

Serving Christians and Chaplaincies in the Military Worldwide

### “Stand firm in the Lord”

*from a report by MMI Regional Team Leader for Europe, Rev Grozdan Stoevski*

For a second year the Summer Adventure Retreat (SAR) took place at the Primorsko Club on the Black Sea coast of Bulgaria, with 25 participants from 10 countries. This event provided an excellent environment for spiritual growth, leadership development and team-building among the participants, combined with relevant Biblical instruction and teaching.

Grozdan led the daily Bible Lessons which were based on the Epistle to the Philippians and were followed each day by a practical seminar, and daily team-building games following the themes “Preach Christ”; “Have the mind set of Christ”; “Know Christ”; “Rejoice in Christ”.

The participants were a good blend of serving young officers, MCF leaders and their wives and MMI co-workers from Bulgaria, France, UK, Germany, Russia, Belarus, Macedonia, Greece, Turkey and Slovakia. Some of their comments were

- ⊕ “the Spirit was in action!”
- ⊕ “The fellowship was amazing.”
- ⊕ “The role of the team building games could not be overestimated.”
- ⊕ “Thank you so much for the new friendships, for the morning talks and the evening culture exchange.”

The main adventure activities included sailing with four boats to the St Anastasia Island as well as a Jeep Safari in the Strandja Mountains. The sailing was a great success with three of the four boats sailing fully rigged in the good winds on the way back.

The Jeep Safari included a visit to the Bekliktash Rocks, a pagan place of worship dating back to the Stone Age, with some unique carved rock structures. It also had a portion of the route in the woods where Andrej (Russian MCF) volunteered to drive and demonstrated some extreme driving skills acquired during his military service.

Each evening was filled with a time of culture exchange, which included an MCF presentation of the respective country, personal testimonies and sampling of national cuisine, which was greatly appreciated by all.

The event served as an inspiration for the delegates from Slovakia and Turkey to consider forming an MCF. We hope and pray that the event can be repeated again in 2016, and aim to draw in participants from all over Europe. The SAR again proved to be an excellent opportunity to build unity among the military Christians from various nations and encourage all present to a closer and deeper relationship with Jesus Christ.



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# Europe

## Spiritual encouragement at Lubbecke

by MMI European Team Leader Grozdan Stoevski

The Great Commission was the theme of the 11th European Military Christian Meeting (EMCM) which took place at Lubbecke in July, providing an environment of spiritual encouragement and fellowship for MFC leaders and their wives from across Europe. There were 48 participants from 16 European countries, together with special guests from the USA, Sri Lanka and Jordan. This year's meeting also saw the commissioning of Rev. Cdr Mike Terry with his wife Rev. Nicky-Sue as the new AMCF VP for South and Central Europe and Brig Gen Isam Oumeish with his wife Grace as the new AMCF VP for the Middle East. Each session in the programme provided a different perspective of the Great Commission, and additionally Vasili Khimich



(Ukrainian MCF) and Eduard Roca (Moldova MCF) were able to give separate presentations and briefings about the situation in Eastern Ukraine. Both the Moldovan and

Ukrainian MCF put a lot of effort into serving the fighting soldiers in both countries as well as bringing relief to the thousands of refugees in Moldova. There was much interest in the situation and the respective ministry efforts and at the end everyone prayed for the two presenters. Another highlight was the official recognition of the "All Ukrainian Brotherhood", led by Col (ret) Sergey Lysenko. This is the second Orthodox MCF to join the AMCF, following the Belarus MCF "Faith and Honour", which was officially recognized at AMCF GI 2014 in South Africa.

Delegates performed music, sang songs and introduced national dances during the "Family Fellowship and Fun" session, which was much enjoyed by all and created a relaxed atmosphere which helped to build oneness and unity among the delegates in the spirit of Gal. 3:28. The Commissioning of the two new AMCF VPs by Gen Srilal Weerasooriya, Col (ret) Jos McCabe, Cdr (ret) Brian Parker and Col (ret) Richard Sandy took place as part of the Communion Service. The context of Holy Communion and the theme of the 'Great Commission' provided an appropriate spiritual framework for the Commissioning

ceremony.

The EMCM proved once again to be the main AMCF/MMI event in Europe and no doubt it will continue to serve the MCFs across the Europe under the godly leadership of the AMCF VP for NE Europe, Lt Col (ret) Torbjorn Bostrum and the AMCF VP for SC Europe, Rev



Mike Terry, supported by  
MMI and  
ACCTS



Samuel Coas and  
Grozdan Stoevski at EMCM



## Surprise Meeting!

An unexpected meeting of Grozdan Stoevski, the MMI Regional Team Leader for Europe, and the Prime-minister of Bulgaria, Mr. Boiko Boriso, took place recently. Grozdan was able to share that he is a minister and the two men agreed about the importance of faith in God!

