rejection and misunderstanding.
- † We need to act with humility, accepting that we have much to learn from other Christian traditions and that we are not always right.

Significantly, as part of the process of recognising our own core beliefs, we agreed that we should adopt the Apostles Creed as the Statement of Faith for MMI, recognising that this is the great common declaration of faith accepted by all the main Christian traditions. Finally, we all recognise that we are on a journey with our Lord and Saviour leading. We pray, that you, our faithful and valued supporters, will continue to join us on that journey.

Newsletter is a private circulation by:

Military Ministries International

Havelock House, Barrack Road

ALDRSHOT, Hampshire,

GU11 3NP, United Kingdom.

Telephone: ++44(0)1252 311222;

Fax ++44(0)1252 350722;

E-mail: [headoffice@m-m-i.org.uk](mailto:headoffice@m-m-i.org.uk)

Reg. Charity 284203

[www.m-m-i.org.uk](http://www.m-m-i.org.uk)