# Europe

## Moving forward with reconciliation in Belarus

Based on a report by ACCTS staff member Col (rtd) Dick Barnes.



The 14th exchange visit between the Belarusian veterans Military Christian Fellowship and the Brandenburger Reserviste took place at the end of August. MMI was invited to attend and was represented by European staff member Col (Ret) Igor Sawicki. These exchange visits are extremely valuable and help to address the difficult problem of reconciliation and forgiveness in a number of ways, particularly through the development of long-lasting friendships with military members of other countries and using these exchange visits as an outward sign and example of the reconciliation process. The visit and ceremony took place at Tarasova, North of Minsk. Sergei Kraule and Manfred Hildenbrand laid red carnations at the memorial for Belarusian soldiers who died during World War II. The group also visited a nearby cemetery, where two German soldiers were buried and laid flowers there. Reconciliation is a very difficult concept, but it is extremely important. The organisers plan to meet in Dresden, Germany next year.

National flags of all delegations at RIMP, France.



## Rassemblement International Militaire Protestant (RIMP)

by Former MMI European staff Rev Cdr Mike Terry

RIMP, the Rassemblement International Militaire Protestant, is an annual gathering for military protestant Christians from across Europe and Francophone Africa. Organised by the French Protestant Military Chaplaincy, this year's event saw 500 participants from 15 nations assemble in the village of Mejannes-le-Clap near Nimes. The theme, "Where Are You?" aimed to promote discussion about personal relationships with God. MMI was represented by Rev'd Cdr (ret'd) Mike Terry, UMCF President and MMI staff for Francophone Africa Col (ret'd) Eric Mandille and AMCF Vice President for Europe, South and Central, Cdr (ret'd) Brian Parker. There were delegations of significant size from Germany, Poland, Austria and the Netherlands, the latter including their DA. Translations into German and English were also provided. Many

delegates were young and the gathering was a great opportunity for evangelism and discipleship, with a mixture of thought-provoking and imaginative worship, sermons and workshop subjects. The Sunday morning sermon, based on Jn 14:1-6, was overtly evangelistic and received loud applause! It also gives great opportunities for fellowship, networking and mutual encouragement on a personal basis and for fun! Some wonderful excursions were organised and a band concert was arranged in the village square on the Saturday evening; the Slovak Police Force Band was flown in especially for this event and it was wonderful to see villagers and military mingling happily in the early summer evening. The band also helped lead worship at the morning service on Sunday. This is a significant event with great opportunities to extend the work of MMI and AMCF

# Africa

## Transforming Prayer Convention in East Africa

by Max Mupondi MMI staff member for East and Southern Africa.

The East Africa prayer convention held in Uganda in August truly lived up to expectation as delegates were transformed spiritually after time was given for individual confession and repentance, worship and hearing the Word of God. Healings were witnessed and marriages on the brink of collapse were restored. Much time was spent on repentance and prayers for the nations of East Africa, and the troubled hotspots of the region, spearheaded by the AMCF VP for East Africa, Brig David Wakaalo . The delegates engaged in spiritual warfare to identify and break the root cause of many of the problems affecting the region. Brig David Wakaalo presented the theme of the convention from Psalm 51:13-14 " and requested all in attendance to observe a fast from the morning through to supper in the evening . Apart from the host nation, sadly only Burundi and South Sudan were able to be represented. During the convention experiences were shared about the AMISOM – African Mission in Somalia, the SPLA chaplain experience and the situation in Burundi following

a coup attempt. The AMCF president General Weerasooriya, gave a presentation on mission and vision of the AMCF and a female member of UPDF shared her moving story of abduction and rape by terrorists before escaping to freedom and reunion with her family. There were teaching sessions on Israel and God's plan; Listening to the voice of God for strategic direction; Individual prayer time; From East African Revival to Pentecost; Teaching and prayer for Sahel region; Purity and holiness; Evangelism and discipleship; Intercession for DRC and CAR; Collective repentance for the forces; and a presentation on chaplaincy by the IAEC delegates. There were also presentations by invited guest speakers including Dr Dickson Obwoya who gave a book to each delegate. Delegates were clearly revived for a closer walk with the Lord Jesus Christ, empowered for servant leadership and strengthening their MCFs and engaging in evangelism to win souls to the Kingdom of God.



## Strengthening Fellowship in Kenya and Zimbabwe



This summer Max Mupondi, MMI East & Southern Africa team member travelled to Kenya as special guest of Lt Col Peter Karighi Kariuki. Peter is a senior officer in the Kenyan Air Force and is also secretary of the Kenyan Defence Forces Military Christian Fellowship. The purpose of the trip was two-fold: First, to meet and fellowship with key MCF figures and second, to motivate young Kenyan officers and other ranks to participate in future training events hosted by the Joshua Trust in South Africa. Max also had the opportunity to present the work of the AMCF and its principal support organisations MMI, ACCTS and MSO, and to meet, pray and build relations with several military Christians during a convention which coincided with his visit. A significant meeting was with a Lt Col who was a former Moslem disowned by his father after convert-

ing to Christianity ten years ago and now being used in a powerful way to equip Christians with skills for ministry to Moslems. From Kenya Max travelled to his native country of Zimbabwe where he met, prayed and had fellowship with the Chaplain General and his deputy at Army Headquarters in Harare. The aim was to strengthen relations with the chaplaincy and individual Christians, and motivate military officers and other ranks to participate in AMCF events in Africa. Max went to Zimbabwe without securing an appointment with the CG or Deputy CG as all effort to obtain one had not worked previously , so he had to patiently wait for several hours before both men arrived at their offices. It was a good positive meeting and they promised to invite MMI to send representatives to their annual revival camp meetings and prayer retreats.

## Reaching out to the 'Joshua' generation

by MMI CE-TL Col (ret) Jos McCabe RM

**W**arrior Training was developed to help prepare young serving people to serve at the AMCF GI 2014 in South Africa in December 2014. And its success was evident to all who attended this wonderful event. It was clearly a valuable tool in Southern Africa to help reach out to the Joshua Generation, the name given by Archbishop Henry Orombi, the principal speaker at AMCF GI 2014, to people under 40. MMI staff members Max Mupondi

and Eddy Amponsah attended the training prior to AMCF GI 2014. The training had mixed lectures and talks with practical outdoor leadership experience and included Bible studies, leading small groups and prayer. We are therefore delighted that the South African based Joshua Trust (set up to organise the AMCF GI 2014) has decided to continue and to further develop the Warrior programme. They held the first

Advanced Level course in early July for some of those who had already completed the basic course. We hope that the course can be used to further develop young, future African MCF leaders. Aspects of Warrior Training may also have wider applications in other areas. Please pray for this exciting development and that the Lord will allow it to be used for His glory.



Warrior Training activities above and below.



## Praying with Sign-posts and Pillars

by prayer co-ordinator Sue Millard.

At our Prayer Day in June we were thinking about all the seeds, the ideas and the visions, that had been planted at Global Interaction 2014. There were many amazing answers to pray and many people experienced being in the presence of God for the first time.

BUT people then had to leave that anointed gathering and go back to their normal life. It reminded me of bible stories where leaders spent time with the Lord on a mountain top, but then came down from the mountain and 'back to reality'. The 'reality' after an anointed time with the Lord can be very difficult. We prayed for those who were envisioned and given seeds of ideas for ministry with the military; we need to continue to pray those seeds won't wither and die in the heat, or have insubstantial roots to stand against the storms.

For many who were inspired at GI 14, and for MMI, the question of 'where next' or what now is very real. So, we took 'Sign-posts and Pillars', as a theme for the prayer day. Pillars are strong structures, the bible mentions prayer pillars, but probably the best known pillars are those of fire and smoke that guided the Israelites during the long journey through the wilderness. While we are feeling unsure of the way to proceed and looking for guidance, we have the Pillar of light – the light of the World, and the Pillar of the word of God to guide us.



# Middle East

## Challenges in the midst of turmoil

by MMI RTL Middle East Col Richard Sandy

Wherever we look in the Middle East there is turmoil and conflict. It is hard to keep track of who is fighting who and for what purpose. It is not simply Sunni versus Shia nor country against country, although there are elements of these factors in all the various conflicts in the region. The one clear distinction is of either support for or opposition to ISIL. The ISIL factor alone is bringing together the most unlikely 'alliances' - sometimes Sunni and Shia sects, sometimes even unlikely country 'alliances'.

The general situation makes it hard to visit our contacts in the region and for them within their country to progress any meaningful ministry amongst their armed forces. However, we remain able to communicate by email and telephone to encour-

age, and in some instances, provide practical help. Our contacts are doing what they can to provide spiritual support and practical assistance to those families within their country, both Christian and non-Christian, who have been forced to leave their own homes. We know that because of the turmoil many Christian families have left their own country to seek peace and stability elsewhere. Many are housed in overcrowded refugee camps with only basic essentials provided by the UN or other charitable organisations. Some, as a result of wider family links, have found their way to Europe or wider afield. Lord Weidenfeld, a Jewish Peer in the House of Lords, has set up a project to rescue Christian families from Syria and Iraq and enable them to settle in Europe

(Poland), which he sees as a way of repaying his debt to Christians who helped him flee the Nazis.

What is God saying to us in this time of conflict in the region? As far as MMI is concerned we are giving prayerful consideration to holding a regional gathering (maybe in Cyprus) to bring together our various contacts and to hear from them how best to support

and encourage them during these testing times. Our prayers are certainly needed but is there more we can do? As RTL an opportunity has arisen to visit Erbil in the near future, to meet new Christian contacts there and to hear from those at the 'front line' what they most need and what MMI might be able to provide.



Syrian Refugees



## South Asia round-up

by MMI Regional Team leader for South Asia Paddy Hughes.



**INDIA - ASSAM REGIMENT**  
We know from friends in Delhi that Christian fellowship is alive and well in some units of the Indian military. The challenge is how to interact with military Christians.  
In 2010, our late beloved Chris West was convinced that the

Assam Regiment would have a Christian fellowship and would be interested in the goals of the worldwide Association of Military Christian Fellowships (AMCF). The Assam Regiment is huge, comprising 15 regular battalions in which 50% of the soldiers are Christian.

For 2 years Chris and his prayer team prayed for the Assam Regiment. Then followed a "chance" meeting with a retired 4 star Christian General who is ex Assam Regiment. An exploratory trip to the Assam Regiment's recruiting area around Shillong in North East India followed in 2012. After Chris died in 2014, the Assam Regiment initiative seemed to have died too. However, in August 2015, an MMI supporter in India, met the Christian teacher of the Assam Regiment and we have learned that regular church services are held on Sundays attended by about 100 soldiers. Thanks be to God for this contact which will allow MMI to renew the initiative. Please pray for more contact with the

### Assam Regiment

**SRI LANKA** The MCF leaders conference planned to take place in Colombo in September has been postponed due to security issues arising from snap elections.

**NEPAL** Pastor Indra and Steve are working very hard to support military families affected by the dreadful earthquakes. They continue to need our prayers and support as they rebuild their country.

### NORTH INDIA KINGDOM

Christians connected with the military continue to be persecuted and imprisoned on the least pretext. However there are signs of tolerance. Please pray for a courageous project to build a Bible College.

# Military Evangelism Observation in Seoul, South Korea – June 2015

By MMI Executive Secretary, Mike Paterson.

I attended MEO for the 5th, and final time. MSO, our sister organisation, run this event to help invited delegates from non-MCF and weak MCF countries to establish a fellowship or to build up an existing one. Delegates are invited by various means including AMCF VPs, ACCTS, MMI or MSO recommendations, Korean Missionary recommendations or another way. E.g. Thomas Beck, the Danish Chief Chaplain was invited by The Korean Ambassador to Denmark! We heard in August that the absent delegate from a very sensitive country had been arrested on the way home from collecting his visa and subsequently imprisoned for 2 months and then thrown out of the armed forces without any pension or financial support. MMI is sending funds to help this person start a business to support his family in future. The MEO programme is a mixture of: briefings on AMCF, ACCTS, MMI and MSO and the

Korean Military Christian Organisations and on Korean Culture. There are lectures on key AMCF topics e.g. Pray & Plan, Inductive Bible Study and Conversational Prayer; lectures and exercises on establishing and developing an MCF, done in syndicates and feeling very much being at Staff College(!); a lecture on Christian Leadership by AMCF VP General Lee, Kap Jin and cultural visits to the Demilitarised Zone, much limited due to the outbreak of MERS (Middle East Respiratory Syndrome) in Korea and the Korean War Memorial Museum. Normally there would also be attendance of the opening ceremony of the Annual KMCF meeting which is held in the same location during that week. It is a spectacular event with between 12,000-15,000 serving Korean young men and women taking part. It leaves an indelible impression on anyone who witnesses it. Sadly this year the outbreak of MERS led to its can-

celation.

il delivered 3 lectures covering an Introduction to MMI, Conversational Prayer and Pray & Plan as well as working with the participants on the syndicate work and helping with any difficulties or questions they had on other topics.

It is a very full programme starting at 06:30 and ending no earlier than 21:00. A key benefit is the contacts made and developed at MEO and this year there were participants from, Ukraine, Slovakia, Denmark, India, Sri Lanka, South Sudan,

Chad, Guinea-Bissau and Burundi. Most were known to MMI and attending on MMI's recommendation. But those who weren't known to us have been introduced to our work and then to the appropriate Regional Team Leader.

As in previous years it is a privilege to be involved in this programme and a valuable source of new contacts as well as working with existing ones. MMI looks forward to being able to continue taking part in this programme in future.



Praying for the participants is an important part of the programme

## Sixteen years; really? Mike Paterson's reflections

The lowest point was the phone call from Homfray Vines, in 2005, telling me that Ian Durie had been killed in an accident in Romania. A sinking disbelief that many will remember. Pause to pray for Janie and the family. There were other difficult times as well be-

cause we are about the Lord's business of Kingdom building and Satan doesn't like that. Then there were the highs, but I am an administrator and my highs come in strange ways like balanced accounts, tidy tables, correct English, a clear desk and a tidy office! From



Havelock House 2003 - Top: Mike, Michael Piper, Homfray Vines, Richard Sandy. Bottom: Ian Durie, Maria Smith, Simon Farmer

that you may appreciate the stress of working with Spirit driven pioneers! And yet there have been wonderful highs of being in the field at least annually and meeting fellow military Believers in far off places like Nepal and Bangladesh, Ukraine, Rwanda and from Israel, Egypt and Tunisia. Some of the many highs were from MEO programmes like the one above where I worked with our sister organisations and met new contacts who later established new Military Christian Fellowships. Some will have met Dražen at our last Supporters' Weekend. He established the Croatian MCF which has its first annual meeting this year and with MMI's help they will be inviting international guests. None would have been possi-

ble without the generosity of the saints that support us in prayer and with pennies - lots of them. Thank you all for that. Nothing would have been possible without the support of my patient wife, Victoria who has shared my high and low emotions close up and been a rock of support.

Thank you Lord and all who have enabled me to be part of the ongoing MMI story.



Arriving in Seoul with Thomas Beck n 2015

## MMI 2015/16 Programme

### Autumn 15

Croatia MCF meeting (with International guests)  
Nigerian training event  
Portuguese MCF meeting (with African guests)  
Ministry trip to Sudan  
Ministry trips to India and Nepal  
Orthodox consultation (Bulgaria)  
Ukraine MCF meeting

### Winter 15/16

Staff & Trustees Retreat  
Skiing Retreat  
MCF Leader training (East Africa)  
South Asia Leadership meeting (Sri Lanka)  
European Military Christian Meeting (Lübecke)  
Supporters' Weekend  
Lithuanian Marriage Seminar  
Middle East event  
Ministry trip to Italy

## New: Fundraising Pray & Plan Team.

We are looking for people to be part of a team to prayfully plan and implement MMI fundraising. This will be a strategic prayer group with opportunities to participate in diverse fundraising activities - some home based on a computer, others more active and as big as you dare. If you have ideas or time we need you. To volunteer or for more information contact Sue Millard on comms@mmi.org.uk

## Can you be a part of it ?

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

Following Mike Paterson's retirement we have had to reorganise the MMI office. Arrangements until further notice will be as follows. We welcome Alan Whiting who will join us on a part time basis to help manage MMI finances. Many of you know Alan already works in a financial role with AFCU and he will continue to do this. Sue Millard will be working part time for us to run our communication and fundraising efforts.

She will also remain as our Prayer Coordinator. Jo Hill will continue as our financial and administrative assistant. Jos McCabe as well as remaining Chief Executive and Team Leader spend some more time in the office and will cover some additional tasks previously done by Mike. Jos will

devolve some of his African Team responsibilities to other African Team members over the next few months. The Aldershot office will be open from Monday to Thursdays during normal office times. The office number and e mail will remain the same. On Fridays and out of normal hours an answer phone will take messages or direct people to another number for urgent business.

We will need to work hard to ensure we continue to support military Christians in our operating areas effectively. Please pray as the new organisation beds in, while we remain short handed and continue to look for another staff member to join our office team



MMI CE-TL, Jos McCabe presents retiring MMI Secretary, Mike Paterson and his wife, Victoria with gifts from MMI supporters at Southwick Park Officers' Mess.

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